

In light of recent changes to national planning guidance on housing (see revised Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing June 2010), the Council has said it believes it is necessary to review the housing evidence base underpinning its proposed Core Strategy.

The Inspector agrees that it is important to do so but also sees this as an opportunity for the Council to revisit other parts of the document where he has concerns particularly in relation to flexibility and whether the Council's vision and objectives for its Borough can be delivered. The Inspector has said that he will be writing to the Council in the next few days to confirm these points and to indicate those areas which he thinks need addressing.

The Inspector has therefore suspended the Examination while this additional work is carried out. It is hoped that this also allows time for any further changes the Government is considering making to the current planning regime to be taken into account.

The intention is to review progress early in the autumn by means of a procedural meeting at which time the timescale for further consultation and reconvening the hearing sessions will be considered.

Any changes the Council recommends to elements of the Plan for the Inspector's consideration will need to be consulted upon and the opportunity provided for further representations to be made. It is therefore in your interest to keep an eye on the Council's website for any updates or alterations to the process as it affects the Castle Point Core Strategy.

Paul Crysell
Inspector