



The Planning Inspectorate

Date: 18 December 2014
Ref: PINS/P1805/429/2

To: The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Javid

**PLANNING & COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 (AS AMENDED)
EXAMINATIONS OF THE BROMSGROVE DISTRICT PLAN and
BOROUGH OF REDDITCH LOCAL PLAN No. 4**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2014 regarding the above.

I am aware of the concerns that you have raised on behalf of your constituents in respect of the joint working arrangements between Bromsgrove District Council and the Borough of Redditch Council. As you will know, my Interim Conclusions paper includes some comments on this matter in the context of the statutory Duty to Co-operate.

While the principle of joint working is specifically encouraged by the National Planning Policy Framework (for example at paragraph 179), consideration of the detailed administrative arrangements that have been adopted by the two Councils concerned lies outside the scope of my examinations – which, as you will appreciate, relate to the soundness of the two Local Plans. As such, I am unable to comment on any concerns relating to administrative propriety: these may more appropriately be directed to the Councils themselves in the first instance.

If you have any queries about the above, please let me know via the Programme Officer. I am asking her to place a copy of your letter and this response on the BDP and BORLP4 examination websites.

Yours sincerely

M J Hetherington

INSPECTOR

cc Simon Ridley, Chief Executive, Planning Inspectorate
Lucy Hargreaves, Department for Communities and Local Government