

**From:** Naomi Goold [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 February 2021 16:47  
**To:** East Anglia Two <[EastAngliaTwo@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:EastAngliaTwo@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>; East Anglia ONE North <[EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:EastAngliaOneNorth@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** EA1N and EA2 Examinations

Dear EA1N and EA2 Case Teams,

It is understood that representations in relation to the difficulties Interested Parties are experiencing in relation to resourcing the examinations were requested for Deadline 5. I apologise for the delay in sending this submission to you.

As with all other stakeholders and Interested Parties East Suffolk Council (ESC) is also experiencing difficulties with resourcing the examination and hearings. This is specifically as a result of the national lockdown and school closures. This has meant that a number of officers are juggling, home-schooling, childcare, WIFI and internet capability in some areas of the District, in addition to the pressures of the examinations. It is understood that the Panel are also experiencing similar pressures.

We appreciate that where we have made special requests to the Examining Authority in relation to the timetabling of agenda items at specific hearings they have been taken on board and we really appreciate the adaptations that have been made in the past. We have however set out below some additional matters we would welcome the Examining Authority's consideration of:

- It is very helpful when there are a number of hearings in close proximity to one another if all the agendas are published together. I think this has on the whole been done. This avoids the potential in a week of four hearings on Tuesday-Friday, that the agenda for a hearing on the fourth day being published just before the hearing on day one for example. In this scenario it is helpful that all the agendas for the hearings are published at least five days in advance of the first hearing.
- The provision of as detailed agendas as possible. This helps when preparing for the hearing so we can understand the matters to be discussed and ensure the appropriate officers are available for these discussions. In previous hearings we have made available technical experts but then the matters we have assumed would be discussed have not been. It is appreciated that sometimes discussions may deviate from those matters on the detailed agenda but this would provide a really useful starting point. For example, if the Examining Authority has specific questions which they would like discussed, if we know these in advance we can ensure that we provide the appropriate information during the hearing and ensure the relevant technical experts are available. ESC acknowledge that some agendas have contained these specific questions and it is considered that this format has helped the productivity of the event.
- The provision of the detailed agendas more than five days in advance of the hearing. Due to the current difficulties experienced with juggling competing demands, the

earliest the publication of the hearing agendas the greater the preparation time available, and the ability to properly resource hearings.

- The provision of an approximation of timings for specific agenda items so that relevant officers could ensure they are available at the appropriate time.

Kind regards

Naomi



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**East Suffolk Council will continue to review and prioritise the delivery of its services during this unprecedented time.** The COVID-19 outbreak will severely impact what we are able to do, however we will continue to support and protect our communities, delivering the critical services you need.

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