



London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Newham, London Borough of Redbridge

Examination of the East London Joint Waste Plan

Non-verbatim note of the hearings closing session held on 16 June 2026

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Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State

NB: this is a non-verbatim note, which covers the main points raised in the closing session.

Main modifications schedule

1. The purpose of this session is to review proposed suggested changes and to consider how these are to be dealt with. Furthermore, it is also to give some indication of the next steps in the process and to deal with any procedural questions that the Boroughs may have. None of this should be taken as pre-judging the contents of the final report which will take into account all relevant matters and representations.
2. Turning to the proposed changes to the East London Joint Waste Plan (the Plan).
3. To assist the next stage of the examination it will be necessary to produce a consolidated list of main modifications- incorporating all of the changes suggested since the Regulation 19 Version of the Plan- for the purposes of consultation and possibly sustainability appraisal and habitats regulation assessment.
4. There is a distinction between main and additional modifications as referred to in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Additional modifications are those that (taken together) do not materially affect the policies of the Plan. Main modifications can therefore be taken to be those that do materially affect the policies. They will therefore comprise any changes to the policies themselves or to the supporting text which have a significant bearing on the interpretation of policy. Part of the production of the consolidated list of changes will be the assessment of which of them are main and which of them

are additional modifications and this exercise should be carried out by the Boroughs in conjunction with us, following the closure of the hearings and prior to the consultation process.

5. We will provide a template that the Boroughs can use to produce the main modifications schedule. The aim should be to keep main modifications to a minimum – one for each policy, and one for each block of implementation text, if feasible. The Boroughs should also seek to work with the Greater London Authority and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the proposed modifications relating to capacity sharing, which may involve updates to the relevant statements of common ground.
6. The Boroughs should also consider how the spatial implications of the Plan might be reflected on policies maps and the process for taking any necessary changes forward.

Next steps

7. In addition to the potential changes that have already been identified, following the closure of the hearings we will be reflecting on whether other elements of the Plan are potentially unsound or not legally compliant and whether any revisions would be necessary to ensure soundness and/or legal compliance. If we were to conclude that further main modifications were to be necessary, other than those already discussed, we would communicate this to the Boroughs in a post-hearings letter. We would intend any such letter to be helpful, and to give the Boroughs an opportunity to consider what further modifications, if any, should be made, or whether any further work may be required. We intend to deal with this as a first stage of the post-hearing process, and should a post hearings letter be necessary we will send this over as soon as is practicable. It is likely, however, that any such letter will follow conclusion of the Boroughs' work on the action points agreed during the hearings.
8. Any letter we send will be publicly available and published on the website in the normal way. The ball will then be in the Boroughs' court to finalise the schedule of proposed main modifications- although we will need to see it before it is published to ensure that it reflects our understanding of hearing discussions and is in the interests of the soundness of the plan.
9. Others may have a different opinion about the proposed changes but that is a matter for us to resolve in due course through our report- and in any event the changes would be subject to further consultation.
10. Additional modifications need not be the subject of consultation. However, if the Boroughs wish to include them in the consultation exercise for completeness then the distinction with main modifications should be clearly spelled out, and they should be contained in a separate schedule.
11. The period of consultation should be for a minimum of 6 weeks in line with the period that the Regulation 19 version of the Plan was consulted on. In carrying out further consultation you should make it clear that comments should solely be addressed to the proposed changes in the main modifications and the implications arising from them. You should also bear in

mind the possible need for further sustainability appraisal and any necessary assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The Boroughs should keep us informed of progress, particularly in respect of the expected date of the close of the consultation period.

12. Once consultation on the main modifications is concluded, we would welcome a statement from the Boroughs which responds to the main issues raised. We will take this into account in framing our report alongside the consultation responses.
13. As for the final report, it is difficult to give definite guidance about when this will be produced but we expect this to be by the end of this year. A firmer date will be given nearer the time-particularly once we have a date for the close of consultation on the modifications.

Inspector's Closing Remarks

14. Finally, we would like to thank Ian Kemp for the efficient and effective work he has done, and continues to do, as Programme Officer. We would also like to thank the Boroughs for their timely responses to our various requests, for accommodating these sessions, and for their positive and proactive contributions during the hearings. We also thank all representors who participated for their input.
15. The hearing sessions are now closed.

Thea L Davis and G J Fort

INSPECTORS