



Planning Inspectorate

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

Preliminary Matters for the Council 27 February 2026

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Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State

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

1. Following our preliminary appraisal of the East London Joint Waste Plan (the Plan) and its supporting evidence, we set out below general matters and points for clarification. We are inviting contributions from the Boroughs only at this point, and do not expect any written evidence to be provided from other parties at this time. Those with a right to be heard in the examination will be given sufficient opportunity to provide further representations at the relevant stages, which will include any comments on the outcomes of the actions taken by the Boroughs in response to this letter.
2. Your prompt assistance with the items set out below will greatly assist us with the task of setting out the matters, issues and questions that are to be addressed through the examination.
3. A brief but complete reply would be appreciated and should be sent to the Programme Officer (PO) by **close of business on 13 March 2026**. The reply should set out where you may require additional time to complete tasks and what the likely timescales of such action would be.

Planning Inspectorate Guidance

4. The procedural aspects of the examination will follow the Planning Inspectorate's ['Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations'](#) (the Procedure Guide). We note that a link to this document is included on the examination website.

Main modifications

5. Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 gives examining Inspectors the power to make main modifications that would be necessary to remedy legal compliance or soundness shortcomings of plans. However, Inspectors are only able to recommend main modifications if councils request them to do so. The Boroughs' submission letter does not make such a request. Consequently, if you want us to make any necessary main modifications to the Plan, please could you include your formal request for us to do so in your response to this letter.

The Plan

6. The starting point for the examination is the version of the Plan that was subject to consultation in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. We note that the Boroughs have also submitted a document entitled 'Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications' (CD11). The Boroughs consider that these changes, if they were to be taken forward, would not materially affect the Plan's policies. However, we will review the Schedule, and were we to consider that any of the proposed changes would have a material effect on the Plan's policies we would aim to discuss these at the hearing sessions in line with the advice set out in the Procedure Guide (at paragraph 1.5).

National Planning Policy Framework

7. The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) published in December 2024 sets out transitional arrangements relevant to the examination of Plans in its Annex 1. In your response to this letter, we would appreciate your view as to whether any of the transitional arrangements applies and if so, which previous version of the Framework would be relevant to the examination. You should provide clear reasons for your view with reference to Annex 1 of the December 2024 Framework.

Closing remarks

8. In summary, we would appreciate your assistance with the following matters:
 - If you are so minded, your request for us to make any main modifications necessary to make the Plan sound and/or legally compliant;
 - Your view as to which version of the Framework is relevant to this examination.

9. We trust that the above is clear, but please do not hesitate to contact us via the PO if you require any further clarification. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Thea L Davis and G J Fort

INSPECTORS