

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION MEDWAY COUNCIL

Date: 14 November 2013

Mr Brian McCutcheon
Planning Policy & Design Manager
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 4TR

Dear Mr McCutcheon

Thank you for your letter of 28 October.

I am not in a position to agree, or otherwise, with your view regarding the threshold of 900 units per annum for considering that objectively assessed needs cannot be accommodated in the Plan as submitted. Nonetheless, I note that an increase from 815 dpa, as currently proposed, to 900 dpa would entail an uplift of over 10% in total dwelling numbers, and I would need to be satisfied that this additional level of development can be accommodated without significant amendments to the strategy.

However, it will not be possible for me to work on the Medway examination in accordance with your suggested timetable. I will need to give careful consideration to the modifications you may propose in order to come to a conclusion on whether they are so significant as to amount to the Plan being rewritten, in which case it would not be appropriate for the Examination to continue. I will also need to consider whether the updated evidence base adequately supports the revised plan. As you may be aware, I am also carrying out Examinations at Rother District Council and Brighton and Hove City Council. I am already committed to work on these two examinations until at least the end of January 2014. Given the uncertainty over the continuation of the Medway Examination, I will reconsider an appropriate timetable for the examination after 29 November.

Laura Graham

Inspector

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