

Examination of Newham Local Plan

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Examination website: [Local Plan Examination Overview – Newham Local Plan Examination – Newham Council](#)

IN15: Next steps in the examination following the hearings

Examination hearings were held over 13 days between 2 December 2025 and 17 February 2026. The Council has responded to all of my action points, the last response being published on 26 February 2026¹.

The latest, comprehensive version of the potential modifications to the Plan drafted by the Council in response to my various questions and action points throughout the examination so far was published on 26 February 2026². The schedule indicates which of the potential modifications the Council consider to be “main”, “additional (minor)”, or changes that would “improve” the Plan but not meet the definition of “main” or “additional (minor)”.

I am currently reviewing that schedule of potential modifications to decide which are “main” ie those that I consider to be essential to make the Plan sound or legally compliant. It is possible that I may decide that some of the “additional (minor)” modifications or “improvements” are in fact “main” (as they could materially affect the policies in the Plan). It is also possible that I decide that some of the potential “main” modifications are not essential to make the Plan sound. I may also amend the detailed wording of some of the modifications in the Council’s schedule if I decide that is necessary for soundness. In due course, I will ask the Council to prepare a revised schedule setting out my main modifications accordingly.

I am not expecting to include any further main modifications in that revised schedule that are not included in the Council’s latest schedule. That is because I am satisfied at this stage of the examination that the schedule of potential modifications includes ones that are necessary to address soundness issues and will be effective in so doing (subject to any detailed wording changes that I may make). However, that is without prejudice to my final conclusions which will ultimately be made having regard to representations in response to the forthcoming public consultation (see below), in addition to all of the evidence currently before me.

¹ ED029.

² ED020c.

The Council should also prepare a schedule of changes to the submitted policies map that are necessary to ensure that the geographic illustration of policies in the Plan, as modified, are justified, and update the sustainability appraisal and habitat regulations assessment reports to consider the main modifications.

Once the schedules of main modifications and changes to policies map, and the sustainability appraisal and habitat regulations reports, are finalised I will ask the Council to carry out public consultation on all of those documents³.

The public consultation will start after the local elections on 7 May 2026 and be for a minimum six week period in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement in a similar manner to that in which it would be carried out under regulation 19.

Representations about the consultation documents should be sent to the Council, not the Programme Officer, after the consultation exercise has started and by the deadline set by the Council. Information about how to make representations will be published on the Council's website in due course, with links to that from the examination website.

As soon as possible following the end of the consultation period, the Council should forward the representations to the Programme Officer along with a report listing all of the representations; a brief summary of the main issues raised; and the Council's brief response to those main issues. Those documents will be published on the examination website. I will consider all of the representations, and the Council's responses to them, before finalising my report.

Unless I consider it essential to deal with substantial issues raised in representations about the proposed main modifications, or to ensure fairness, no further hearing sessions will be held after the consultation period⁴.

At the end of the examination I will send my report to the Council. This will set out my findings and reasoning in relation to all of the main issues, and recommend the main modifications that I finally decide are necessary to make the Plan legally compliant and sound as required by section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act.

When the Council adopts the Plan, it must include all of the main modifications that I recommend in my final report. It may also make additional (minor) modifications that it is satisfied would not materially affect the policies in the Plan.

Any queries about this note should be taken up with the Programme Officer.

William Fieldhouse

20 March 2026

³ Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations paragraphs 6.7 to 6.9.

⁴ Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations paragraph 6.10.