



**WELWYN
HATFIELD**

Colin Haigh
Head of Planning

Reply to: address as below
Date: 27 March 2019
Email: c.haigh@welhat.gov.uk

Melvyn Middleton
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Programme Officer
louise@poservices.co.uk

Dear Sir

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Examination

I write in extension of my letter dated 11 March that set out a Local Plan timetable agreed by members of our Cabinet Planning & Parking Panel (CPPP) on 7 March.

It is my understanding that you have a range of commitments in 2020 and have therefore requested that the timetable be brought forward wherever possible, to allow examination hearing sessions to take place earlier than December 2019.

It is fair to say that this is an ambitious request given that we received over 140 new and re-promoted sites as part of our recent call-for-sites exercise and the volume of analysis work that needs to be carried out so that individual and cumulative implications can be thoroughly understood.

I note however your comment that an examination hearing session on Birchall Garden Suburb in July 2019 may not be necessary and recognise that this will free up some officer time to continue to focus on analysis work.

We also believe that it will be possible to arrange a succession of CPPP, Cabinet and Full Council meetings in September 2019 to enable new sites to be agreed and submitted as quickly as sensibly and democratically possible.

We therefore feel that it is possible to move the examination hearing sessions forward to w/c 18 November and w/c 25 November 2019. I enclose a revised timetable to that effect.

For information, this change has not be re-presented to CPPP, but I am comfortable to suggest it, as it brings the timetable forward rather than delays it further, and because it has been authorised by the Executive Member for Planning and the Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance) in accordance with the recommendation agreed by Full Council on 10 April 2017 which states "*That the Head of Planning and Planning Policy & Implementation Manager, in consultation with the Executive Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance) and the Executive Member (Planning, Housing and Community) and with regular reporting back to this Panel, be authorised to advocate the Submission Local Plan at the public examination and seek to secure the best*

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outcome for the Borough if the Inspector wishes to discuss possible changes, additions or deletions to the Plan."

I look forward to hearing from you, via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Haigh', written in a cursive style.

Colin Haigh
Head of Planning