

**EXAMINATION OF THE ROCHFORD DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
SUBMISSION DOCUMENT (DMD)**

**INSPECTOR'S INITIAL QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING
LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

I have some initial questions of the Council regarding the legal compliance of the DMD. These relate solely to this matter rather than to soundness.

The questions are:

- i) Has the DMD been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme? Has the Local Development Scheme been updated to reflect the latest timeline information?
- ii) Has the preparation of the DMD had regard to national policy and guidance, the Sustainable Community Strategy and any other Local Plan?
- iii) Has the preparation of the DMD had regard to the resources likely to be available in implementation?
- iv) Has the preparation of the DMD been in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and public consultation requirements?
- v) Has the DMD been subject to satisfactory Sustainability Appraisal?
- vi) Has the Council met its duty to co-operate in the preparation of the DMD?
- vii) Has a Habitats Regulations Assessment been prepared?
- viii) Have all other relevant legal obligations been met in the preparation of the DMD?

It would be helpful if the Council prepared a short note not only giving a direct answer to the question but also providing any further explanation or links to relevant documents. This is to assist representors as well as myself and should be treated as an opportunity for the Council to 'double check' that it is satisfied that relevant legal requirements have been met. The note should be sent to the Programme Officer by **Friday 28 February 2014** and posted on the examination website.

David Smith

INSPECTOR

7 February 2014