

Castle Point Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD Examination

Inspector: Paul Crysell BSc MSc MRTPI

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Dear Mr Rogers,

I am writing to confirm my decision to suspend the Examination into the Castle Point Core Strategy until later this year and to set out the action that I anticipate the Council will take during the period of suspension.

The option of suspension is open to me under the advice contained in the Planning Inspectorate's *Examining Development Plan Documents Procedural Guidance*, August 2009, paragraphs 9.20 to 9.24. I have decided on this course of action because the changes announced by the Secretary of State mean that revision of the housing strategy may be necessary. The suspension also provides the opportunity for the Council to look at other areas of the Plan about which I have concerns. You have acknowledged that you wish to continue with the Development Plan process and are willing to take my concerns into account.

As promised, I attach guidance that I believe will help with addressing elements of the Plan where concerns have been raised. The main issue is whether there is sufficient flexibility in the Core Strategy to ensure that key land uses can be delivered over the course of the plan period.

I am anticipating that any additional work will add detail to the Plan and is unlikely to affect the broad strategic thrust of the Core Strategy. Some presentation changes may resolve other issues which have been highlighted in representations or in the course of discussions to date.

You should also consider the implications of the Secretary of State's announcement on 6th July revoking Regional Strategies under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. As a result, Regional Strategies will no longer form part of the Development Plan.

With regard to the next steps, you have suggested that you anticipate any additional work can be completed in the next 3 months, permitting further consultation and reconvened hearing sessions to be take place later this year. In view of this, my intention would be to hold a procedural meeting once you are in a position to proceed with the Examination process. The meeting would provide an opportunity to confirm the additional work undertaken, to consider the timescale for with any further consultation you believe is necessary and to look at possible dates for reconvening the hearing sessions.

On suspending the Examination I offered you the possibility of holding a clarification meeting in the next week or so if you were unsure about any of these matters. That offer still stands. I would

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appreciate a formal response to this letter confirming whether you would like a clarification meeting and outlining any other matters you consider relevant. So that other parties are kept informed I should be grateful if you could ensure that this letter and your response are made available on the Council's website.

Could I also ask that you keep my Programme Officer, Andrea Copsey, informed on the progress of the additional work, especially about any timing problems that might arise.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Crysell

Inspector