

**London Borough of Merton Draft Local Plan  
Stage 1 Hearings  
Hearing Statement  
Matter 7**

**Introduction**

DP9 Ltd have submitted a series of representations on behalf of United Westminster & Grey Coat Foundation (the 'Foundation') to the draft Merton Local Plan. Those representations have chiefly related to the Tamworth Lane site (reference Mi14) and its promotion as an allocated site within the draft Local Plan. We understand the detailed sessions around the site allocations will be undertaken as part of the October hearings.

As such, we wish to appear generally in relation to Matter 7 and provide a response to Issue (i).

**Response to the Inspector's matters, issues and questions**

**Matter 7- Issue (i)**

**Question 1- Are the housing sites included in the Plan based on a clear understanding of the land available in the area?**

The Foundation has played an active part in the Draft Local Plan review, having submitted representations to the Call for Sites consultation in January 2018 and further representations in January 2019, January 2021 and September 2021. The Foundation has also participated in detailed conversations with Sport England, sporting bodies and local sporting groups in fully exploring the viability of providing a sporting use on part of the site. The current site allocation is a product of those discussions. Those discussions continue and we will continue to keep parties updated.

The Tamworth Lane site is one of the housing sites identified as part of the draft Local Plan. The delivery of housing could facilitate the creation of new publicly accessible sporting facilities on part of the site.

The Foundation want to reiterate the clear deliverability of the Tamworth Lane site and contribution it can make to the housing delivery numbers. This is based on five years of engagement with the Council and the full participation in the process. As such we support the Council's inclusion of the site which is based on a clear understanding of the land available and importantly its deliverability.

**Question 2**

**Is the distribution of housing sites included in the Plan informed by, and in accordance with, the spatial strategy for the Borough?**

Tamworth Lane forms one of a series of sites across the borough identified for housing in a diverse range of locations (as identified in the spatial strategy). We are of the firm view the Tamworth Lane site has responded to and is accordance with the spatial strategy of the Council.