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To the Mayor

Copies to:

Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe;

Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement Matthew Ryder

Dear Sadiq

Engaging all Londoners in developing the next London Plan

I write in reference to your response to my oral question at Mayor's Question Time on 16th November 2016 - Question 2016/4105: "How will you ensure that the process for developing your new London Plan engages with a more diverse range of Londoners than the last one?" I enclose a copy of the transcript of your response to my question, Appendix A.

I would like to expand on the requests I made and ensure that you stick by the commitment you made to: "engage more people than ever before - community groups, civic societies and individuals - to help define how the capital can be the best place to live, work and enjoy yourself and remain an open, world-class city"

The workshops and focus groups you outlined that would allow Londoners to participate in the early development of your new London Plan are a step in the right direction. However, ensuring that all Londoners can contribute to the early, meaningful and continuous development of the London Plan will require additional efforts from your team.

Transcripts from workshops and future events

Recent workshops were oversubscribed due the high interest of Londoners to engage in this early stage. It appears that many civil servants and officials were invited, which is appropriate, but more community groups and ordinary Londoners should have been able to fully participate and, on balance, I think these groups should have been given more priority.

I know that many people representing significant groups of Londoners were unable to secure places, and I think it is important for your team to get back to these people with meaningful ways they can contribute as soon as possible. You should also provide transcripts and webcasts for subsequent workshops so that contributions made can be captured and referred to in the future.

In addition, I have heard concerns that the condensed sessions, reduced from 4 hours to 1-2hrs, while a valid attempt to include more groups, did not allow enough time to fully cover the topics.

I understand this concern was also raised by people who were invited to attend the focus groups. The terms of reference of these workshops should be the same as the workshops held for the Mayoral strategies.

There is still a long way to go with the London Plan process, so I hope that you will hold further events with a full range of participatory activities - workshops, conferences, technical seminars, sounding boards, aimed more at listening to the views of community groups and citizens - and that these comments and concerns can be taken on board.

Accessible formats for materials

At Mayor's Question Time I raised the issue of accessible formats for your consultation materials. I am disappointed that the City for All Londoners document is published only as a pdf, and that accessible e-books, audio versions and an Easy Read summary have not yet been added to the webpage seeking feedback. I hope this will be rectified as soon as possible.

Towards a Community Led Plan for London

Finally, I recommend that you and your Deputy Mayors take on board the recommendations from the Just Space document 'Towards a Community Led Plan for London' given in Appendix B to this letter and in particular, consider these two ideas.

Create a liaison process board for community groups

Creating a continuous liaison process for community groups, possibly like sounding boards, similar to the opportunity provided to members of the digital and creative industries community as part of the Smart London project¹ could play a vital role in bringing any problems with the process and new ideas to the fore, and would ensure that community groups have a direct line into the process for feedback and comments.

I think it is good that the Talk London site is already hosting online discussions.² However, it is unclear how these contributions will be considered in the final process and more publicity about this site may help to bring in early contributions from a diverse range of Londoners.

Write a statement of community involvement

Although not required by legislation, the process of developing the London Plan would benefit hugely from a Statement of Community Involvement from City Hall, published early in the process and used to set out and guide community involvement throughout the process.

I would be very happy to talk further about these issues with your officers, and recommend that you continue to engage with Just Space, who can provide more assistance with these ideas.

Yours sincerely,



¹ Example of feedback and actions taken from the Smart London sounding board are in the papers for the LEP here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/g5283/Public%20reports%20pack%20Wednesday%2004-Jun-2014%2010.00%20LEP%20Digital%20Creative%20Science%20Technology%20Working.pdf?T=10>

² <http://talklondon.london.gov.uk/blogs/talk-london-team/city-all-londoners>

Sian Berry

Green Party Member of the London Assembly

Appendix A

Developing the new London Plan

Sian Berry (16-Nov-2016)

How will you ensure that the process for developing your new London Plan engages with a more diverse range of Londoners than the last one?

The Mayor (16-Nov-2016)

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Thank you. I have referred to this answer in other questions before but I want to involve as many Londoners as possible in shaping the plan that will define how London grows in the coming years. My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, and I have challenged my team to engage more people than ever before - community groups, civic societies and individuals - to help define how the capital can be the best place to live, work and enjoy yourself and remain an open, world-class city.

The usual statutory consultation process on the London Plan adopted by my predecessor only engaged statutory consultees and stakeholders, and then late in the process. It certainly does not provide any opportunities for Londoners to make contributions at the outset of the Plan's preparation. Publishing A City for All Londoners is specifically designed to address this by engaging at the very beginning with a wider spectrum of people and interested groups to discuss how their city should develop. It is a totally new part of the consultation process that Jules and I have introduced, which involves people from the outset. We will listen to their views as work starts on preparing the Plan and the other Strategies.

In light of my commitment to be a Mayor for all Londoners, I have substantially extended the scope of consultation beyond the strategic stakeholders addressed in the past. The new consultation process will draw on focus groups to test out issues of specific concern to different communities. Individual Londoners can also give their views via an online debate through Talk London or provide more specific feedback on A City for All Londoners itself by 11 December 2016. We will also hold workshops on key themes associated with accommodating growth, transport, housing, the environment and an inclusive city. I would also add that my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, has been appointed with a brief to ensure that London continues to have a thriving civil society.

I have a longer answer but I know you are probably keen to come in.

Sian Berry AM: I am very short on time so if we can try to keep you to yes or no answers, that would be great.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): I am not sure about that.

Sian Berry AM: I will write to you with some of my specific questions, if that is all right.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Sure.

Sian Berry AM: One thing about the workshops is that I am aware that there are lots of groups and individuals who tried to get places and have been put on a waiting list instead.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Because they are so successful, yes.

Sian Berry AM: Because they are very popular and people want to feed in. It would be great - and if you could say yes to this, it would be marvellous - if you could webcast the future ones that are coming up, publish transcripts and get back to those people on the waiting list about how they can meaningfully feed into the process. Just because they have missed out, they should not lose out on doing that.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Let us look into that.

Sian Berry AM: Great. Will you also publish accessible formats for the consultation materials?

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): We definitely should look into that.

Sian Berry AM: It is just a big PDF file at the moment and that is not ideal.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): Definitely.

Sian Berry AM: The final thing is that London Boroughs - but not the Mayor, as you say - are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement when they put their local plans together. It would be marvellous if you could put together a Statement of Community Involvement from the Mayor about the London Plan in the same way that local authorities do because it would guide the process of consultation. It could be a bit ad hoc otherwise.

Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London): The sentiment behind your question is a good one. Can I look into that as well?

Sian Berry AM: Great. Thank you.

Tony Arbour AM (Chairman): All right. Marvellous.

Appendix B

Extracts from Just space Towards a Community- Led Plan for London

<https://justspacelondon.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/just-space-a4-community-led-london-plan.pdf>

Just Space proposes that the Mayor should:

- Enter into a Social Compact with Londoners agreeing to a programme of effective, meaningful and continuous engagement that enables all Londoners to work with the Mayor and officers in a spirit of cooperation and in coproduction of the new London Plan and its related strategies.
- Develop a Mayor's Statement of Community Involvement, which will provide a formal framework for developing, implementing and reviewing effective and inclusive community participation.
- Provide resources to facilitate the informed involvement of communities and user groups to include training, learning and technical advice as well as administrative support, to enable more people to have influence over the development of their areas. We also believe that deep changes in governance are needed in relation to London planning and decision making

Some Key Principles of Effective Community Involvement

- Early and continuous Involvement
- Inclusive invitations and out-reach
- Resourcing and support
- Regular provision of information and feedback
- Continuity, collaboration and co-production
- Presenting realistic and feasible options
- Proper assessment of current land uses and the full range of impacts
- Listening to and acting on
- Transparency and contesting confidentiality;
- Measuring, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness

Early and Continuing Involvement in the London Plan

The GLA should collaborate with London Boroughs to generate an open register of representative groups of residents, and community based and public interest organisations who should form the core of a new participation agenda. There should be a level playing field of participation of all stakeholders in the London Plan — stakeholders should have equal access to informing the London Plan preparation process from its earliest stages. Appropriate technical support and resources should be provided to enable equal access to the London Plan preparation process from its earliest stages.

Metropolitan strategic planning presents its own challenges of scale and technical knowledge but there are examples of how to achieve effective public participation, including general public meetings for information; orchestrated city-wide early consultation on priorities to feed directly into the planning process; surveys to canvas public opinion; sector-based or topic-based open meetings; key stakeholder steering committee

Appendix C

Towards a Community-Led Plan for London

Sian Berry (16-Nov-2016)

Are you aware of the Just Space publication, 'Towards a Community-Led Plan for London', produced by a very broad coalition of community groups to help involve them in the preparation of the new London Plan? How have you responded to its call for a new participation agenda?

The Mayor (16-Nov-2016)

Yes, I am aware of Just Space's publication 'Towards a Community Led Plan for London'. I have already taken its technical proposals into account in early work on the new London Plan and will continue to do so as this progresses.

As I explained in my reply to your oral question MQ 4105, Jules Pipe and I have already put in place arrangements to respond to a more diverse range of Londoners. These will extend the participation agenda and improve engagement in the development of all my policies, including those in the London Plan.

'A City for All Londoners' was my first step in putting greater emphasis on early engagement to feed into all my strategies. I am using new approaches to consultation on these directly aimed at Londoners, including Talk London and Community Focus Groups. The stakeholder workshops on a 'City for All Londoners' have been extended to cover a wide range of community groups.

My appointment of Matthew Ryder as Deputy Mayor for Social Integration will ensure that as an organisation we are much more attuned to the needs of community groups than has been the case in the past.