

To All Town & Parish Council Clerks  
Cheshire East

**By Email**

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Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

Dear Clerk

**CHESHIRE EAST LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY**

I am writing to you to update you on the progress of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy.

At the end of October the Council completed 6 weeks of intensive Examination hearings before the Secretary of State's Inspector. In all there were over 600 participants in these hearings with duplicate sessions being held for many of the more popular subjects. This week the Council received the final representations on the documents submitted during the Examination – and these will be sent to the Inspector for his consideration.

There have now been 11 weeks of Examination Hearings – a process that often takes no more than a week in other areas. This is a testament to the developer interest in our Borough, the engagement of our residents and wide range of different issues that the plan is required to address.

At the end of the hearings the Inspector commented “I have to say that this has been the most complex and challenging Local Plan I have ever examined – and I have examined over 20 of these types of plans over the last 7 years or so”.

The Inspector has indicated that he expects to report ‘by the end of the year’ and this will then pave the way for the final stages of the Plan and its ultimate adoption. The adoption of the Local Plan Strategy will have numerous benefits for our borough; it will provide a stable framework to guide new development, it will be a secure platform for new investment and it will facilitate much needed new infrastructure. The plan will be the benchmark for future planning decisions and is the means by which the Council will finally demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land.

In October we also published a revised Local Development Scheme which sets out the other statutory plans that the Council will prepare in the coming years. This includes the second, more detailed stage of the Local Plan (the Site Allocations and Development Policies Development Plan Document) and the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document. Work is already underway on these plans and the first consultations are likely to follow in the spring of 2017. Those parishes within the Peak District National Park will know that the latest stage of the National Park Local Plan is also the subject of consultation.

When combined with our growing number of Neighbourhood Plans, a comprehensive set of Planning Documents are now being put in place across Cheshire East.

I hope this update is of assistance and I look forward to working with each and every Town and parish Council as these plans progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ainsley Arnold', written in a cursive style.

**Cllr Ainsley Arnold**  
**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning & Housing**