Dear Sir / Madam

I am the Programme Officer who is responsible for the day to day running of the Examination into the soundness of the Draft Alteration to the Reading Borough Council Local Plan on Affordable Housing. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Examination.

The Inspector appointed to conduct that Examination is Robert Yuille MSc Dip TP MRTPI. He has asked me to write to you confirming that the Hearing sessions of the Examination of the Alteration will take place on 18th and 19th November 2014.

The main matters and issues that will be discussed at these Hearings are set out in Annex A to this letter.

A set of guidance notes for participants is attached at Annex B to this letter. The gist of these is that you can respond to the main matters and issues either by way of written representations or, if you wish to appear at the Hearings, by way of a hearing statement. Brevity and adherence to the timetable is important. Written representations or hearing statements should not exceed 3,000 words and should be with me by 17th October 2014 at the latest.

Yours faithfully

Jane Greenway
Programme Officer

Reading Borough Council- Local Plan: Strategy Examination
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Examination into the Soundness
of the
Alteration to the Reading Borough Local Plan on Affordable Housing Provision.
(The Alterations Plan)

Main Matters and Issues.

1. There is an acknowledged need to provide affordable housing in Reading yet the Alterations Plan proposes to reduce affordable housing targets on sites of 15 dwellings and above. Why is this?
2. The adopted version of Policy DM6 specifies a tenure split. In the Alterations Plan Policy DM6, and indeed in Policy CS16, states that the Council will seek and appropriate tenure mix. What are the reasons for this change in approach?
3. Are the affordable housing targets in Policy CS16 and DM6 based on robust evidence which indicates that they are economically viable?
4. Are Policy CS16 and DM6 sufficiently flexible? Do they, for example, make sufficient allowance for affordable housing being provided at below the target rate; do they make sufficient allowance for variations in the size, type and tenure of affordable housing provision; do they make sufficient allowance for off-site provision of affordable housing?