

## **Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations & Policies Examination**

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Mr R Hobbs  
Planning Policy Team Leader

***SENT VIA EMAIL***

7 January 2016

Dear Mr Hobbs

### **Ipswich Local Plan Examination**

Having undertaken an initial assessment of the draft DPDs ("the plan"), the evidence submitted in support of it and the representations which have been made there are a number of key issues I believe it is important for me to explore in detail as soon as possible. These are:

- Whether or not the Council has discharged its Duty to Co-operate;
- Whether or not the plan provides for effective outcomes in terms of cross-boundary issues, in particular housing;
- Whether or not the indicated OAN is soundly based and supported by robust evidence; and
- Whether or not it is feasible that the plan would, at the time of its likely adoption, provide for a 5 year supply of specific, deliverable sites for housing and a supply of specific developable sites or broad locations for housing for the five following years (ie years 6-10 from the point of adoption).

Clearly these matters are fundamental to the soundness and legal compliance of the plan.

I have considered whether or not it is feasible or appropriate to explore these issues in writing or through an Exploratory Meeting. However, in order that the relevant evidence can be aired and tested, involving all relevant participants, and that consideration can be given to the potential for modifications to the plan, I have concluded that it is most appropriate to proceed to some initial hearings. These, Stage 1 Hearings, will address the issues listed above, and some related matters. Once they are completed I will be in a better position to reach a view on the best way forward for the rest of the Examination.

I attach a Guidance Note for the Examination and a list of Matters and Questions and Draft Programme for the Stage 1 Hearings for the dates you have previously indicated are convenient for the Council.

Yours sincerely

*Malcolm Rivett*

INSPECTOR

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