



The new London Plan – what role for neighbourhood planning?

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Welcome

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Thanks

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The issues

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What does the new Draft London Plan say?

One single positive reference to neighbourhood planning stating:

“Early engagement with local people leads to better planning proposals, with Neighbourhood Plans providing a particularly good opportunity for communities to shape growth in their areas”



What does the new Draft London Plan say?

Less mention of neighbourhood planning than in previous
London Plan

- Is this because the Mayor/Deputy Mayors are not enthusiasts?
- Is this because GLA planners are not up to speed on London's NPs?
- Is this the shared reluctance of GLA and Borough planning officers to surrender any control to neighbourhood forums?



London Councils response to London Plan

- New version far more radical with policies that are more prescriptive
- Boroughs are under-resourced to deal with design codes/design review
- Housing targets not realistic in relying on 38% from small sites
- Methodology on small site targets for each Borough is flawed
- Social infrastructure may not follow cumulative small site development
- Over reliance on major infrastructure projects to catalyse development (Crossrail 2, Bakerloo Line extension). Needs a Plan B.
- Nervousness over loss of density matrix
- No mention at all of neighbourhood planning



Mayor's Question Time

18th Jan 2018

Q. The City of Westminster is proposing to specify which principles and parts of its Revised Westminster City Plan should be taken into account in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. Will your new London Plan set policies or guidance for London boroughs for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans? If not, why not?

The Mayor

A. There is no need for additional guidance. Neighbourhood Plans form part of the boroughs' Development Plans and therefore need to be in general conformity with the London Plan. Like Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans also need to follow the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. I have no statutory role in setting guidance for the process of preparing Neighbourhood or Local Plans.



Is there a statutory connection between the London Plan & neighbourhood plans?

- NPs in London have to generally conform with strategic policies in the London Plan as well as in Borough Local Plans
- NPPF Para 184 states *“To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area”*
- Does each and every London Plan policy meet the NPPG criteria as being ‘strategic’? Or could some be varied in a London NP?
- The Draft London Plan should at least pose and answer the question.



Why the new London Plan should pay much more heed to the role of neighbourhood plans

- New emphasis in Good Growth Policy GG2 and Housing Policy H2 on identification and allocation of small sites for intensification of housing
- New emphasis on Local Areas for Regeneration
- New emphasis on area-based design codes



Why the new London Plan should pay much more heed to the role of neighbourhood plans

- Neighbourhood plans provide the framework for local people to be involved and input on all of these issues – building consent and trust from the public.
- Imposition of London Plan from above will be seen as ‘war on the suburbs’, ‘garden grabbing’ and destruction of small green open spaces



Design

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Action

- NP.L to send letter to Claire Kober for next week's London Councils Executive meeting (where response to London Plan will be discussed)
- Response to Draft London Plan to be sent by March 2nd deadline
- Individual NPs to send in responses, emphasising relevance of NPs to a new London Plan as well as any specific local issues
- NP.L to copy response to key London Assembly members (Chairs of Regeneration, Housing, Planning, Transport)
- Anything else?



Discussion

Stay in touch



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