

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

Matter 4: Economic Growth
National Highways' Statement

Issue 3: Whether the approach to the Strategic Employment
Location at Gatwick Green (Policy EC4) is sound

Q.4.27

National Highways (NH) Response:

- 1.1. National Highways (NH) is concerned that the approach does not comply with the expectations of the Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/2022: Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development (23 December 2022), as made clear in NH's response to the consultation on the Regulation 19 Plan (NH Rep. No. NH011). In particular, EC4 does not include a vision that sets an outcome communities want to achieve including the sustainable transport solutions to deliver those outcomes (vision-led approach – para.15 in Circular 01/2022).
- 1.2. Developing a vision-led approach to this strategic site, including

consideration of how safe opportunities to maximise walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared travel can be integrated into the design and layout of the development would help reduce car dependency and, as a consequence, reliance on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) for local journeys. The Circular is clear on this point; plan-making should explore all options to reduce a reliance on the SRN for local journeys (01/2022, para.31).

- 1.3. The vision-led approach needs to be considered as part of the masterplan work for the strategic site. NH is prepared to support the Council in securing this approach through the Local Plan, possibly through the preparation of modifications, so that the expectations of Circular 01/2022 can be met and the policy can be made sound.