

Crawley Local Plan 2024-2040 Examination
Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)

Matter 1: Legal Compliance and General Plan-Making
National Highways' Statement

Issue 2: Duty to Cooperate

Q.1.11

National Highways (NH) Response:

- 1.1. National Highways (NH) considers that on the basis of the process followed and work undertaken during plan-making in respect of strategic transport matters relating to the SRN, the Local Plan is legally compliant in respect of the Duty to Cooperate and engagement with NH. The Council engaged with NH constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis on strategic transport matters relating to the SRN during the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.2. This is made clear in NH's response to the consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan (NH rep. no. NH001) and captured in the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between NH and Crawley Borough Council [**SoCG/15a**].
- 1.3. However, as highlighted in the SoCG and in NH's Reg.19 representations

(NH rep. nos. NH002 and NH005) the issue of unmet need concerns NH in terms of how and where it would be addressed across the wider Housing Market Area (HMA) and what the consequences might be for the safety, reliability, and operational efficiency of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). This unmet need is significant. When this is coupled with potential strategic growth options being considered by neighbouring authorities in their plan-making, NH is concerned about the potential impacts on the SRN and whether or not these would be acceptable.

- 1.4. NH considers this to be more of a soundness issue in respect of the “positively prepared” and “effective” tests, as highlighted in NH’s response to the consultation on the Regulation 19 Plan (NH rep. nos. NH002 and NH005).