

ROCHFORD CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION

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Ref: eep

Date: 31 January 2011

Dear Mr. Churchill,

**Rochford Submission Core Strategy – Examination in Public
Response to Correspondence re Proposed Revocation of the East of
England Plan**

Thank you for your letter of 27 January.

I set out below the response received from the Inspector:

“Your request for information under FOI/EIR is a matter between you and the Council and the Inspector has no powers in relation to this process. Similarly, the Judicial Review of the Secretary of State’s decision in relation to your client’s site at Coombes Farm is a separate process from the examination into the soundness of the Core Strategy.

You say that your request for information was made because of your client’s dissatisfaction with the Housing Audit Trail produced by the Council in response to my request. The audit trail was published by the Council on 11 June 2010, and I set a deadline of 28 June 2010 for the receipt of comments by representors. I understand your letter to be seeking a further opportunity for you, and others, to make representations about the Audit Trail.

I note that your request for this further information was made in December 2010, several months after the deadline for comments on the Audit Trail had passed. Furthermore, most of the information you have requested dates from before June 2010. Therefore, I fail to see why your request for information was not submitted before the deadline for comments on the audit trail, and an extension to the deadline requested at that time.

All parties involved in the examination of a Development Plan Document have a responsibility to meet the deadlines set. In all the circumstances, I am not minded to allow an opportunity for further submissions to be made on this topic.

In examining the Core Strategy, part of my task is to ensure that I have sufficient information to come to reasoned conclusions on the soundness of the Strategy. This does not equate to having every conceivable piece of evidence that may have some relevance. I note your comments regarding a potential legal challenge to the adoption of the Core Strategy.

I would not, knowingly, act in a way which could make the Council vulnerable to such a challenge. However, it is for the Council to take such legal advice as it sees necessary, to safeguard its position.

This letter has been copied to the Council.

Laura Graham
Inspector”

Yours sincerely,

Lissa Higby
Programme Officer
Core Strategy

Copy to: Rochford District Council