

# **CRAWLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2040 EXAMINATION**

## **Matter 4: Economic Growth**

### **HEARING AGENDA**

Wednesday 22 November 2023

Starting at 10am.

1. Inspector's Introduction to Matter 4
2. Supporting a strong, competitive economy for Crawley and the soundness of the employment land figure of at least 26.2 hectares and the minimum requirement for 13.73 hectares of land in Policy EC1 for primarily storage and distribution uses.

This discussion under this item will consider the following:

- (i) The significance of Crawley to the sub-regional economy and what Local Economic Strategies envisage for the Borough
  - (ii) Market demand and signals – including past trends, engagement with the business community and impact of Covid-19, the recovery and any other factors
  - (iii) Current condition of stock and employment land
  - (iv) Justification and effectiveness of the minimum 26.2ha figure – does it make for a positively prepared plan and for an appropriate strategy for the Borough
  - (v) Alternative employment land figures and how they have been considered, including through sustainability appraisal
  - (vi) Potential unmet employment land needs in terms of aligning to the full unmet housing need
  - (vii) Would the Plan provide sufficient flexibility (for example, a degree of buffer in land supply) and more generally the ability to respond quickly to any changes in economic circumstances
3. The soundness of the general approach to meeting the employment land requirement through a single strategic land release from safeguarded land
  4. The soundness of the main employment areas identified in Policy EC2 and Borough Council's proposed modifications (v3 10 November 2023)
  5. The effectiveness of Policy EC2 in supporting a strong, competitive economy and responding to changes in economic circumstances

6. Whether there is potential for mixed-use (including residential) within the main employment areas – or whether by reference to economic objectives, character or viability that is not a significant possibility over the plan period.
7. Soundness of Policy EC5 – Employment and Skills Development
8. Soundness of Policy EC7 – Hotel and Visitor Accommodation

Ends.