

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
Mayor's Office

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/GR07
Date: 23 May 2012

Brian Regan
Planning Services
Lewisham Council
5 Floor Laurence House
Catford Road
LONDON SE6 4RU



Dear Mr Regan

**Lewisham Council Local Development Framework:
Pre-submission of the Site Allocations DPD**

**Statement of general conformity with the London Plan
(Planning and Compulsory Act 2004, Section 24 (4) a)**

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2012 consulting me on the above document and requesting an opinion on general conformity.

On 23rd of May 2012, I considered a report on this matter, reference PDU/LDF23/LDD02/02. This report constitutes my formal representations to the pre-submission consultation. Please note that this includes a representation/representations relating to general conformity with the London Plan.

As you will be aware, all development plan documents must be in general conformity with the London Plan under section 24 (1) (b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As set out in the report, it is my opinion that the submission documents are in general conformity with my London Plan.

If you would like to discuss any of my representations in more detail, please contact Glen Rollings (020 7983 4315), who will be happy to discuss and arrange further meetings.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

cc Len Duvall, London Assembly Constituency Member
Nicky Gavron, Chair of London Assembly Planning Committee
Eric Pickles, Secretary of State
Ian McNally & John Pierce, DCLG
Colin Lovell, TfL

23 May 2012

**Lewisham Site Allocations Development Plan Document
(pre-submission)**

Lewisham Council Local Development Framework

Consultation on Pre-Submission Document

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (TCPA); Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007 ("GLA Act"); Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("PCPA"); Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations").

Recommendation

That the Mayor agrees to submit the comments set out in this report to Lewisham Council as the formal response to the Pre-Submission consultation, and that Lewisham Council be advised that the proposed Submission Documents **are in general conformity** with the London Plan.

Context

1. On 19 April 2012, Lewisham Council consulted the Mayor of London on the above Document. This report sets out information for the Mayor's use in deciding what comments to make. The consultation period ends on 23 May 2012.
2. The local development framework together with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides the essential framework for planning at the borough level. The "development plan" in London for the purposes of section 38(6) of the PCPA is:
 - The London Plan (2011), and
 - Development plan documents produced by borough councils (and saved unitary development plan policies in transitional period).
3. The early minor alterations to the London Plan are also a material consideration.
4. There are three types of local development documents: development plan documents (DPDs); supplementary planning documents (SPDs); and statements of community involvement. All of the documents now being consulted on are DPDs with development plan status, which will be subject to an examination to test the 'soundness' of the plan
4. The NPPF states that a plan is "sound" where it is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

The Mayor's role

5. All development plan documents must be in general conformity with the London Plan, in accordance with Section 24(1)(b) of the PCPA. Section 24(4) of the PCPA requires boroughs prior to submitting it to the Secretary of State to request the opinion in writing of the Mayor of London

13. The fact that a development plan document is inconsistent with one or more policies in the spatial development strategy, either directly or through the omission of a policy or proposal, does not, by itself, mean that the document is not in general conformity. Rather, the test is how significant the inconsistency is from the point of view of delivery of the spatial development strategy.

14. Any expression of opinion from the Mayor that the development plan document is not in general conformity will be treated as a representation to be dealt with by the Inspector at the examination. The Planning Inspectorate has stated that the view of the Mayor's opinion "*will be given considerable weight*"¹ and that a lack of general conformity with the London Plan will need to be fully justified on the basis of local circumstances, based on relevant evidence.

15. The Mayor must also state why the policy is not in general conformity and his reasoning behind that opinion. The Inspector will determine whether he or she supports the opinion and recommend accordingly. The Mayor should provide the Inspector conducting the examination with any necessary additional information as appropriate, either through a representative or in writing according to the requirements of the Inspector.

Conclusion

16. As within previous iterations of the document, Lewisham Council proposes some positive policy options that would effectively implement the London Plan and provide managed growth. The changes made within this pre-submission version are positive, and as such, the document is in general conformity with the London Plan.

For further information, contact the Planning Decisions Unit

Colin Wilson, Senior Manager – Planning Decisions

020 7983 4783 email colin.wilson@london.gov.uk

Christine McGoldrick, Strategic Planning Manager (Development Plans)

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Glen Rollings, Senior Strategic Planner (Case Officer)

020 7983 4315 email glen.rollings@london.gov.uk

¹ Development Plans Examination – A Guide to the Process of Assessing the Soundness of Development Plan Documents (The Planning Inspectorate, 2005), paragraph 1.2.6