

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF SOMERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXAMINER: Mary O'Rourke BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

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Examination Ref: 02/ MOR/SNP

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16 October 2017

Dear Mr Evans and Ms Mason

### SOMERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION: FURTHER CONSULTATION EXTENSION

Further to my letter of 10 October, a query has been raised as to whether the 3 weeks additional consultation I have requested is compliant with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

I have previously suggested that those who did not receive the timely electronic notification of the consultation exercise on the draft Plan should be afforded 3 weeks to submit their representations. However, this was subject to a caveat that should a representor be unable to meet this timeframe, I would provide an extension to the 3 week period.

In taking this approach, I sought to balance the need to ensure that any prejudice to a potential representor is remedied, whilst seeking not to incur any undue delay in the progression of the draft Plan.

Regrettably, given a query has already been raised about my preferred, pragmatic approach, I now consider it is necessary to mitigate further against the possibility of a legal challenge to this element of the Plan's consultation process, should a representor be so minded. As such, **I have now resolved to extend that initial 3 weeks consultation period by an additional 3 weeks (i.e. 6 weeks in total)** and would be grateful if Cheshire East Council can communicate this to the relevant parties that rely on the authority's electronic notifications.

In the interests of transparency, may I prevail upon you to ensure a copy of this is placed on the local authority's and Parish Council's websites.

Your sincerely

*Mary O'Rourke*

Examiner