

31 July 2020

Inspector Roger Clews

c/o Andrea Copsey, Programme Officer

Dear Mr. Clews,

Paragraphs 267 and 268 of your letter of 15th May 2020 (IED022) set out what you saw as the two options on the way forward, and requested a response from the North Essex Authorities on their proposed course of action. Those paragraphs stated:

267. In the light of this conclusion [on soundness issues] it appears to me that the NEAs have two main options:

- To propose and consult on main modifications to remove the Colchester / Braintree Borders and West of Braintree GC proposals from the Plan; or*
- To withdraw the Plan from examination.*

268. If the NEAs wish to pursue the first option, they will need to make a formal request under Section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act, asking me to recommend main modifications that would make the Plan sound and legally-compliant. A schedule of proposed main modifications, based on the list of suggested amendments drafted by the NEAs [EB/091B] would then need to be agreed between myself and the NEAs.

The relevant member decision-making bodies for each authority have confirmed that they wish to proceed with the first option – namely to consult on main modifications to remove the Colchester / Braintree Borders and West of Braintree GC proposals from the Plan. That decision was made with the benefit of seeing the main modifications which would be the subject of the consultation were that option to be pursued. In light of the decision, the NEAs can confirm their formal joint request under Section 20 (7C) of the 2004 Act for you to recommend Main Modifications to make the Plan sound and legally compliant.

Please find enclosed the revised information you have requested for Appendix A (Schedule of Superseded Policies) and Map 10.2 Tendring Colchester Borders Broad Locations Map for inclusion in your final version of the modifications.

Further to para 270 of your letter, the NEAs have commissioned LUC to complete further SA/SEA work to be included in the modifications consultation. We are currently programming the consultation period to run from mid-late August for 6 weeks on the assumption of the timely completion of this work. We will send you the relevant consultation documents for your review prior to consultation, including the consultation form and website text.

Yours Sincerely

Emma Goodings, Head of Planning and Economic Growth, Braintree District Council

Karen Syrett, Planning and Housing Manager, Colchester Borough Council

Gary Guiver, Planning Manager Tendring District Council