

EXAMINATION OF THE MERTON LOCAL PLAN

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Further Main Modification Consultation – Inspectors’ Covering Note

1. In our post-hearings letter (INSP22 – at paragraphs 36 and 37), we gave our reasons why changes to the Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) boundary associated with Wimbledon Park proposed in the Regulation 19 version of the Plan were not justified and that they should not be taken forward.
2. However, it has come to our attention that the map that would be introduced by MM114 from the Schedule of Main Modifications to Merton’s Draft Local Plan – January 2024 (LBM 29) does not accurately reflect this. This is in contrast to the map inserted as a result of MM112, which shows the correct MOL boundary.
3. The ambiguity caused by the differing MOL boundaries now needs to be addressed to ensure that the Plan is justified, and so that it is evident how a decision-maker should react to any development proposals.
4. To that end, the Council is publishing a further main modification (LBM41), which corrects the MOL boundary in the relevant inset map included in the Plan. This further main modification is accompanied by associated changes to the policies map (LBM42). Given the very limited scope of these corrections, and the responses already received on this matter in relation to the Main Modifications, we consider that a four-week consultation period would be adequate.
5. Parties wishing to make representations on the further main modification should send any responses to the Council, not the Programme Officer. Any representations should be focused solely on the further main modification and not on any other aspects of the Plan.
6. Following the closing date for consultation, the Council should send us the representations received, including a brief summary of any issues raised. The Council should also provide a brief response to any of those issues. All representations received and the Council’s responses to them will form part of our considerations when we come to finalise our Report. The examination will remain open until the Council receives that Report.

R J Aston
INSPECTOR

G J Fort
INSPECTOR

5 July 2024