Topic: The managed release of employment land and new Strategic Industrial Land (SIL) allocations.

Background

The Employment Land Review (dated 2010) was a background document to the Core Strategy DPD (CS). It sought a cautious approach to loss of employment land with a recommendation of a reduction of 14 hectares of industrial land over the plan period. The CS indicated that the limited transfer of 14 hectares to mixed use would be managed through the Development Sites DPD and OAPFs.

Prior to the publication of the Development Sites and Development Management (including the policies map) DPDs, Ealing Council identified a loss of 19.03 hectares of SIL, a loss of 3.9 hectares of LSIS and 16.6 hectares of newly identified industrial land as set out in Annex B of the Council's response to my initial questions.

Following consultation on the publication DPD, the GLA did not accept the amount of SIL to be released and indicated that land, not previously identified as MEL or SIL, at Greenford Green, south of the canal, be designated to compensate.

Questions

I need to be sure that the approach taken was justified and supported by analysis/ evidence, and would request the following information:

- Confirmation of the overall extent of reduction in industrial land over the plan period.

- Whether the Council carried out any further analysis on receipt of the GLA's response to the publication DPDs, such as looking at releasing less industrial land rather than allocating new SIL. I am interested in the consistency of approach to the allocation/de-allocation of SIL across the Borough.

- The ELR advises that the site OIS7 (formerly OIS8) is retained as an employment site, considering mixed use. What evidence base and analysis do the GLA rely on to make their comments about the SIL designation at site OIS7.

- Where is the specific justification for including part of OIS7 in SIL in preference to sites in other areas in the Borough. Again, was the approach to allocation/de-allocation justified and consistent?

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17 June 2013