

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

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

Programme Officer:

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Dear Mr Fenwick

Examination of the Maldon District Local Development Plan

You will recall that I wrote to you on 14 July setting out the steps necessary to progress the examination along with an estimated timetable. Your letter of 26 July indicated that this timetable should be achievable, assuming no unforeseen problems arise. It would appear that some have.

Whatever the difficulties that may have arisen, it is now clear that the timescales I suggested cannot be met. I am acutely conscious that this will be frustrating to those with an interest in the plan. Local residents and other participants in the examination are presently in the dark about when matters might progress, particularly in terms of when hearings may take place. Indeed, the Council has thus far offered me little insight in this respect. Overall, this is a wholly unsatisfactory position and must now be rectified.

To this end, I ask that you provide me with a schedule detailing the tasks remaining to be done from today to the re-opening of hearing sessions. This should include the steps I set out in my letter of 14 July. For each step a realistic timescale should be indicated. Once drafted, please share this with me so that I can advise on the timetable for the stages that are led by me, such as the issuing of my paper setting out the remaining matters and issues for the examination. I will then ask Mrs Copsey to ensure that the resultant timetable is published on the examination web-page. In going forward, my expectation will be that this timeline is followed as closely as it can be.

I know from experience that the internal procedures of some authorities can be time consuming. If that is the case here then perhaps consideration could be given to streamlining processes where appropriate. While this is clearly a matter

for the Council and not for me, I make this suggestion in the spirit of assistance, to ensure that the examination can now make the most rapid progress possible.

In my first letter to the Council, dated 7 April, I said that I will do all I can to assist the Council. I re-iterate that point now. If you are facing difficulties that I may be able to help with then please contact me through Mrs Copsey. While the scope of my role is limited, I will endeavour to assist the Council so far as I am able.

Please place a copy of this letter 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)