

New London Plan – Examination in Public
Respondent number: 2530

Bengali
East End
Heritage
Society

WRITTEN STATEMENT
M2 Equality of Opportunity

7th December 2018

*Does the Integrated Impact Assessment and Addendum Report (NLP/CD/04 & 05) indicate that the Plan will help to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a “protected characteristic” as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and those that do not share it and further the other two aims of the Act?
In particular, which policies of the Plan will achieve this?*

The Integrated Impact Assessment and Addendum fail to address the inequality that exist in London and presently does not accurately show the social impacts of all new developments on the groups that share these protected characteristics ie. the impacts on the wide mix of ethnic groups in the London. The evidence base presently remains weak and has taken a too general approach to the complex issues faced by these diverse communities.

Communities from across London have carried out their own studies to show that the impacts of new developments in areas of large ethnic groups has had an overall negative impact and resulted in community polarisation, lack of provision on needs such as adequate housing, reduced social spaces and diminished community infrastructure. The IIA presently fails to give examples of good practice and where ethnic minorities and local residents have perceived these developments in a positive light, ie. the end use experience.

The methodology taken in the IIA is confusing and convoluted – presently it shows itself as being more concerned with the external image or character of a place rather than protecting long-standing communities to be part of an inclusive long-term vision for the city.

Also, the level of complex information in this report is testament to how disconnected the London Plan remains. Areas of London with large ethnic groups like in Newham, Tower Hamlets, Lambeth and Southwark have had no direct input into the report.

It’s not just good enough to mention affordable workspace because London’s ethnic minorities need long-term suitable rents in designated areas. Policy 9.5.3 (E3 Affordable workspace) fails to address this pressing need, which does not give provision for local jobs for local people, for heads of households and ethnic minority women and entrepreneurs to build their own business and independence.

In Policy 9.6.1 (Heritage conservation and growth) the policy wants the “protection of London’s historic environment and the integration of London’s heritage in regenerative change” yet fails to address that in ethnic minority areas the local people have their own history and heritage, which is being eroded in the process.