

Examination into Havering London Borough Gypsy and Traveller Sites Local Plan (the Local Plan)

Inspector's Note Regarding Suspension of the Local Plan Examination (Note 3)

1. Following the Hearings which took place into the Local Plan I issued a note, dated 19 April 2013, setting out my concerns about certain issues with the Local Plan. The Council has now responded to that note in a letter dated 10 June 2013. My note and the Council's response have both been published on the Examination website.
2. I am pleased to note that the Council wishes to have the opportunity to address the identified shortcomings of the Local Plan. The Council has indicated its willingness to undertake the additional work set out in its letter and to ensure an effective public consultation exercise following the publication of a revised Local Plan and its supporting evidence base.
3. The Council's indicative timetable anticipates additional work commencing in August 2013 with a revised Local Plan and supporting documentation submitted for Cabinet approval by the end of 2013. The Council estimates that, subject to Cabinet approval, it would then undertake a period of public consultation before re-submitting the revised Local Plan and evidence base in the spring of 2014.
4. The suspension period requested by the Council is longer than is usual in such circumstances. However, I am conscious that my note raised a number of important concerns and in order to address those concerns additional work must be undertaken. In addition, it is essential that there is a full and proper sustainability appraisal and a further public consultation exercise. On this basis I am content to agree to a suspension of the examination process as requested.
5. The Examination will not resume until after 1 March 2014, but the actual date that I am able to resume the Examination will depend upon the Council having completed the appropriate consultation on its proposed changes, and on any new evidence/revised sustainability appraisal, and on the Council being in a position to provide me with all the documentation properly presented.
6. During the period of the suspension I would not expect to have any further discussion or correspondence with the Council, or other parties, regarding the work it is undertaking. These will be matters properly reserved for the resumed Examination. In addition I would ask the Council to remain alert to any change of circumstances which may result in additional work or a different approach which may have consequences for its anticipated timetable. Any slippage or changes to the timetable set out in the Council's letter should be notified to the Planning Inspectorate via the Programme Officer as soon as possible.

7. This note is to be published on the Examination website and circulated to all interested parties as soon as practicable.

Karen L Ridge

EXAMINING INSPECTOR

14 June 2013