

Note to ESBC in response to draft programme for further work and consultation (27 November 2014)

I refer to your response to my Interim Findings and Programme for Further work F.40.

I am concerned that sufficient time for consultation must be allowed.

However, I note the apparent conviction of ESBC that its Housing Land Requirement and Supply position can be supported with no intention to revise the SA beyond clarification of specified matters up to the point that the Plan was submitted for examination.

Without prejudice to any final outcome or conclusion on the overall legal compliance and soundness of the Plan, I am prepared to accept that, if there is no slippage in the preparation of your Further Revised SA beyond December and your other additional evidence beyond mid January, the FRSA consultation could be complete and reported by the end of January with the additional evidence circulated at the same time or earlier.

If so, revised Position Statements could be submitted in late February for further Hearings in mid March with a view to consultation on any Main Modifications in April-May and delivering my Report in May-June.

I do, however, regard this timescale as compressed and ultimately I shall balance the interests of proper consultation and natural justice with the desirability of expediency in Plan preparation.

For the time being, subject to your keeping me informed of progress, I await your Further Revised SA and additional evidence, according to the timescale you have outlined to date, with approximate key dates as follows:

December to end January – Further Revised SA consultation and report on representations

Mid January – completion and circulation of all outstanding additional Council evidence

End January – Revised Hearings Programme

Mid February – submission of revised Position Statements

Early to mid March – remaining Hearings

April-May – MM consultation

May-June – deliver fact check Report

I suggest the Council now finalises its response F.40 and posts it on the examination web page together with this response referenced E.20

B Sims

27 November 2014