



# The Planning Inspectorate

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Mark Gilks  
Chief Executive  
London Borough of Hounslow  
The Civic Centre  
Lampton Road  
Hounslow  
TW3 4DN

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PINS/F5540/429/2

Date: 27 August 2008

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Dear Mr Gilks,

## **London Borough of Hounslow Local Development Framework Examination of Brentford Area Action Plan Document**

1. As you know, I have been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out an independent examination of the Brentford Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (DPD), which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 20 July 2007, pursuant to section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the 2004 Act).
2. I held a pre-examination meeting on 13 February 2008 and conducted the examination of the DPD by way of written exchanges and by a series of hearings for those who exercised their right to be heard, along with several invited attendees. The hearing sessions were held at The Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow between 22 April and 2 May 2008.
3. The purpose of the independent examination is set out in section 20(5) of the 2004 Act. This falls into two parts: first, whether the submitted DPD has been prepared in accordance with certain statutory requirements under s19 & s24(1) of the 2004 Act and the associated regulations (*The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004; SI.2004 No. 2204*); and second, whether the DPD is sound. A revised PPS12 was published late in the Examination process and includes a revised framework for testing soundness. Although that is a material consideration, the standard needed for the document to be judged sound remains essentially the same, and I have applied the nine tests set out in paragraph 4.24 of Planning Policy Statement 12: *Local Development Frameworks* (PPS 12) in making an assessment of soundness.
4. With this letter is a copy of my report on the submitted DPD. This contains my recommendations and the reasons for them as required by section 20(7) of the 2004 Act.



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5. In coming to my conclusions on the soundness of the DPD, I have considered all the representations made during the 6-week period following submission, in accordance with Regulation 29 of the 2004 Regulations, along with other written submissions that have been made. While these have informed the identification of the matters and issues for examination, my primary task is to consider whether the document is sound. I have also taken account of the subsequent written statements and oral contributions made during the course of the examination. However, it is not a requirement of the 2004 Act that I consider or report on objections to the DPD and, consequently, my report does not list individual representations or respond to all the points made.

6. During the course of the examination, and as a result of the discussions at the hearing sessions, the Council suggested a significant number of changes to the text of the submitted DPD. I have considered these changes as part of my assessment of the Plan's soundness. I have included the Consolidated Schedule of Changes produced by the Council as Annex 1 of my report.

7. My overall conclusion is that, with the changes recommended in my report, the Brentford Area Action Plan DPD satisfies the requirements of s20(5)(a) & (b) of the 2004 Act and the associated Regulations, and meets the tests of soundness set out in paragraph 4.24 of PPS12.

8. During the examination, I was assisted by my Programme Officer, Mr Robert Young, whom I thank for his diligence, good humour and organisational expertise. This ensured that the examination process, particularly the hearing sessions, ran smoothly. All the statements, representations, documents and other material submitted during the course of the examination, including at the hearing sessions, are contained in the examination library. Copies of most documents can be accessed via the examination website.

9. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Council's officers and all those attending the hearing sessions for the helpful, positive and professional manner they adopted during the hearings and throughout the examination. I hope that my conclusions and recommendations in the accompanying report will enable the Council to adopt the Brentford Area Action Plan DPD at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

*Raymond Michael*

Inspector