GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

Sakina Sheikh AM
Chair of the Planning and Regeneration
Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London, E16 1ZE

Department: Planning & Regeneration

Date: 11 August 2022

Dear Assembly Member Sheikh,

Please accept my apologies for the significant delay in responding to the queries of the Committee set out within the letters sent to me and Peter Kemp by the previous Chair. I understand that a colleague has already come back to you about the work of the Mayoral Design Advocates, but if this is not the case, please let me know.

The Committee asked for a number of other areas of clarification:

Update on the Schools Outreach Programme

We developed the schools challenge to try to help tackle the lack of diversity in the planning industry and to raise the profile more widely of planning as a great career for young people. We have partnered with Mobie, George Clarke's education trust. A link to the challenge itself and much of the material is here: https://consult.london.gov.uk/hub-page/design-future-london.

In the summer of 2021, we contacted teachers in secondary schools, colleges and universities across London. This generated interest from 221 schools, colleges and universities all of which have been given access to the materials for the design challenge. The challenge is also being used in additional ways – for example the University of East London recently used the challenge as the basis for a workshop for 400 multi-disciplinary students. At the end of this letter, I have included a breakdown by borough of the number of schools currently accessing the materials (appendix A). You saw at the final event last month in City Hall the inspiring work and enthusiasm of the participants and their teachers, and we are currently preparing for the launch of the next challenge.

My team have also been visiting schools and colleges to support learners in the challenge and to deliver career talks about planning. More widely, we are also supporting training for digital skills which is so important for our next generation of city makers. And we are

already starting to review how we can learn from and build on this year's work to develop an even more effective challenge for this coming year.

Inviting a representative from the Planning and Regeneration Committee to join the Planning London Datahub Steering Group

Peter Kemp has been engaging with Assembly Member Berry about moving this forward.

We have had volunteers to participate in this work from senior planning consultancies and the development sector. The team are just finalising the most relevant participants from other areas to help shape this work.

Provide the available data on the status of all called in applications. (How many applications have been referred to the Mayor, how many refused, how many withdrawn and how many directed to stand.)

The second part of this request appears to seek information on all referable applications as well as, specifically, on applications which have been 'called in' by the Mayor.

In terms of referable applications, the table below summarises the ultimate decision for referred applications that reached stage 2 in the application process. To note, this data has been collated by taking the data we hold on the Mayor's decision making and connecting it with the data that we now receive from each of the boroughs through the Planning Datahub, and the former London Development Database.

In practice, where applications were withdrawn or refused they were not reported prior to November 2020, so it is difficult to confirm what the true ratio of refused applications was. However since 2020, we have additional pan London Data with some of this information.

Year	Total Stage 2 Referrals received in Each Year	Final Decision resulted in planning permission being Granted	Final Decision resulted in planning permission being Refused	No information held (ie withdrawn, still pending a decision, or prior to 2020 was withdrawn / refused)
2022	47	16	10	21
2021	143	91	33	19
2020	164	97	42	25
2019	174	97	3	74
2018	181	120	1	60
2017	178	126	3	49

In terms of applications called in by the Mayor, I would direct you to the answer to MQ4722, 4723, 4724 and 4725; the only additional case since then being the recent decision on Vinegar Yard. Full details of all of the called in applications can be found on the London.gov website using this link Public hearings | London City Hall.

How does the GLA monitor the delivery of affordable homes after an application is approved?

The GLA works in partnership with all of London's planning authorities to collate a register of all dwellings delivered in any year, as an annual 'starts and completions' exercise. This includes recording which are defined as affordable, and what tenure / delivery model is being used.

This system is not, and never has been, perfect because it is dependent on 35 authorities providing a 'best fit' dataset. This has often meant it is difficult for us to identify when subsequent applications have been made to vary affordable housing provision. The new way of receiving data through the application process, should provide a simpler and more transparent way for us, and the planning authorities, to see when dwellings are approved, their tenure and if/when that changes.

I do hope this answers your queries; however, if you would like any further clarification please do ask.

Yours sincerely

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Appendix A

Borough	Number
Barking and Dagenham	5
Barnet	15
Bexley	4
Brent	4
Bromley	5
Camden	9
City of London	3
Croydon	11
Ealing	10
Enfield	1
Greenwich	7
Hackney	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	2
Haringey	6
Harrow	4
Havering	7
Hillingdon	5
Hounslow	7
Islington	3
Kensington and Chelsea	8
Kingston upon Thames	3
Lambeth	6
Lewisham	5
Merton	5
Newham	15
Redbridge	6
Richmond upon Thames	5
Southwark	6
Sutton	14
Tower Hamlets	4
Waltham Forest	9
Wandsworth	14
Westminster	11