

Examination of the Elmbridge Local Plan

Inspector - C Masters MA (Hons) FRTPI

Programme Officer - Charlotte Glancy

Kim Tagliarini
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18 October 2024

Dear Ms Tagliarini

Examination of the Elmbridge Local Plan

Thank you for your letter dated 1 October 2024 and the additional letter from Councillors Rollings, Waugh and Turner of the same date.

The Council envisage that the additional work which I have identified as necessary to rectify the issues of soundness would require a pause to the examination of between 12 and 15 months. This is well beyond the 6 month overall time period set out in the Ministers letter of the 30 July 2024. Whilst I acknowledge that you have specifically requested that I take a pragmatic approach, the Minister's letter is clear that pragmatism should not be used where it would be likely to require pausing or delaying the examination process for more than 6 months overall, as would be the case here. Given the length of time needed to undertake the necessary work, combined with its fundamental nature and the consequent extent to which the local plan would likely need to be modified, I consider that it would be inappropriate to apply the 'Inspectors discretion' referred to within the Minister's letter in this case. Indeed, to do so would risk undermining the thrust of the Minister's intentions set out in his letter.

As a result, and as set out in my letter of 11 September 2024, the Plan should now either be withdrawn or I shall prepare the necessary report which will conclude that the Plan is unsound. I would recommend the former option, as this would avoid the cost to the Council associated with me providing a report and would allow the Council to reset and recommence plan making without delay. Please could the Council confirm by 1 November 2024 how they would like to proceed.

Yours sincerely

C Masters

INSPECTOR