

## Maldon District Council Local Plan Examination in Public

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**Inspector: David Vickery DipT&CP MRTPI**

**Programme Officer: Andrea Copsey**

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7<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Maldon District Local Development Plan Examination**

As you will no doubt know, David Vickery Dip T&CP MRTPI has been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the examination into the Maldon District Local Development Plan. The examination is to determine whether the Plan is sound and complies with all the legal requirements. The criteria for soundness are whether the Plans' policies are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

I have been appointed as Programme Officer. The role of a Programme Officer is to be independent of the Council and be the means by which the Inspector has contact with the Council and those who have made representations on the Plan. All correspondence with the Inspector must be addressed through me.

The Inspector held an Exploratory Meeting on 3 July 2014 when it was decided to suspend the Examination until late August to allow the Council to submit further information and evidence, primarily about its objective assessment of housing need. The Inspector then asked the Council for additional housing need information (CED10 and 11), and the Council placed this on the Examination website on 26 September 2014 (CED12)

[http://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_plan/83/maldon\\_district\\_local\\_development\\_plan\\_ldp/10](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_plan/83/maldon_district_local_development_plan_ldp/10)

The Inspector has now decided to proceed to hearings, but only on the Plan's housing policies and its legal compliance. He will then produce a report on those aspects of the Plan before continuing with further hearings and a report on the other policies in the Plan, such as those for employment and retail development. The timetable for the housing hearings is:

- Publication of the Inspector's 'Matters, Issues and Questions' for participants to reply to in their Statements – **Monday 1 December 2014**.
- Deadline for the submission of written hearing statements – **Friday 9 January 2015**.
- Hearing sessions start: **Tuesday 20 January 2015** (possibly 3 weeks duration).

The hearings will be held at the Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, Stow Road, Cold Norton, Purleigh, Essex CM3 6RR:

<http://www.threeriversclub.com/#>

Because a large number of procedural matters were dealt with at the Exploratory Meeting, the Inspector has decided that a Pre-Hearing Meeting will not be held. The attached Guidance Notes provide advice on the administrative aspects of the Examination including the above dates and how Statements should be produced. Please read them carefully. If you have any queries, please contact me.

The Council has suggested that the following housing policies should be discussed at the hearings in January 2015:

Policy S1 – Sustainable Development;  
Policy S2 – Strategic Growth;  
Policy S3 – Place Shaping;  
Policy S4 – Maldon and Heybridge Strategic Growth;  
Policy S6 – Burnham-on-Crouch Strategic Growth;  
Policy S7 – Prosperous Rural Communities;  
Policy S8 – Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside;  
Policy H1 – Affordable Housing;  
Policy H2 – Housing Mix;  
Policy H3 – Accommodation for ‘Specialist’ Needs;  
Policy H6 – Provision for Travellers;  
Policy I1 – Infrastructure and Services; and  
Policy I2 – Health and Wellbeing.

The Inspector will make his final decision on the exact policies to be discussed when he sends out his ‘Matters, Issues and Questions’.

For more guidance on the process, the Planning Inspectorate has produced a booklet “Examining Local Plan Documents: Procedural Practice, December 2013 (3rd Edition V. 2)”. A copy of this document is available for viewing or download on the Planning Inspectorate’s Planning Portal web site via the following link:

[http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/dpd\\_procedure\\_guide.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/dpd_procedure_guide.pdf)

If you have any questions about the Examination please contact me at the address/email at the head of this letter. In addition should you require any assistance of any kind at the hearings then please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely,

*Andrea Copsey*

Local Plans Programme Officer