

**Maldon District Local Development Plan  
Inspector: Simon Berkeley BA MA MRTPI**

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Mr Nick Fenwick  
Director of Planning & Regulatory Services  
Maldon District Council

**Programme Officer:**

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15 September 2016

Dear Mr Fenwick

**Examination of the Maldon District Local Development Plan**

Thank you for your letter of 12 September, which has been helpful to me and, no doubt, to others.

I note that the Council plans to start the consultation on the main modifications tomorrow. The new Sustainability Appraisal, along with the Council's two papers 'Updating Maldon's Objective Assessment of Housing Need' and the 'Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement (August 2016)' will also be published for comment at the same time. You will be aware that I have also requested that the Council prepare a short, concise paper explaining in more simple, accessible terms how the various Sustainability Appraisals have informed the process leading to the allocation of the sites proposed in the Plan. I have been assured that this paper will be published for information and comment next week.

In your letter you ask about the need for the Council to analyse the responses from the consultation. My starting point here is that I will not require a written reply from the Council to all points raised. It may be that the Council's view on some matters will prove helpful, but I expect this to be the exception rather than the rule and will liaise with the Council if and when necessary.

The timetable you have suggested is very positive and I welcome this approach. However, having considered the matter in detail, I am concerned that it may not provide adequate time for proper consideration of the representations before preparing and publishing my Matters and Issues for the examination. To allow for this, the earliest possible date for the hearings to resume is the week commencing 12 December. I will aim to achieve this timeframe and I ask the Council to do the same. It is likely that this would entail further hearing sessions after the Christmas break, during the week commencing 2 January

2017. I will ask Mrs Copsey to liaise with Mr Tofts about specific dates in due course, and to make the necessary arrangements for an appropriate venue. My Matters and Issues paper will confirm the final hearing dates, programme and venue.

I trust that you find this letter helpful. Please place a copy of it on the examination web-page as soon as possible. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me through Mrs Copsey.

Yours sincerely

*Simon Berkeley*

Inspector

Cc Mr Adrian Tofts, Strategic Planning Policy Manager, Maldon District Council  
(by email only)