



**WELWYN
HATFIELD**

**Christopher Dale
Head of Planning**

Date: 6 December 2021

Melvyn Middleton
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Programme Officer
louise@poservices.co.uk

Dear Sir

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination

I am writing in response to your letter dated 29th November setting out a deadline for the commencement of Main Modifications Consultation.

Whilst members of Cabinet have now received a response to their letter from the Minister of Housing unfortunately, it is not possible to complete the democratic process, the Sustainability Appraisal of the modifications and commence Main Modifications consultation by Mid-January. The Council considers however that the programme would only need to be extended by two weeks so that Main Modifications would commence on 4th February.

The proposed programme is as follows:

Cabinet Planning & Parking Panel (CPPP) at 7:30pm Thursday 13 January 2022 will be asked to consider options for further modifications to make the Plan sound. The agenda for this meeting will be published on 5th January 2022.

A Special Cabinet will be held at 5:00pm Tuesday 18th January 2022 to consider the recommendations of CPPP

A Special meeting of Full Council to be held at 7:30pm Thursday 27th January 2022

Consultation on Main Modifications will commence Friday 4th February 2022 lasting six weeks ending on Friday 18th March 2022.

Our SA and HRA consultants will be asked to update the SA in the light of modifications agreed by CPPP so that this will be ready for publication alongside the Main Modifications. Our SA and HRA consultants are not available from 20th December until 4th January and so it would be impossible to commence Main Modification consultation in Mid-January.

We will arrange to forward the representations onto the Programme Officer as soon as they are received so that you will have copies of all the representations within two weeks of the close of the consultation. Summarising the representations and confirming a Council response is likely to take longer but in any event will be dependent on the number of representations received.

It is anticipated that it would still be possible to adopt the Plan in early summer 2022.

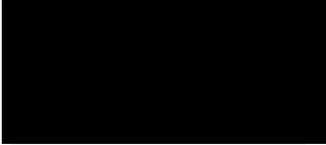
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Yours faithfully



Sue Tiley
Planning Policy and Implementation Manager