

15 November 2019

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

Dear Mr Haigh

Examination into the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan:- progress

Thank you for your letter of 15 November, 2019. I would suggest that we move the postponed hearings from the week of December 9 into the early part of the next week (16 December 2019).

Having had an opportunity to discuss the nature of your call for sites consultation, with the Programme Officer, I am of the opinion that we could avoid the need for a full six week consultation period by contacting directly all of the representors who responded to the call for sites consultation on the new sites that are to be taken forward for examination.

They should be asked if they wish to participate in any hearing session and given an opportunity to submit supplementary evidence, if they so wish. There would then be no need for a further lengthy formal consultation. In these circumstances, assuming that the Council meets in January to approve the revisions then, the Hearings could be held in late February or early March before the local election's purdah begins.

Yours Sincerely

**M Middleton**

Melvyn Middleton  
INSPECTOR