

**Examination of Braintree Local Plan**

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**Note from the Inspectors on Counsel's Opinion**

*We have now had opportunity to carefully consider all of the submissions in relation to the above matter. Taking everything into account we have concluded that in this circumstance it is not necessary to pause the Examination so that updated SA work can take place in advance of the Main Modifications (MMs). Therefore, the SA should be updated and consulted upon alongside the proposed MMs. This will allow all parties to be afforded reasonable time to consider and make representations on them.*

*We will then consider all the representations made on the proposed MMs and updated SA before finalising the examination report and the schedule of recommended MMs. In reaching this conclusion we are aware that the Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations allows a degree of flexibility should the need arise stating that "Further hearing sessions will not usually be held, unless the Inspector considers them essential to deal with substantial issues raised in the representations, or to ensure fairness".*