

Greater Norwich Local Plan Examination

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Mike Burrell

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Greater Norwich Local Plan Partnership

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Dear Mr Burrell

Greater Norwich Plan – Gypsy and Traveller site allocations

1. We write in response to your letter of 2 September.
2. We can support a pause in the examination of the Plan in order for the necessary work to identify potential Gypsy and Traveller sites to be undertaken. However, we have two concerns. One is the timetable for that work and second is the proposed partial pause approach.
3. The Partnership has been undertaking work to find Gypsy and Traveller sites for a year now and in July this year we were assured that the process undertaken had been thorough. Having said that, we understand that the Partnership may want a further look at potential sites and undertake assessments and consultation to ensure that the site selection process is robust. We do however question whether, given the work already undertaken, this will need nine months from now to the submission of the sites to us for consideration.
4. Our second concern relates to the two-stage modification process. Whilst we understand the objective, we consider that in this case it might actually cause confusion for members of the public and could restrict the potential of some allocated sites to be considered in whole or part as a Gypsy and Traveller site. For example, it is possible that main modifications relating to site X could be happening at the same time as focussed consultation on site X in whole or part as a potential Gypsy and Traveller site. This would cause confusion. In our opinion, it would also not shorten the

examination of the Plan as a whole or hasten the date by which the Plan could be adopted.

5. Consequently, we conclude that it would be appropriate to pause the examination of the whole plan until the Partnership is able to submit to us its proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites to meet the assessed need. The hearing sessions on Matter 15 (Housing), nutrient neutrality and Matter 6 (Gypsy and Traveller sites) can then be resumed in tandem and modifications then published.
6. We would be grateful if the Partnership would submit a revised timetable, reflecting a pause in the examination of the whole plan, for our consideration.

Mike Worden and Thomas Hatfield

INSPECTORS