

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION MEDWAY COUNCIL

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Date: 11 March 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 8 March. I have no reason to doubt that your expected date for completion of the SA report (4<sup>th</sup> March) was given in good faith. However, I would have expected, as a matter of courtesy, to be notified at the earliest opportunity that you were not going to meet that target, rather having to ask the Programme Officer to make enquires after the date had passed.

I note your suggestion that I review all the representations received at first hand together with the draft report. Unfortunately, the only day I have available to work on the Medway Examination next week is Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. On the basis of your original completion date of 4 March I had expected to be able to complete the bulk of my own work by today. Next week I am carrying out planning appeal work and will be away from my desk for much of the time. Furthermore, it is not convenient for me to deal with significant amounts of paperwork in electronic format. This may be acceptable for reference documents but not representations or reports that have to be read thoroughly. In the circumstances I see no alternative to postponing the further hearing. I recognise that the additional delay is not welcome but is unfortunately unavoidable. I will liaise with the Programme Officer with a view to organising a convenient date.

Turning to your comments on the revocation of the South East Plan, I have to keep an open mind on whether a further hearing may be required until I have seen any representations submitted in response to the letter I have instructed the Programme Officer to send to you and all representors.

*Laura Graham*

Inspector

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