

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA120618-4602

12 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: Material Provided for Integrated Impact Assessment of Spatial Options in the New London Plan

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 11 June 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*Could you please provide a listing, and copies, of all material supplied to the consultants undertaking the Integrated Impact Assessment of the 2017 draft London Plan, in relation to their assessment of the Strategic Options for Making the Best Use of Land . This should include both whatever was supplied (before or during the IIA) in terms of :
(a) operational definitions of the spatial options actually presented for assessment – and their bases; and
(b) data/forecasts, professional assessments and analytic material provided to inform the consultant's judgement about likely consequences (of relevance to the objectives) of pursuing a specific spatial option - and sources of uncertainty in relation to those – whether identified as relevant by the GLA at the outset, or requested by the consultants in the course of the IIA .*

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request which we are releasing in full, with explanatory background notes on page 2 of this letter.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA120618-4602.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
London Plan Manager

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

Arup undertook an Integrated Impact Assessment for the New London Plan to assess the impacts of different proposals against environmental, equality, health and community safety objectives. The assessment included reviewing different spatial options presented by the GLA, to help identify the most appropriate form of growth over the Plan period.

As part of this process, Arup assessed the spatial land use policies presented by the GLA, and fed into this process in an iterative way to ensure reasonable alternatives were considered.

1.1 Alternative spatial options

The GLA undertook a comprehensive review of baseline information, gathered as part of the Scoping Report – which is [available online](#) and was consulted upon in February 2017. This review identified key sustainability issues, and was used to inform the initial spatial options drafted by the GLA for land use within London. The spatial options represented five scenarios for how London could grow over the Plan period, and included:

1. Current London Plan
2. Sustainable Intensification
3. Polycentric Approach
4. Green Belt Release
5. City Region Approach

The GLA forwarded these approaches to Arup for review and to make amendments if required. Arup had already reviewed and summarised the baseline as part of the overall assessment, to ensure the key sustainability issues were still accurate prior to the Scoping Report going out for consultation.

For ease of comparison, Arup transferred these options and the accompanying details into a matrix. A number of possible additions were added to the spatial options to ensure they were complete, consistent and clearly distinguishable. This included expanding the scenarios by providing further detail against a range of criteria, to ensure they fully represented reasonable alternatives in line with Government guidance on sustainability appraisals.

Just Space also provided comments on the GLA's draft spatial options following consultation on the scoping report. These were forwarded to Arup, and it was agreed they would be discussed at the spatial options workshop.

1.2 Spatial options workshop

On the 30th August 2017, Arup hosted a spatial options workshop to review and finalise the reasonable alternatives with policy officers from the GLA. Policy officers from a range of disciplines at the GLA attended, along with consultants working on the IIA from Arup.

Collectively, the reasonable alternatives matrix proposed by Arup was reviewed and amended in line with comments from officers. This same process was undertaken for the following themes:

- Strong and Inclusive Communities
- Healthy City

- Delivering the Homes Londoners Need
- An Inclusive Economy
- Efficiency and Resilience

Following the workshop, the spatial options were finalised by the GLA, and issued to Arup to review and assess as part of the IIA.