

# ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

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Ref: SSA

Date: 2 June 2011

Dear Mr. Hollingworth

Thank you for the draft timetable(s) relating to the review of the SA. I am broadly content with the options as you set them out, subject to the following comments.

Under scenario 2, the consultation on proposed changes would take place over the summer holiday. In the circumstances it may be prudent to extend the consultation period by a week or two.

In my previous letter, I raised the issue of the Plan period which in the submission draft plan runs only to 2025. Adoption of the Plan in late 2011 or early 2012 would give rise to a material conflict with PPS12 and PPS3, which require a plan period of at least 15 years. You should therefore consider rolling forward the Plan period, which will have implications both for the SA work and public consultation. This would suggest that the timetable set out under scenario 2 will be appropriate, in any event.

You will be aware of the recent High Court judgement in the Cala Homes case. *At paragraph 24 it says "It would be unlawful for a local authority preparing, or a Planning Inspector examining, development plan documents to have regard to the proposal to abolish regional strategies"*.

In the light of this judgement, and my early indication to you that I have not been able to support your proposed changes, I would welcome your assurance that the further work on the SA and any other work will be undertaken so as to ensure that the Core Strategy is in general conformity with the Regional Strategy.

Bearing in mind the Programme Officer's and my other commitments, I would be grateful to receive a response by noon on 8 June.

*Laura Graham*  
Inspector

## **Timetables for Core Strategy Sustainability (SA) Review**

**Scenario 1: SA Review identifies no changes to the Core Strategy required**

**Scenario 2: SA Review suggests material changes to the Core Strategy**

### **Scenario 1**

Commence SA Review	17.5.2011
SA Review consultation	13.6.2011 – 11.7.2011
SA finalised having regard to results of consultation	25.7.2011
SA Review submitted to Inspector for consideration in the Core Strategy examination process	27.7.2011

### **Scenario 2**

Commence SA review	17.5.2011
SA Review published for consultation	13.6.2011 – 11.7.2011
SA Review finalised having regard to results of consultation	25.7.2011
Amended Core Strategy to be considered at Full Council	29.7.2011
Public consultation on changes to Core Strategy	3.8.2011 – 12.9.2011
Amended Core Strategy finalised having regard to results of consultation	27.9.2011
Amended Core Strategy and SA Review submitted to Inspector	7.10.2011