NOTE OF CLARIFICATION FROM THE INSPECTOR REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Document ED2 confirms that it is documents SLWP1.1 and 1.2 that should be the subject of the examination. The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Councils have submitted what they consider to be a sound plan. The purpose of the examination is to assess whether their view is correct.

Document ED2 also confirms that the Councils have proposed a number of changes to the submitted plan (documents SLWP 1.11 and 1.12) and it is clear from documents SLWP1.14 to 1.21 inclusive that some of these proposed changes have been agreed with certain representors. The Councils intend to promote these proposed changes through their statements and through their evidence at the hearings. The Matters, Issues and Questions (document ED4) have been formulated to enable these proposed changes to be debated. In particular, the note to Main Matter 4, Issue 5 makes clear how the Inspector expects the discussion about sites 641, 642 and 651 to proceed and the question that he needs to be discussed is set out.

Document ED2 also confirms that the Councils will consult after the hearings on the changes that they ultimately propose to make to the plan and any comments will be taken into account by the Inspector before he reports to the Councils. The form of these schedules is set out in paragraph 9.2 of document ED3.

The Inspector will simply endorse those changes that are minor and do not go to the soundness of the plan. Those that do go to the soundness of the plan will be the subject of a specific recommendation in his report. For the avoidance of any doubt, such a recommendation will only be made where documents SLWP1.1 and 1.2 would be unsound were the change not to be made. Those who are party to the Statements of Common Ground (documents SLWP1.14 to 1.21) need therefore to be clear that whether the changes proposed as a result are actually made to the plan will depend on the outcome of the examination.