

Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031

Inspector: Mr Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI
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Mr Ian Fullstone
Director Regulatory Services
North Hertfordshire District Council

By email only

25 September 2020

Dear Mr Fullstone

Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031

Thank you for the letter you have sent to me today and for providing clarity regarding the Council's position concerning the timing of my hearings. Given the circumstances involved and as you have requested it, I confirm that the hearing sessions will not now open on Monday 28 September.

I note your wish that the hearings open on 12 October. However, I should remind the Council of Regulation 24 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. For convenience, I set it out below.

"24.—(1) At least 6 weeks before the opening of a hearing held for the purpose of giving persons the opportunity to appear before and be heard by the person appointed to carry out the independent examination under section 20 of the Act, the local planning authority must—

(a) make the matters mentioned in paragraph (2) available in accordance with regulation 35; and

(b) notify any person who has made a representation in accordance with regulation 20 and not withdrawn that representation, of those matters.

(2) The matters referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(a) the date, time and place at which the hearing is to be held, and

(b) the name of the person appointed to carry out the independent examination."

It is inevitable that rescheduling the hearing sessions will mean that participants will need to attend on days different to those previously required. In this context, is the Council satisfied that opening hearings on 12 October would be in compliance with this Regulation, and that participants would be given fair and reasonable notice of the hearing sessions they wish to attend?

I ask that the Council sets out its stance on the above questions as soon as possible, early next week. I will then decide the way forward in the light of the Council's position.

Please ensure that a copy of this letter is placed on the examination web page.

Yours sincerely

Simon Berkeley, Inspector

cc. Mr Nigel Smith, Strategic Planning Manager, North Hertfordshire District Council

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