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Rochford District Council  
Council Offices,  
South Street,  
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27 January 2011

DC/08/256/01  
BY POST + EMAIL

Dear Shaun,

**FOIA/EIR AND COOMBES FARM**

We write further to your letter dated 20 Jan 2011 regarding the Council's response to the request for information, sent on 9 Dec 2010 on behalf of Colonnade.

We have expressed our concern with the time it has taken for the Council to respond to the request, via both telephone conversations and emails with Claire Robinson. However, further to receipt of your letter of 20 Jan 2011, we write to formally request the full and immediate compliance with the original request for information. As noted in previous correspondence, we had anticipated that the Council would have provided the information sought, in full, by 20 Jan 2011. This represented the 20 working day period following the submission of the request, allowing for the delay created by your interim response (of 6 January 2011).

You will be aware that the original request was made to provide further information that may be of relevance to the Examination of the Rochford Core Strategy. You will also be aware that the Inspector intends to close the Examination of the Rochford Core Strategy following the final examination session on 2 February 2011. It is therefore important that the Council complies with the request immediately as a failure to do so would mean there is a risk that the Examination of the Core Strategy could be brought to a close before this additional evidence is provided, which we anticipate will provide the clarity sought by Colonnade throughout the Core Strategy consultation and examination.

The information sought is material to submissions that are to be made to the Core Strategy Inspector in relation to one of the fundamental issues pursued by Colonnade (and other parties), namely that the evidence base relied upon by the Council in relation to the comparative assessment of the reasonable alternative housing locations is completely flawed. The information is needed to support further submissions to the Core Strategy Examination.

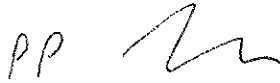
It is relevant that the lack of clarity regarding the decision making process of the Council in relation to the choice of housing locations and the justification for the choices taken by the Council has been raised throughout the consultation and examination process of the Core Strategy. Whilst the Inspector identified the need for further evidence regarding the Council's processes relating to the choice of housing locations, we remain concerned that the documents presented by the Council fail to address the issues raised by Colonnade, and other parties. The request for further information by Colonnade was made to seek further clarity on the justification for the choices, both in the context of their assessment against the reasonable alternatives and in the context of the implications of these choices in terms of their impact on the Green Belt, transportation and landscape.

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Our response to your interim response letter of 6 Jan 2011 confirmed that we were willing to focus elements of the request in accordance with your suggestions. It was assumed that in agreeing to focus elements of the request (and separately agreeing to receiving documents in electronic format) we were assisting the Council by reducing the scope of the request and thereby guaranteeing a full response to our request within the 20 working day period. Your interim response did not identify any concerns regarding the ability of the Council in providing a full response within the 20 working day period. We had reasonably assumed that you would be able to comply with the request. We feel, therefore, that we have no option but to make a formal complaint to the Council unless the full request is satisfied immediately.

Finally, we have also been advised to prepare a formal complaint to the Information Commissioner if you fail to comply with the above request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP' followed by a stylized flourish.

David Churchill  
DIRECTOR

cc- Claire Robinson- Senior Planner, Rochford District Council

Andrew Yeardeley- Stratland Management Ltd, p.p. Colonnade Land LLP