

References in the examination library documents to the engagement with West Berkshire Council regarding employment prior to the submission of the JLP

This document addresses action number 17 and was raised at the Matter 2 hearing session:

Add to the library a note of references in the examination library documents to the engagement with West Berks Council regarding employment prior to the submission of the JLP.

Table of references in the examination library documents to the engagement with West Berkshire Council regarding employment prior to the submission of the JLP

Examination library reference	Reference	Topic covered
<u>CSD09.1 Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate (December 2024)</u>	Page 20-21	<p>Relevant extracts:</p> <p>2.67 South and Vale generally have productive engagement with West Berkshire. There has been effective informal information sharing about employment evidence and a range of other planning matters which we share, some formal meetings about the Duty to Co-operate and responses and formal letters as engagements as necessary.</p> <p>...</p> <p>2.69 In January 2023 West Berkshire wrote to all authorities within one hour's drive of Newbury, with a formal request for assistance meeting an unmet need for office and industrial floorspace. Our JLP process and evidence on employment were not complete when we responded in March 2023 and we stated that we were not in a position to assist with unmet employment needs, before the submission of West Berkshire's Local Plan. The Councils' representatives met in March 2023 and we noted a possible offer from another authority to prepare a Statement of Common Ground to meet some of West Berkshire's unmet need for offices. West Berkshire then submitted that plan for examination.</p> <p>...</p> <p>2.73 At the time of writing this statement, South and Vale have no strategic matters relating to the JLP which are in dispute with West Berkshire, although progress on the West Berkshire Local Plan examination will need to be followed to ensure this remains the case from West Berkshire's perspective with their Local Plan.</p>
<u>LPA02 Response to the Initial Questions (February 2025)</u>	IQ26	<p>States:</p> <p>IQ26.1. <u>Appendix 1 – Table of Engagement</u> references several meetings and emails that</p>

		<p>we have had with West Berkshire District Council in relation to how the JLP deals with any general strategic matters. Likewise, the Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Co-operate, examination library reference CSD09.1 (pages 20-21) sets out a narrative of our engagement. The Statement of Compliance explains that there are no strategic matters relating to the JLP which are in dispute with West Berkshire, although progress on the West Berkshire Local Plan examination will need to be followed to ensure this remains the case from West Berkshire's perspective with their Local Plan. We invited West Berkshire to work with us on a SoCG, but there are no current plans to commence one.</p> <p>IQ26.2. The West Berkshire Local Plan Review examination is currently underway, with their consultation on Main Modifications having closed recently on 31 January 2025. During the examination of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review, it was claimed that new allocations and positive policies will help to meet the area's objectively assessed employment needs in full. No Main Modifications were proposed related to the matter of potential shortfalls of land to meet their employment needs.</p>
	IQ27	<p>Sates:</p> <p>IQ27.1. Evidence of this engagement is provided within Appendix 1 – Table of Engagement and its accompanying Appendix 2 – Evidence of Engagement containing meeting notes and emails between us and West Berkshire District Council.</p>
<p>LPA02.1 Response to the Initial Questions Appendix 1 Table of Engagement (February 2025)</p> <p>&</p>	<p>12/05/2022 (016 Note)</p>	<p>Sates:</p> <p>Meeting - At this meeting, officers engaged following an email from West Berkshire that requested a formal discussion about the unmet employment needs of West Berkshire. Officers discussed the progress and alignment of our Local Plans and evidence base which were at very different stages. West Berkshire were formally asking if S&V and others within</p>

LPA02.2 Response to the Initial Questions Appendix 2 Evidence of Engagement (February 2025)		a certain wide radius of their District, could take their unmet employment needs. West Berkshire expressed a desire to prepare a revised Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) which S&V agreed to.
	22/09/2022 (029 Email)	States: Email - Email from S&V to West Berkshire following on from the meeting in May, identifying that S&V will be commissioning evidence on employment need for the JLP. S&V advise that as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is no longer being progressed, the scope of employment evidence has changed and will now include employment forecasts and projections that would have previously formed part of the evidence for the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.
	035 Email (25/11/2022)	States: Email - An email was sent to S&V with an update from West Berkshire on their unmet employment needs.
	20/09/2024 (105 Email)	States: Email - Email from S&V to West Berkshire updating on an accelerated timescale for submission and a discussion about commencing a SOCG. No response was received.
WS2/1 Matter 2 Written Statement - SODC & VOWH Councils (May 2025)	Q2.16.4	States: There has been engagement with West Berkshire regarding their Local Plan's potential unmet need for employment (industrial and office floorspace), as evidenced in our Table of Engagement (examination library reference LPA02.1) which we referenced in our response to IQ26 (examination library reference LPA02, page 33).