Planning Inspectorate

Mr S Barton, London Borough of Ealing By email	Our Ref:	PINS/ LDF002296
	Date:	14 August 2025

Dear Mr Barton,

Examination of the Ealing Local Plan 2024-2039 (the Plan)

1. We write in response to your letters dated 23 and 25 July 2025, in which you set out the Council's intentions to address a number of matters requiring further work arising from the 'block one' local plan examination hearing session discussions.

2. It is clear that the Council has given careful consideration to the content of the current Actions Log; and to our concerns about the duty to cooperate activity evidence and, the soundness of the Plan in terms of its approach to infrastructure, housing land supply, the gypsy and travelling community, strategic policies and affordable workspace. We can confirm that the measures which the Council proposes to take to address these matters are reasonable in terms of the proposed scope of works and the timescales for their submission. We will assess the soundness of these submissions in due course.

3. However, it is crucial that the Council maintains pace to meet the dates that it has committed to so that the examination may be concluded in a timely manner without significant delay. As you will be aware, the letter from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to the Planning Inspectorate, dated 30 July 2024, makes it clear that any pauses to undertake additional work during the examination should usually take no more than six months overall. Pragmatism should not be used to address fundamental issues with the soundness of a plan which would be likely to require pausing or delaying the examination for more than six months. Therefore, please ensure that we are made aware immediately of any potential deviation from those agreed dates and the reason to justify such a circumstance.

4. In view of the number, nature and scope of the outstanding tasks, we concur with the Council that it will be necessary to reschedule all of the ‘block two’ hearing sessions which we had envisaged would take place throughout September 2025. As such, we will make the necessary arrangements through the Programme Officer.

5. In balancing the agreed deadlines and publicity requirements with the need to progress the examination in a timely manner, we would respectfully request that the Council makes provision to ensure their availability, and that of any external bodies being relied upon, from the start of December 2025. This is so that we may resume the remaining Programme during the weeks commencing 1, 8 and 15 December 2025. We currently anticipate the need to accommodate around 7 sitting days throughout that period.

6. The Programme Officer will be in contact with you shortly to confirm the precise dates and other details for these sessions, with the view of finalising and publishing the remaining Programme and list of Participants as soon as possible thereafter.

7. We are not inviting any comments from other parties at this stage.

8. Thank you for the Council’s continued assistance in progressing this local plan examination.

D McCreery and C Dillon

INSPECTORS