

## Examination of the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2013 - 2032

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22 June, 2018

Dear Mr Dawson

### **Welwyn/Hatfield Local Plan Examination**

I refer to your letter of 19 June 2018 and your previous correspondence with the Programme Officer about the progress of the Welwyn/Hatfield Local Plan. I do not agree with your interpretation or findings in the context of the Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans 2016, assuming that you are referring to the latest version.

The facts are not exactly as you state, indeed much of it is conjecture. Whilst I did not formally suspend the Examination following my concerns about the Strategy, the current guidance clearly sees that as a last resort. The Council is aware of my concerns and is working to rectify them. At the same time the Examination has continued into other aspects of the Local Plan. The coming week will see the fourth set of Hearings, and there has been much progress on non-strategic matters that a formal suspension of the proceedings would have been unlikely to achieve. This should enable the Examination to be concluded much sooner than the implementation of your suggested actions would have achieved.

I am sure that you will appreciate that this is a very large examination. There are over 2,000 representations to consider and the time and financial resources available are not limitless. Inspectors have to use their time fairly and cannot clearly enter into individual discussion with such a large number of people. Consequently they are advised to refrain from such discourse unless absolutely necessary. I will therefore take this letter as the end of our correspondence and I trust that you will do the same.

Yours faithfully

*Mel Middleton*

Melvyn Middleton

Inspector