

Block 2 Opening Statement on behalf of Ealing Council

I would like to welcome everyone to this second block of hearings as part of the examination in public into the Ealing's New Local Plan and once again thank you for your continued interest in Ealing's emerging Local Plan.

Since the Block 1 hearings in June 2025 the council has been busy providing further responses on a number of matters and additional clarifications requested by the Inspectors. This included further evidence:

- To demonstrate how the council has met the **duty to cooperate**. Please note additional Statement of Common Grounds have also now been reached with the Canal and River Trust, Historic England and National Highways.
- To confirm that there is no **contingent infrastructure** that is directly required to unlock any specific site allocations in the Plan.
- To satisfy the requirement to identify a supply of deliverable sites to help meet our **housing requirements**.
- To propose an amended and more nuanced approach to the scope of **strategic policies** in the Plan via a further suggested modification {FSMM1}.
- To provide a comprehensive update to the 2018 **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment** based on the wider definition. The council also propose a new criteria-based policy on windfall sites {FSMM39} and have concluded an additional Statement of Common Ground between the OPDC and Ealing to demonstrate how the two LPAs are planning to work collaboratively.

I also wanted to let you know that the **Mayor of London/GLA published their London wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment** on Friday 28th November 2025. {Please follow the link and scroll down to housing: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/london-plan/next-london-plan/london-plan-evidence?ac-67497=67487>}. Notwithstanding this, **the council contends that our revised study effectively supersedes this GLA study** as our work was undertaken more recently, is more robust in terms of its methodology and includes qualitative engagement with the local gypsy and traveller community in order to take account of their accommodation needs.

In addition, the council has responded to 26 separate matters arising from the **Block 1 action logs agreed between the council and the Inspectors**. Of particular note perhaps are:

- A **revised schedule of suggested modifications** which includes 55 new proposals by the council to provide either corrections, better clarity and/or respond to representations made (Action 1.1/1.2).
- A note on **barriers to housing delivery** (including a housing action plan) (Action 4.1).

We have also provided **five additional written statements** spanning Matters 6-10 providing council responses to 1604 questions from the Inspectors and note an additional 52 written statement that have been provided by third parties.

No one can be in any doubt this examination has been robust, and I am **grateful to the Inspectors for their pragmatism and support in permitting a short delay in the commencement of Block 2 to allow this body of work to be successfully completed by the council.**

Finally, though entirely separate from these Local Plan proceedings, I also wanted to highlight two other projects:

- Firstly, on 12th September 2025, the separate examination into the **draft London Borough of Ealing Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule** concluded with receipt of the examiner's report. It found that the draft schedule provides an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy in the area. Subject to formal approval by Full Council on 16th December 2025 it is now expected to be implemented early in the new year.
- Secondly, on 11th December 2025, consultation and engagement are expected to commence for 8 weeks on a **revised Joint West London Waste Plan** at Regulation 18 involving 7 Local Planning Authorities including Ealing. It aims to provide an up-to-date planning policy framework to secure and manage the right type, quantum and distribution of waste management facilities within the borough, complying with statutory requirements, and supporting the council's wider ambitions around climate action.

**Steve Barton,
Strategic Planning Manager
Ealing Council**

2nd December 2025