

Examination of the Hounslow Local Plan 2020-2041

Inspectors: J Ayres BA (Hons), Solicitor and G Wildgoose BSc (Hons) MSc MRTPI

Programme Officer: Charlotte Glancy

Email: bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com Phone: 07519 628064

Examination web page: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-review>

15 September 2025

Dear Mr Kirk

Inspectors' Response to Council letter dated 29 August 2025

1. Thank you for your letter dated 29 August 2025 setting out your response to the questions raised in our initial letter, the contents of which are noted.
2. In respect of your response to our initial questions Q3 and Q4, we note that the data required to provide more up-to-date commencement and completions evidence will not be confirmed until after it has been published by MHCLG later in the Autumn. However, following the publication of that data it would assist the examination if the Council would then provide up-to-date figures for the 2024/25 financial year. We appreciate that this may take some time to collate. However, it would seem reasonable that the updated evidence could be provided in sufficient time prior to the opening of the examination hearings to enable ourselves and other interested parties to take them into account.
3. In addition to the above, referring back to our initial letter dated 17 July 2025, it would assist us if the Council could supplement the responses in their previous letter with specific clarification of the approach taken with respect to the Duty to Cooperate prescribed bodies¹ where it is not intended to provide an up-to-date and signed Statement of Common Ground. We would be grateful if this information could be provided by not later than 17 October 2025. Following the Council submission of the documents in accordance with the dates indicated in the letter of 29 August 2025 and this requested information, we may have further questions prior to publishing our Matters, Issues and Questions for the examination hearings.
4. Turning to the next steps of the examination, we are not able to formally confirm the dates of the hearing sessions at this stage until we have received the requested and outstanding information. However, in the interest of maintaining efficient progress of the examination we have already made contact via the Programme Officer to discuss potential dates in early 2026. We will continue that engagement with the Council via the Programme Officer, with a view to publishing the hearing dates on the examination website once we are content to proceed to that stage.

¹ As identified in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2021

5. In the meantime, it is also our intention to conduct site visits to the locations of all allocated sites during week commencing 20 October 2025. There is no need for the Council to take any action in respect of these visits as they will be unaccompanied with observations made from public vantage points.
6. At this stage we are not inviting nor do not envisage accepting any comments from other interested parties in response to this letter. However, if you have any further queries at this stage, please do not hesitate to let us know via the Programme Officer. We look forward to receiving the additional information requested in this letter and our initial letter in accordance with the dates set out in your previous response.

Yours sincerely

J Ayres

G Wildgoose

INSPECTORS