

LAPP INSP05. 17.7.18 Letter from the Inspector to the Council with regard to potential start date for Examination Hearings

‘The Inspector has now had a chance to consider the Council’s response to her request for a detailed timeline for the review of the HRA and the impact of that work on the examination timetable. She notes that the Council has now commissioned consultants to undertake a Habitats Regulation Screening and that this work is intended to be complete by the end of September so as to facilitate consultation during October. She also notes the Council’s suggestion that this timeline would, subject to no further work being required by way of an Appropriate Assessment (AA), provide for the hearing part of the examination to commence in November. Accordingly, the Inspector suggests that the Council prepare for the hearing sessions on this basis and having regard to her availability would provisionally suggest working towards commencing the hearings part of the examination during the week beginning 19 November.

The Inspector notes that the Council suggests there may need to be a further delay to the hearings part of the examination should the screening identify the need for an AA. However, she requests that the Council consider whether, if an AA is required, that work could be expedited so that any HRA recommendations could be considered towards the end of the hearing sessions (end November/beginning December) rather than delay further until February/March 2019.

In the meantime, the Inspector will continue to prepare for the hearings with a view towards issuing her Guidance Note and Matters and Issues towards the end of September. The Programme Officer has written to representors wishing to appear at the Examination informing them of potential changes to the timeline for the hearings part of the examination.’