



## Coventry City Council

Dr Walter Milner  
42 Keresley Brook Road  
Coventry  
CV6 2FW

**Leader of the Council  
Leader of the Labour Group**

Council House  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

Please contact Cllr John Mutton  
Direct line 024 76 832672  
Fax 024 76 831001  
[john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:john.mutton@coventry.gov.uk)

Your reference  
Our reference JM/CS/DRWALTERMILNER  
13 March 2013

Dear Dr Milner

Thank you for your letter regarding Coventry's Core Strategy. Needless to say we are disappointed with the Planning Inspectors views on our duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities. We believed then, and still do now, that we co-operated fully with our near neighbours. Unfortunately, the Planning Inspector interpreted the phrase "duty to co-operate" to mean duty to agree and unfortunately, ignoring Birmingham's objections, which the Planning Inspector has made clear in his letter he does not take seriously, the only other Council that objected to the number of new houses that we said were needed was Nuneaton and Bedworth.

I have already had a meeting with the Leaders' of the four adjoining authorities at the request of Councillor Michael Doody, the Leader of Warwick District Council who quickly recognised that the Planning Inspector was looking at figures for the sub-region rather than just Coventry and was looking for agreement from all Councils.

He made it clear that until agreement is reached between us, all none of the Core Strategies could be approved. I believe that Nuneaton and Bedworth Council are now aware that their objections, for whatever reason, mean that their own Core Strategy will not be approved and that sensible dialogue between the authorities now needs to take place. When the joint SMHA is completed we will be resubmitting a new, but similar Core Strategy.

I would like to reiterate that this Labour Council's policy of protecting the green belt and green fields is still sacrosanct. Thank you for your continued interest in this matter and I look forward to your continuing support for the future.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor John Mutton  
Leader of the City Council**

cc Jim Cunningham MP



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE