

Draft London Plan EiP 2019

London Borough of Bromley Written Statement

Matter 05

Duty to Cooperate

Irrespective of matter M4, 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 London4; and*
- b) all relevant local authorities and prescribed bodies outside London on strategic and cross boundary matters in the wider South East?*

Comment

The Mayor of London's position

The Mayor of London's position is set out in the 'Mayor's responses to the Panel's Preliminary Questions' (September 2018).

The Panel's Preliminary Question 7 (PQ7) states: -

PQ7. Having regard to the findings of the Inspector in 2014 regarding the Further Alterations to the London Plan, does the Mayor consider that the duty to cooperate set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 applied to the preparation of the London Plan?

In response, the Mayor states: -

- 1. No. The Mayor believes that the duty to co-operate (DtC) does not apply to the preparation of the draft London Plan.*

Bromley Council's Position on Duty to Cooperate

The Council's position was set out in its letter to the Mayor of London of 2nd March 2018. This states: -

"London Borough of Bromley has objected to the London Plan on the grounds as set out in a letter to the Mayor dated 2nd March 2018.

The Mayor's position appears to be different from that of the Inspector appointed to report on the Further Alterations to the current London Plan."

Bromley Council is concerned because of the relatively high increase in the housing target for Bromley Borough (from 641 per annum to 1424 per annum) in the draft London Plan housing policies, compared with no contribution from the Wider South East. Whilst the Mayor states in his response that he has engaged in constructive engagement with a range of stakeholders, including London Boroughs and the prescribed bodies he also needs to do so in relation to Councils adjoining London and whose areas are inextricably linked with the London economy and might assist with housing delivery for the London area.

Bromley Council **strongly objects** to the apparent failure to achieve effective results from cooperation, in particular with Councils outside Greater London where there is no obvious housing provision towards London's needs, despite the prompts of the 2014 London Plan Inspector's report. A clear steer was given in the Report into the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) para 57 where the Inspector advised:

"In my view, the Mayor needs to explore options beyond the existing philosophy of the London Plan. That may, in the absence of a wider regional strategy to assess the options for growth and to plan and co-ordinate that growth, include engaging local planning authorities beyond the GLA's boundaries in discussions regarding the evolution of our capital city".

The Council raises concerns regarding effective collaboration with the Wider South East (WSE) and objects to the failure of the draft London Plan to effectively seek 'shared solutions to the barriers to housing delivery' as indicated in draft London Plan Policy SD2E.

The 2014 Report into the FALP examined the various approaches proposed by the Mayor to address the housing need but at para 55 cautioned that:

".....However the strategy has significant and potentially serious implications for delivery and for existing communities which will have to face the consequences of intensifying development in the existing built up area".

The London Plan evidence base indicates summits with the Wider South East in attempts to seek less damaging housing delivery in the WSE, however, these have not led to effective results.

At the December 2016 (third summit) the minutes note '*The need for a more honest discussion about whether (or not) London can meet its own growth, and an explicit recognition by the Mayor that the South East has, and East of England have to accommodate their own growth pressures*'.

This engagement did not result in any proposals for the housing need in London to be addressed across the WSE and at the January 2018 (fourth summit) the discussion had shifted to '*the potential for London Boroughs to be more actively engaged in the work of the political steering group, given their role in helping the Mayor deliver against housing targets*'.

Bromley Council will elaborate further on this during Matter 16 – The Wider South East and beyond.