Planning Inspectorate

Examination of the Castle Point Plan

Note following initial hearings - Clarification

Inspectors: Mike Worden BA (Hons),DipTP MRTPI and Catherine Carpenter BA, MA, MRTPI

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19 November 2026

Ms Amanda Parrott, Assistant Director Climate and Growth
Castle Point Borough Council
Kiln Road
Thundersley
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1TF

Dear Ms Parrott,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2026 seeking clarification of a couple of points in our note of 2 November 2026.

Paragraph 16

Your understanding is correct. We require the Council to confirm that it commits to proposing to delete sites from the Green Belt and allocate them for housing in the draft plan, sites which accord with national policy and which are over and above those which have planning permission. We do not require the Council to submit specific sites at this stage, as there will be technical work and public consultation to undertake before doing so. Once the Council commits to the principle, we will set out details and a timescale for the work, in accordance with paragraph 17 of our note.

Debating the merits of allocations

Each proposed site allocation, either in the Regulation 19 plan or submitted as part of the work we wish the Council to undertake will be subject to testing through the examination process to assess its soundness. It would be a waste of time and resources for the Council to propose sites it would not be prepared to allocate. Internal discussions and debate should therefore take place before the sites are submitted. The technical and consultative work which will be undertaken post the Council resolution will be vitally important in this regard.

It will be for the Inspectors at the examination to decide on the soundness of all of the allocations and policies, having heard all of the evidence.

We will not be accepting correspondence from other parties on this matter. A copy of this letter should be placed on the examination website as soon as possible.

Mike Worden and Catherine Carpenter

INSPECTORS