

The Council will be aware of recent cases in the High Court concerning the status of the East of England Plan and the Secretary of State's letter of 27 May 2010. Further details can be found on the Inspectorate's website at:

[www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/news\\_notices/whats\\_new/cala\\_homes.html](http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/news_notices/whats_new/cala_homes.html)

The Localism Bill was published on Monday 13 December, but will not have been enacted by the time of the proposed further hearings in early February, or by the time the Inspector's report is prepared. Therefore, the context for the Inspector's consideration of the soundness of the Rochford Core Strategy will include the East of England Plan as part of the development plan, and the requirement for development plan documents to be in general conformity with it (Paragraph PPS12).

A further ruling from the High Court is expected before the end of January regarding the weight, if any, that can be attributed to the Government's intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies.

These circumstances are materially different from the situation when the Council prepared the schedule of changes on which it has recently undertaken consultation. The Inspector is therefore seeking the Council's views on whether it wishes to pursue these changes through the examination, bearing in mind the likely costs, including the Inspector's time in preparing for and holding further hearings.

The Inspector recognises that you may wish to take legal advice on this matter, but would appreciate an early indication of your intentions.