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Frances Martin
Executive Director for Economic Growth
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Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
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☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 200328

Direct: ☎ 0118 9373859

1st April 2022

Your contact is: **Alison Amoah, Planning**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/E0345/W/21/3289748

Planning Application number: 200328

Planning Application type: Outline Planning Approval

Appellant: Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited

Site Address: Vastern Court, Caversham Road, Reading

For: Outline planning permission with the details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for later determination. A demolition phase and phased redevelopment (each phase being an independent act of development) comprising a flexible mix of the following uses: Residential (Class C3 and including PRS); Offices (Use Class B1(a); development in Use Classes A1, A2, A3 (retail), A4 (public house), A5 (take away), D1 and D2 (community and leisure); car parking; provision of new plant and renewable energy equipment; creation of servicing areas and provision of associated services, including waste, refuse, cycle storage, and lighting; and for the laying out of the buildings; routes and open spaces within the development; and all associated works and operations including but not limited to: demolition; earthworks; provision of attenuation infrastructure; engineering operations.

With reference to the above appeal, I am writing to inform you that the Inquiry is to be held as an in-person event on day 1 (with the facility to participate virtually) and that the remainder of the inquiry will be entirely virtual. Opening at 10:00am on Tuesday 26 April 2022, and scheduled for 12 days. The duration is not fixed and will depend on how the evidence emerges.

The Inquiry will be held as a virtual event run by an Inspector in the normal way, but with the parties invited to join via Microsoft Teams or telephone.

S Heywood BSc (Hons) MCD MRTPI has been appointed by the Secretary of State to determine this appeal; and this Inspector will preside at the hearing.

Documents relating to the appeal can be viewed on the Council website (200328). Anyone wishing to attend the Inquiry must make that interest known to the Planning Inspectorate Case Officer and the LPA as soon as possible prior to the Inquiry, either by email or telephone after reading the Attendance Information set out below.

Inquiry Arrangement Information

Before deciding whether to take an active part in the Inquiry, you need to think carefully about the points you wish to make. All written submissions from application and appeal stage will be taken into account by the Inspector and re-stating the same points won't add any additional weight to them.

If you feel that taking part in the Hearing is right for you in whatever capacity, you can participate in a number of ways:

To take part using video, participants will need to have access to Microsoft Teams (via an app or web browser). This link gives further information: <https://support.office.com/en-gb/teams>. Alternatively you can take part by telephone. Calls would be to an 020 number which will incur charges: <https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>

If you just wish to observe the event, you should make that clear in your response to the Inspectorate Case Officer/LPA. If you wish to take an active part in the proceedings, please make clear in your response the particular topic areas you are interested in, whether you wish only to appear at the Inquiry and make a statement, or whether you would also wish to ask questions on particular topics. If you want to take an active part but feel unable to for any reason, and/or the points you want to make are not covered in the evidence of others, consider whether someone else could raise them on your behalf.

Registered participants in whatever capacity will receive individual joining instructions, providing details of any requirements, guidance and support, whether joining by Teams or telephone.

If you wish to participate in the Inquiry virtually please contact the Local Planning Authority (email: Planning.Administration@reading.gov.uk or telephone: 0118 937 2381) for details of how to do so.

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Case Officer contact at the Planning Inspectorate:

Leanne Palmer - Tel: 0303 444 5471.

Email: leanne.palmer@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The decision will be published online: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Documents relating to the appeal can be viewed on the Council website:
<https://www.reading.gov.uk/planning/vastern-court-core-documents-library/>

The original application and documents can be found on the Council website using the reference 200328: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/planning/search-planning-applications/>

Yours faithfully,

Alison Amoah,
Planning Officer