

Examination of the Elmbridge Local Plan

Inspector - C Masters MA (Hons) FRTPI

Programme Officer - Charlotte Glancy

Kim Tagliarini
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2 May 2024

Dear Ms Tagliarini

Elmbridge Local Plan: Stage 2 Hearings

I refer to your letter dated 30 April where you have formally requested a pause to the Local Plan Examination. The reason provided by the Council within the letter states that this is in relation to 'persistent anomalies when updating the dataset' in relation to the housing trajectory and 5 year housing land supply position. At the hearing held yesterday, the Council elaborated further and explained that these persistent anomalies relate to the information concerning planning permissions granted and those permissions under construction.

I do not accept that this was information requested at the matter 5 hearing as your letter suggests. You will be well aware that one of the key soundness tests in relation to the Examination is that the Plan is justified and based on proportionate evidence. The housing trajectory and five year supply are basic components of this. The Council were alerted to the fact that this would be a matter which would need to be addressed back in September 2023 and subsequently through the Matters, Issues and Questions issued in February 2024 and again with a follow up email.

Nevertheless, given the clear recognition within your letter that this is an unwelcome and ill timed delay, I am minded to pause the Examination until week commencing 16 June 2024. The pause to the Examination is on the following basis:

- The Council is seeking additional resources to address the issue and provide the necessary evidence as swiftly as possible;
- The Council will provide the Programme Officer with weekly updates regarding progress;
- The Council has agreed without exception to provide this information no later than 11 June 2024. This will permit all parties an opportunity to review in advance of the hearings reconvening.

On this basis, I shall liaise with the Programme Officer to adjust the remainder of the Stage 2 sitting dates (which will now follow into those dates previously allocated as Stage 3 hearings for week commencing 22 July 2024).

Yours sincerely

C Masters

INSPECTOR