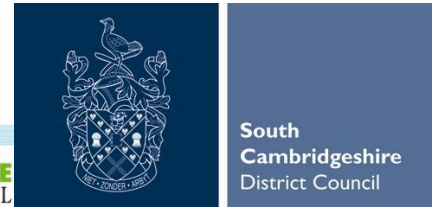


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22 August 2014

Dear Miss Graham,

The Councils would like to take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Alan Wood MSC FRICS as the Assistant Inspector and thank you for sharing the initial draft of main matters and joint issues for the first block of hearing sessions. We note that this is an early draft of matters and issues for the first block of hearing sessions and could be subject to further refinement.

We understand, based on the letter sent to all representors on 21 July 2014 confirming the Pre Hearing Meeting to be held on 11 September and the accompanying guidance notes, that the remaining matters and questions for the rest of the Examination and the initial programme for hearing sessions will be published on or before the Pre Hearing Meeting, and potentially discussed at that meeting, which will be very helpful.

As you will appreciate, the Councils are keen to understand the approach and timescales of the overall programme as soon as possible in order that we can prioritise our own preparations accordingly. This will ensure that we can provide you with any appropriate assistance, and be in a position to progress any significant matters that are fundamental to the process as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The programme and ordering of matters for the hearings and the timing of any interim preliminary findings you may be intending, or able, to give is particularly important to the Councils. This is in the context of having up to date development plans and more specifically allowing South Cambridgeshire District Council to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply as early as possible following the recent appeal decisions at Waterbeach which were shared with you via the Programme Officer. The Councils intend to cooperate fully with you to ensure that you are able to find the plans sound, with or without modifications.

The Councils are also mindful of timescales for introducing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the limit on pooling planning obligations coming into force in April 2015. Both Councils are keen to press ahead with the Examination of CIL Charging Schedules directly following the Local Plan Examinations. As you know, the City Council has already submitted its draft Charging Schedule for Examination and South Cambridgeshire District Council is due to submit its draft Charging Schedule very soon. Both Councils have been advised that you will be undertaking the CIL Examinations and are keen to understand as soon as possible the programming of those Examinations to ensure timely implementation of CIL by both Councils.

The Councils recognise that two full complex Local Plans are being examined at the same time and the logistics of how this is done is not straight forward. As previously mentioned, receiving the initial draft of matters and issues for block 1 has been very helpful and we are keen to understand how the rest of the programme will be structured and we look forward to gaining clarity on the remaining matters and order of hearings so we can prepare accordingly.

In particular, in light of the housing supply situation set out above, we wish to understand how and when you intend to consider strategic and local housing allocations and omission sites within the overall programme. Our objective is to receive your preliminary findings on strategy and housing supply as soon as possible and we would prefer a programme that gives priority to the key issues of development needs and supply. We hope that the matters and questions for the remainder of the hearings will clarify the situation but wanted to take the opportunity to share this matter with you.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Saunders
Planning Policy Manager
Cambridge City Council



Caroline Hunt
Planning Policy Manager
South Cambridgeshire District Council