

## **Examination of The Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041**

Matter 1 - Legal Compliance and the Duty to Co-operate

December 2025

**Question 2 Has the preparation of the Plan been carried out in accordance with the Local Development Scheme?**

Berkeley notes that although there has been significant delay and challenges associated with progressing the review of the development plan previously, the preparation of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041 has been carried out in general accordance with the Council's most recent published Local Development Scheme (March 2025).

The LDS confirms the Council's intention to submit the Plan for examination in June 2025, which was met. The LDS also identifies a target adoption date of Summer 2026. While this remains an appropriate ambition, Berkeley notes that the ability to achieve this timetable is dependent upon the outcome of the examination process.

**Question 22 In overall terms, is the Plan in general conformity with the spatial development strategy for London (i.e. the London Plan)?**

The Hounslow Local Plan 2020–2041 has been prepared to align with the spatial principles of the London Plan 2021, including a focus on compact growth, brownfield intensification, sustainable transport corridors, and the targeted growth of Opportunity Areas such as the Great West Corridor and Heathrow. In that respect, the Plan demonstrates broad general conformity.

However, it is important to note that the London Plan will be over five years old by March 2026 and, under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and NPPF para 33, it will become out of date. The new London Plan is not expected to be adopted until 2028/29, creating an issue where the Council's submitted Local Plan will be based on an out-of-date housing requirement and potential policy vacuum during the latter stages of this Local Plan's preparation. This situation is a consequence of the delay and challenges the Council has had with adopting a new Local Plan which was previously envisaged as a partial review.

Berkeley considers that, while the submitted Plan reflects the current but soon to be out of date spatial strategy for London, it should be capable of adapting to changes in strategic direction, particularly in relation to housing need as set by the Government's standard method and long-term land supply. This may include the need to identify and/or safeguard additional land to support sustainable, infrastructure-led growth over the full plan period and beyond.