

Mr. C Haigh,  
Head of Planning,  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,  
The Campus,  
welwyn Garden City,  
Hertfordshire AL8 6AE

10 February, 2019

Dear Mr. Haigh,

**Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination**

I refer to your letter of 14 December 2018 and the subsequent conversations, between yourself and Mrs St John Howe, about the examination's future timetable. Whilst I agree that in the current circumstances of the plan's Examination, a further call for sites is unavoidable and that additional consultation will be necessary as a result of this exercise, I remain to be convinced that a timetable that prolongs this examination until the spring of 2020 is absolutely necessary. Further, more detailed, information about the intended processes and their duration is required if this is to be objectively justified to the participants as well as to myself.

However, even if the examination were to be concluded in a shorter period of time and bearing in mind that I only now work for PINS for 60% of the year, I am unlikely to be fully occupied with the duties associated with the Examination of this Local Plan during some of the coming months and will require other work to be allocated. Such work needs to be programmed a number of months in advance and once programmed it is difficult to amend because of the involvement of other Council's and third parties.

Consequently, I must ask you to prepare a more detailed timetable with events programmed by weeks and months rather than seasons. In doing that it would be appropriate for you to look in detail at all of the tasks that still need to be undertaken before the Examination can be concluded so that a realistic time estimate for each can be established. As I said at the last Hearing, the assemblage of all of the tasks along an overlapping continuum and using critical path analysis would establish a programme that led to the earliest adoption time. Additionally it would identify the critical tasks and events that could delay overall progress if due diligence is not given to them. You would then have a better control system to manage progress and avoid delays.

Yours Sincerely

**Mel Middleton**

Melvyn Middleton

INSPECTOR