

Thanks for the information from the Inspector regarding the proposed changes to the Core Strategy. I am arranging for the template to be completed and returned and can confirm that a topic paper will be prepared. However, I would be grateful if you could convey the following message to the Inspector.

From the Council's perspective it is disappointing to see your conclusions about the proposed changes to the Core Strategy being considered as significant changes and that a further consultation should be carried out to gather views prior to consideration at the examination. It seems to me this will inevitably result in a significant delay in progressing the Core Strategy to adoption and this is considered to be very important given the challenges the Council has recently faced from developers promoting ad hoc housing schemes.

The Council takes the view the changes proposed are in line with the spatial vision and distribution set out in the Core Strategy and therefore do not amount to significant changes that justify further consultation. It seems entirely reasonable for the examination when reconvened in September to consider affordable housing and the proposed changes that result from the consideration of the implications of the revocation of the East of England Plan. Without there being a need for a further round of consultation.

Whilst in the final analysis I will advise the Council of the need to comply with your conclusions about reconsultation, I would be grateful for some further thoughts and advice on this matter, not least in relation to the delay in receiving your final report.