

Examination of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2013-2032

Inspector: Melvyn Middleton BA(Econ) DipTP DipMgmt MRTPI

Programme Officer: Mrs Louise St John Howe

louise@poservices.co.uk Mobile: 07789 486419

30 June 2022

Mr. Christopher Dale,
Head of Planning,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

By email only

Dear Mr Dale

Welwyn Hatfield local Plan Examination Housing Supply

I refer to your letter of 23 June 2022, requesting a further time extension to enable you to respond to my letter of 16 February 2022. In order to assist the potential achievement of a sound plan that could be adopted in the near future, I will agree to the date of 21 March 2022, contained in my letter of 16 February 2022, being changed to no later than 29 July 2022.

In my letter of 5 April 2022, I pointed out that in my opinion, a date upon which the Main Modifications consultation began, which was beyond the end of July 2022, would be likely to result in a 2023 plan adoption date and the then need for the identification of a supply of housing sites until 2033. I remain of that view and still consider that the MMs consultation should begin, according to that timetable for there to be any likelihood of the adoption of this plan being now achieved in 2022.

To assist this, I would suggest that if it is likely that your Council will accept my suggestion that the plan could be found sound through the identification of a housing land supply that met the requirement for the first ten years post-adoption, and also agreed to provide sufficient specific sites to meet that requirement, then it would be appropriate for us to work towards the agreement of a set of draft Main Modifications before the end of July.

If you are in agreement with that proposition, then I would suggest that you send the Programme Officer a comprehensive set of Main Modifications that have taken on board all of my previous observations on your suggestions, for my final approval and without delay. Additionally, you should also forward any further Main Modifications that would be

necessary to make the plan sound, as soon as possible but no later than 22 July 2022.

Would you also send a revised timetable showing proposed timescales for all of the relevant procedures that still need to be completed, before the plan can be adopted, to the Programme Officer.

Yours Sincerely

M Middleton

Melvyn Middleton

INSPECTOR