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East London Joint Waste Plan

Your Ref: Pre-examination checklist

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

Our Ref: PINS/G5750/429/12

Date: 08 January 2026

By email: Cara.Collier@havering.gov.uk

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Dear Cara,

Pre-examination checklist for local plans prepared under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

East London Joint Waste Plan: matters to address before submission for examination

Thank you for completing the pre-examination checklist which we received on 19th December 2025.

Based on the answers that you provided to the checklist questions and a review of the explanations for some of the answers and relevant parts of documents referred to, I recommend that you address the matters set out in the attached Annex before submitting the East London Joint Waste Plan for examination. My recommendations focus on the most significant outstanding matters that suggest that the Plan is not yet ready for examination.

Once you have addressed the matters I have identified, I suggest you submit the Plan and other documents under regulation 22 as soon as possible. When you do so, please provide a brief written explanation of what you have done to address each issue and list any documents you have added or changed.

When you have submitted the Plan and other documents under regulation 22, we will seek to appoint an Inspector (or Inspectors) to conduct the examination in accordance with the timescales set out in the Service Level Agreement.

The completed checklist that we received on 19th December 2025, this letter, and your written description of the actions taken to address the matters I have identified should be published on the examination website in due course along with the Plan and other submission and supporting documents.

Please note that this is not an assessment of whether the Plan satisfies all relevant legal requirements and is sound as that will be determined by the examining Inspector(s) who will take account of all the Council's evidence, representations made under regulation 20, and any further information gathered during the examination. It is also possible that the examining Inspector may have concerns about procedural matters, the scope of the plan, or evidence that I have not identified from the pre-examination checklist.

Yours

Louise Gibbons

East London Joint Waste Plan pre-examination checklist: matters to address before submission

Duty to cooperate and statements of common ground

The Government announced on 27 November 2025 that the duty to cooperate under section 33A of the 2004 Act would be abolished early in 2026 for local plans being prepared under the current system, including those at examination at that point¹. However, Inspectors are still expected to examine plans in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) policies on maintaining effective cooperation.

In response to Q2.3 the Councils listed four Statements of Common Ground which are in draft (SD27, SD28, SD29 and SD30). The relevant statements of common ground should be finalised, including any outstanding matters, before submission [CR1].

Regulation 22 Consultation Statement

In response to Q2.17 the Councils' consultation statement includes their response to the main issues raised in representations made under Regulation 20. It is noted that in several instances the Councils have indicated that changes to wording in the Plan may be necessary.

Changes should only be proposed if they are essential to make the Plan legally compliant and sound, not to "improve" the Plan. If the Councils wish for any such changes to be treated as part of the submitted Plan, they should carry out further consultation on the same basis as Regulation 19 as described in paragraph 1.4 of the Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations (Updated 27 November 2025). If such consultation is not carried out, the examining Inspector will not treat them as part of the plan to be examined (Procedure Guide paragraph 1.5). Alternatively, the Councils could wait for guidance from the examining Inspector(s) before drafting any proposed modifications to the Plan as they will only be necessary if they consider the submitted Plan to not be sound or legally compliant [CR2].

Strategic Policies

In response to Q3.3 the Councils indicate that the Plan does not explicitly identify strategic policies but is positive in response to question 3.4a-c as to what strategic policies address within the Plan. The NPPF at paragraph 21 clearly refers to plans making explicit which policies are strategic. I suggest that the Council prepare a list of those policies that they think meet the NPPF definition to accompany the submission of the Plan [CR3].

End of Annex

¹ [Local plan reforms – Update to the Duty to Co-operate](#)