

Crawley Borough Local Plan Examination
Plan Examiners' Note on the April 2020 Planning Inspectorate Advisory
Meeting Note

30 October 2023

1. Reference is made in the Borough Council's Topic Papers No.2 (Gatwick Airport) and No.5 (Employment Needs and Land Supply) to a high-level advisory visit with the Planning Inspectorate held in April 2020. Consequently, it has also been referenced in various representations made at Regulation 19 (pre-submission) consultation. It is a document that will be likely referred to by some parties as part of forthcoming statements and again at the hearing sessions. Accordingly, the April 2020 Advisory Visit Note has now been added into the Examination library for completeness and transparency.
2. The purpose of an optional advisory visit from the Planning Inspectorate is to provide high-level advice to local planning authorities on the examination so that they can prepare effectively for it¹. It is not the purpose of advisory visits to determine whether a proposed Plan would be found sound or legally compliant. That said, it would be remiss for an advisory visit not to draw attention to potential soundness and/or legal compliance matters and how they could be possibly addressed. We would like to emphasise the high-level nature of advisory visits, which are not comparable to the depth of scrutiny and evidence testing that occurs as part of the examination process once the plan has been submitted. The April 2020 visit preceded both the Winter/Spring 2021 and May/June 2023 Regulation 19 (pre-submission) consultations.
3. Determining whether a submitted plan is sound and legally compliant are matters for the examining Inspector(s). Accordingly, the April 2020 advice, whilst a document we will have regard to, is not binding on us. Ultimately, we will arrive at our own conclusions and recommendations on plan soundness and legal compliance based on the submitted plan, the associated evidence base and the representations before us.

David Spencer

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Examining Inspectors Crawley Borough Local Plan

¹ "Local Plans: The examination Process" – PINS Guidance, 10 February 2023