

HOUNSLOW LOCAL PLAN: EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Matter 2: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies (Wednesday 14th January)

Statement of Marie Rabouhans on behalf of the West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society (WCGS) (REP 048)

12th December 2025

Issue

WCGS participated fully in the development of the Partial Review of the Local Plan for the Great West Corridor (GWC DPD. When in December 2023 we endorsed combining all four volumes into a single, consolidated Local Plan, we did not expect major parts of the GWC DPD to be removed. We stated “In merging the contents of the Local Plan Reviews of the Great West Corridor and West of Borough with the updated adopted Local Plan, consideration should be given as to whether some new policies introduced in the Reviews should be transferred to the main Plan to apply to the whole borough. For example, should a general policy on Health and Wellbeing be included in the main Plan with specific aspects, if any, retained as GWC3.”

Question 1

The Local Plan is unsound as the Plan’s vision and key objectives do not provide a positively prepared approach for Hounslow’s future growth with respect to Health and Wellbeing.

The Reg 19 version of the Local Plan Review (LPR) for the Great West Corridor (February 2021) contained a section on Health and Wellbeing including Policy GWC3. This whole section has been removed from the Single Local plan. As was clear from the “Where we are now” introduction to this section of the LPR, the Council recognises a great need to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents. While it argues that it has embedded health and well-being within multiple relevant policies in the new plan, it lacks a high-level, overarching statement. The Spatial Strategy Vision contains no section on, and there is no separate Objective for, Health and Wellbeing.

In order for the Local Plan to be sound it is necessary to make it clear that health and wellbeing is a golden thread running through the plan. In commenting on the Reg 19 consultation on the Single Local Plan in October 2024, WCGS made constructive proposals for change including the addition the following **Objective:**

To maximise health and wellbeing outcomes through creating healthy places which encourage active lifestyles and increase social interaction.

Question 4

The spatial distribution of development across the Borough is not justified as the proposed amount of development in the Great West Corridor exceeds the capacity of transport infrastructure.

Questions 11 and 12

We do not consider that sufficient account has been taken of the cumulative impact of all sites in the Plan, on the highway network and other infrastructure such especially, waste

management, water supply, wastewater and electricity. Thames Water comments on recent planning applications for sites in East Brentford and Chiswick regularly point out that the site is in an area of water deficit. With respect to the Great West Corridor, dense residential developments have higher water needs than the commercial uses they are replacing. In the west of the borough the high water consumption of data centres is an issue.

We doubt whether the electricity network in Hounslow/West London has the capacity to accommodate the residential and economic growth proposed in the Borough by 2041, especially when taking account of the very high electricity requirements of data centres.

Question 15 (e)

It is not clear how phasing would be achieved. Reliance cannot be placed on including phasing requirements either within a Legal Agreements or by means of conditions in planning consents. These may be overturned when it becomes clear that the expected infrastructure will not be in place in time. See example given in WCGS submission on Matter 6.

Question 17

Please see our submission on Matter 4 with respect to release of Green Belt

WCGS

12th December