

**St. Albans City & District Local Plan Examination**  
**Inspector Louise Crosby MA MRTPI**  
**Inspector Elaine Worthington BA (Hons) MT MUED MRTPI**

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**Programme Officer:** Louise St John Howe  
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27 January, 2020

Mr. Chris Briggs,  
Spatial Planning Manager,  
Planning & Building Control  
St Albans City & District Council,

**By email only**

Dear Mr. Briggs,

**Examination of the St Albans and District Local Plan**

1. The Stage 1 hearing sessions were held between 21st and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. Over these three days we heard discussion on legal compliance, the duty to cooperate, the spatial strategy and matters relating to the Green Belt. We need to reflect further on these issues before we write to you setting out our thoughts in more detail. We will not then reach a final position until you have had chance to consider and respond to that letter.

2. However, at this stage, we do have some serious concerns in relation to legal compliance and soundness. Because of this it would not be a good use of anyone's time for the next hearing sessions to go ahead at this stage. Accordingly, we have asked Louise St John Howe, the programme officer, to cancel the hearings in weeks commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February and to notify those registered to attend.

3. We understand how important it is for the Council to be able to move forward to get an up to date local plan in place, and that you will be disappointed with what we are saying here. However, we have only come to this view following a great deal of thought and after hearing all the evidence from both the Council and representors. We will aim to provide our detailed letter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise Crosby and Elaine Worthington**

Examining Inspectors