

Matter 1 Procedural and legal requirements

Cllr Phil King | Respondent 2511 | 15 October 2026

I submit these comments in my individual capacity as District Councillor for Kibworths Ward and Leicestershire County Councillor for Gartree Division. I am not acting as an official representative of either Harborough District Council or Leicestershire County Council; these are my own representations.

Original representations 13333 and 13350

Questions addressed in ID9

Issue 1 Questions 2, 3, 5 and 6; Issue 3 Questions 1 and 2

Supplementary comments developing the strategy and delivery objections in my original representations. I ask the Panel to consider them within that scope.

1. My original objections challenged the adequacy of consideration of more sustainable strategic alternatives and reliance on the Strategic Growth Plan following the non-delivery of its envisaged East/South Leicester expressway.
2. I ask the Panel to establish whether the appraisal provides a clear audit trail explaining the selection of the growth strategy in that changed transport context. The Council should explain which alternatives were assessed, their infrastructure assumptions and why the selected distribution remains appropriate.
3. I do not assert that the publication date of additional evidence, by itself, establishes a legal failure. The question is whether the assessment genuinely informs and justifies the strategy, rather than retrospectively explaining a predetermined distribution.
4. HDC20 is the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal, listed on the examination news page on 29 September 2026. It is a January 2024 report whose Chapter 4 appraises six broad housing distribution options. I do not suggest that no alternatives were assessed. Its addition to the library in September should not be confused with its preparation date. The Council should explain how that earlier options work, the submission appraisal and the subsequent infrastructure evidence connect in the audit trail. I do not infer an appraisal defect from the date of its listing alone.

Issue 3 Questions 1 and 2 on strategic cooperation

5. The supplementary report considered by Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet on 13 October 2026, paragraphs 36 to 39 and Appendix A, records continuing substantive transport disagreement despite the August highways Statement of Common Ground. Appendix A says Part Two of the Transport Topic Paper was prepared without the Local Transport Authority's involvement and that costs and aspects of junction modelling remain unresolved. A signed statement recording workstreams is not evidence that those workstreams succeeded. The Panel should establish the current areas of agreement and disagreement and whether the necessary strategic matters have been dealt with. This is an effectiveness concern; I do not allege a breach of the former statutory Duty to Cooperate. The examination evidence to be read alongside this later report is HDC9 (Highways Statement of Common Ground) and HDC14, particularly paragraphs 6.12–6.19 on the A6 corridor.
6. Change sought: a transparent explanation of the treatment of reasonable alternatives and changed strategic transport assumptions. If the evidence reveals a material gap, the Council should undertake the necessary assessment and reconsider the strategy, with any procedural steps required by the Panel.

Evidence references

ID9 Stage 2 Matters Issues and Questions, 21 September 2026. Supplementary report on Harborough District Local Plan considered by Leicestershire County Council's Cabinet on 13 October 2026, paragraphs and appendices cited above. HDC20 Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal; HDC9 highways Statement of Common Ground; HDC14 Transport Topic Paper Part Two.

Examination library index

HDC14 — examination evidence