

# **STEVENAGE LOCAL PLAN STAGE 1 EXAMINATION HEARINGS**

## **AGENDA – DAY 1**

Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 10.00am

Venue: The Ibis Forum, Danestrete,  
Hertfordshire, SG1 1EJ

### **MATTER 1 – LEGAL COMPLIANCE, INCLUDING DUTY TO CO-OPERATE**

Please note:

- All participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the hearing statements (and any additional evidence) produced by the Council and other parties in respect of the matters addressed at this session. These are available on the examination website.
- Most references to questions refer to those posed by the Inspector in her Schedule of Matters, Issues and Questions (already circulated).
- This session will not consider detailed site-specific representations.
- The hearing will run until around 17:00 with a mid-morning, lunch and mid-afternoon break.

1. Inspector's Opening, including legal and procedural questions
2. Questions/procedural or programming matters
3. Council's opening statement
4. Appearance by Stephen McPartland MP
5. Overall, has the Plan been prepared in accordance with relevant legal requirements, including the 'Duty to Cooperate' imposed by Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)? Has the duty to co-operate been met? What has been the nature of the co-operation and on what issues? How is the planning work of the various planning authorities co-ordinated?

6. Are the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the Plan adequately and accurately assessed in the Habitats Regulations Assessments and the Sustainability Appraisals (SAs)?
7. Does the SA test the Plan against all reasonable alternatives? Is the Plan based on a sound process of sustainability appraisal? Does it represent the most appropriate strategy in the circumstances? Does the final report set out the reasons for rejecting earlier options?
8. Is the Plan compliant with:
  - (a) the Local Development Scheme?
  - (b) the Statement of Community Involvement?
  - (c) the 2004 Act and the 2012 Regulations?
9. Does the Plan provide effective outcomes in terms of cross boundary issues?
10. Close