

2 July 2020

Mr. Colin Haigh,
Head of Planning,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council,

By email only

Dear Mr. Haigh,

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination:- Timetable

I refer to your letters of 7 January and 10 February 2020 when you set out a revised timetable for the submission and examination of additional residential sites to make up the shortfall in the existing proposals, when considered in the context of your authority's Full Objectively Assessed Housing Need.

In the first letter you pointed out that your proposed new sites would be consulted upon in the spring, prior to the local election purdah and that you would let me have preliminary results of this consultation post the local government elections but in time to formulate issues and questions for potential hearings in June (presumably late June).

Your letter of 10 February informed me of the difficulties that you experienced at the Parking and Planning Panel meeting on 30 January but nevertheless maintained the commitment to progressing the consultation and indicated that following a Council meeting in late May, when a final agreement on the additional sites to be put before the Examination was expected, a revised list of sites would be submitted and that you would still be arranging dates for Examination Hearings to consider these in June.

It is now the end of June and nothing has been submitted to the Examination, not even preliminary results of your consultation, which I understand, although extended concluded before the end of May. The local elections were cancelled because of the Covid 19 epidemic but I presume that your Council, like others, has continued to meet and make decisions through virtual meetings.

I do not need to remind you of the already someone lengthy timescale of this Examination and the urgency of coming to a conclusion on its future, it now being one of a very limited number of plans that are being examined under the

provisions of the 2012 Framework. In this context I would be grateful if you would submit the results of your recent consultation and the proposed sites that you are putting forward to make up your housing shortfall so that I can progress this part of the Examination in the immediate future. Would you also provide me with a draft timetable for the undertaking of the remaining stages of the examination from your perspective?

The 2018 Household Forecasts were published on Monday. They have a bearing on plans being examined under the 2012 Framework. Would you therefore please review their implications and present your findings to the Examination as a matter of urgency.

Yours Sincerely

Mel Middleton

Melvyn Middleton

EXAMINING INSPECTOR