

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION MEDWAY COUNCIL

Date: 7 March 2013

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

Dear Mr McCutcheon

I was advised by the Programme Officer yesterday, 6 March, that you have not been able to meet your previously-advised date of 4 March for completing the final version of the Sustainability Addendum, and that you now expect to complete it by 18 March.

You will be aware that my timetable leading up to a further hearing session on May 1, is dependent on my list of issues being published on 18 March. I had identified this date on the basis that I would have all the information I needed on 4 March and would complete the task on Friday 15 March, so that it could be published by the Programme Officer on 18 March. I should make it clear that I am also carrying out appeal casework in the period 4th – 18th March and that it is not time entirely devoted to the Medway examination. Due to other commitments in the week of and following 18 March there is no prospect that I will be able to finish preparing issues for a further hearing session before 12 April, which is clearly too late to enable sufficient time for respondents to prepare statements and for those statements to be circulated and considered by participants, including me.

I have considered whether it would be possible to go ahead with a hearing on May 1 to deal only with issues arising from the further work on the Lodge Hill proposals but there would be significant disadvantages to this approach because of the overlap between this and the Sustainability Appraisal and the inconvenience to participants who would have to attend on two separate occasions.

I am therefore minded to postpone the planned hearing in early May to a date later in the summer. This approach would have an additional advantage: should I decide it is necessary to have a further hearing session to deal with implications of the revocation of the South East Plan once the consultation has taken place, this could be arranged at the same time.

However, I am happy to consider any views you may have before I reach a final decision, if you are able to respond before 5pm tomorrow (8 March). In fairness to other participants, I need to make a decision as soon as possible and I am working away from home next week.

**Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR
Tel: 01634 333880 Fax: 01634 332862
Adam Waters, Programme Officer
ldfprogrammeofficer@medway.gov.uk**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EXAMINATION
MEDWAY COUNCIL**

Laura Graham

Inspector

**Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR
Tel: 01634 333880 Fax: 01634 332862
Adam Waters, Programme Officer
ldfprogrammeofficer@medway.gov.uk**