North Essex Authorities Joint Strategic (Section 1) Plan

JOINT HEARING STATEMENT

This is a Joint Hearing Statement on behalf of:

CAUSE
CPRE
Mr M. Lambert
Dr M. Frost
Mr E. Gittins

The above parties have met to consider their response to the general implications arising from the following matters:

A. The publication by NEA of Issues and Options consultation documents relating to each of the three proposed garden communities during the lead up to the Examination with a deadline for representations during the Examination itself.

B. The publication of documents on 18th December 2017 referenced in the Iceni Hearing Statement together with evidence base documents EB/058/059/060/062 & 063.

C. The publication on 21st December 2017 of new evidence base documents EB/064, 065 & 066.

Submissions

We consider the timing of the publication of Local Plan Issues & Options consultation documents relating to the proposed garden communities in the period immediately prior to the Examination has placed the public in general - and participants in the Examination in particular - in an extremely difficult position. It has competed with and interfered with our preparations for the Examination. The difficulty has been compounded by the consultation period straddling the Christmas and New Year break.

Specifically, at a time when we needed to devote extensive time to absorbing the contents of the Hearing Statements published on 8th December 2017, time has also had to be found to deal
with the Issues & Options documentation. The difficulty has been further compounded by the large amount of new evidence base material which, by its very nature, is not only relevant to matters to be addressed at the Examination but to the Issues & Options consultation as well. The result has been that the stringent time limits imposed to absorb the substantial scale of new information introduced into the public domain so close to the Examination has made it impossible for us to take full account of this and prepare an appropriate, in depth response.

We will nevertheless endeavour to provide considered written and oral comments on all matters relevant to the Local Plans but register our formal objection to the timing of the current consultation as well as to the publication of additional documentation so close to the opening of the Examination.

10th January 2018