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## **Matter 5: Duty to Cooperate**

**Irrespective of matter M4 (*Duty to Cooperate*), did the Mayor engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis during the preparation of the Plan:**

**a) with all relevant local authorities and other prescribed bodies in London;**

We, the Environment Agency, are a DEFRA Arm's Length Body. We are a statutory delivery body and regulator on a range of flood and coastal erosion risk, environmental, and energy infrastructure; the competent body for the Water Framework Directive; and an advisor on climate change resilience and spatial planning. Under planning law, we are a 'prescribed body' for the purposes of consultation on development plans.

### ***The Mayor's engagement with us on preparing the London Plan***

We note the Panel's Preliminary Questions (PQ's) (August 2018) 7 and 8, and the Mayor's responses to those questions<sup>1</sup>. We confirm that there has been engagement with the Environment Agency with the Deputy Mayor's and with the Mayor's officers. This has been at face to face meetings on individual topics or through our participation in relevant workshops and stakeholder groups. We have been engaged notably in regards to preparation of these evidence documents:

- Regional Flood Risk Assessment (RFRA)
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).
- Scoping of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

The Mayor's response to PQ8, (paragraph 6), refers to meetings with us in April 2016, and January 2017. We cannot confirm our specific engagement at those meetings, noting that these are not listed in Annex A of the Mayor's response. Nonetheless, we can confirm we are satisfied that the Mayor's consultation with us is broadly as described in his response, and has been timely, meaningful, and is ongoing.

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<sup>1</sup> The London Plan Examination in Public 2018-2019, Mayor's responses to the Panel's Preliminary Questions, September 2018

***Additional areas of consultation and engagement***

In January 2017, we provided the Mayor's officers with early, comprehensive written advice on the draft London Plan's policy preparation for environmental topics in our remit.

On waste matters, we have supported the Mayor's officers during 2016-18 with providing advice and waste data from our regulatory databases. We have worked with the Mayor's Officers indirectly through other stakeholder groups e.g. through the London Waste Planning Forum, and the Regional Technical Advisory Boards.

In regards to environmental infrastructure, we sit on the Mayor's High Level Infrastructure Group. We continue to work with this group to make sure they are considering environmental and flood risk management infrastructure, and funding of that infrastructure 'up front' in future development. We have shared relevant environmental and flood risk management data that is included in the Mayor's infrastructure GIS tool.

We have no comments on Matter 5, question b).