

Maldon District Council

Press Statement

12th May 2015

Maldon District Council is shocked and extremely concerned about planning implications within the District, following receipt of the Planning Inspector's 'Interim Findings'.

The Inspector has deemed that policy H6 which relates to provision for Travellers in the District is 'unsound' because it does not identify accurately the need for pitches and does not identify specific sites to meet the requirement.

The Inspector's findings are based purely on soundness of Policy H6 in relation to future provision for Travellers in the District.

Further information came forward once the Plan had been submitted in April 2014 which suggested that far greater provision in the District for Travellers may be required than had initially been anticipated. In response, the Council had suggested to the Planning Inspector that a separate Plan for Travellers would be produced by 2017 to identify any further required pitches in order to avoid a delay to the adoption of the Plan.

The Planning Inspector has rejected this approach and the Council now has real concerns about the implications of his Interim Findings.

The Council has spent a great deal of time, money and good will to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP) to help meet the needs of the local community whilst protecting the local environment and the character of the District.

Maldon District Council has always and remains committed to responsibly and adequately discharging the public sector Equality Duty within the LDP. The preparation and drafting of the LDP for Maldon District Council has had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people.

The Council notes that the Planning Inspector makes no reference to other policies in his Findings, therefore the Council will continue to enforce and implement these policies in order to cater for future needs and provide for associated infrastructure.

In conclusion, the Council will be strongly challenging the Planning Inspector's interim findings and is requesting that the Examination in Public is continued so that Plan can be adopted as soon as possible.

For a more detailed response, please refer to David Coleman's letter to Mr Vickery, dated 12th May 2015.

Please refer to www.maldon.gov.uk for updates.