

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: MGLA121218-0547

11 January 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 11 December 2018. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Within your request you refer to information held by the 'the council'. To clarify, the Greater London Authority is a strategic authority and not a local Borough council and therefore does not hold the same responsibilities as other local authorities.

Please see below the information we have identified as being within the scope of your request.

- *Does the council have any policies or ones in development to support community-led housing? If so, what are they and where do they appear?*

The London Housing Strategy sets out the Mayor's vision for housing, and the policies and proposals for how this will be delivered.

Policy 5.3: Community support for homebuilding of the London Housing Strategy details how the Mayor will work with partners to support housing delivery that involves communities. Proposal A includes the following:

"Working with councils and others, the Mayor will support Londoners to be involved in planning and delivering new homes. This will include:

- i. setting a target to identify a pipeline of community-led housing schemes by 2021, with capacity to deliver at least 1,000 homes;
- ii. supporting the expansion of community-led housing schemes through a new Community-Led Housing Hub for London; and
- iii. investing in community-led housing schemes and lobbying Government for a share of the national Community Housing Fund."

The London Housing Strategy is available on the GLA website and can be read by visiting www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/tackling-londons-housing-crisis.

The Mayor is required to publish a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) and keep it under review. The SDS is known as the London Plan. As the overall strategic plan for London, it sets

out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years.

Policy H2: Small sites and small housing developments in the new draft London Plan outlines the Mayor's support in the development of small sites for community-led housing;

"A. Small sites (below 0.25 hectares in size) should play a much greater role in housing delivery to achieve the ten-year housing targets set out in Policy H1 Increasing housing supply. Boroughs should pro-actively support well-designed new homes on small sites through both planning decisions and plan-making in order to:

1. significantly increase the contribution of small sites to meeting London's housing needs
2. diversify the sources, locations, type and mix of housing supply
3. support small and medium-sized housebuilders
4. support those wishing to bring forward custom, self-build and community-led housing.
5. achieve the targets for small sites set out in Table 4.2."

The new draft London Plan showing Minor Suggested Changes is available to read on the GLA website by visiting www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/download-draft-london-plan-0

- *Since 2010 how many grants and/or loans has the council given to community-led housing groups or organisations?*

Since 2010, the GLA has not provided any loans to community-led housing groups but it has grant funded one community housing group. We are also working closely with a number of other community housing organisations with a view to providing support. This work is now gathering pace and the Mayor has secured £38 million from Government for a new Community Housing Fund to support the delivery of at least 500 starts on site for community-led homes, which will include both capital and revenue funding.

- *Since 2010 how many land disposals or leases has the council made to community-led housing groups or organisations?*

In February 2018, the Mayor launched a 'Small Sites, Small Builders' programme to support a significant increase in the availability of small sites for housing development, many of which have the potential to support community led housing. The London Community Land Trust (CLT) was chosen to deliver community-led housing on two sites brought forward by Transport for London (TfL) as part of this new initiative, which involved bids exclusively from community land trusts. London CLT will deliver 70 new homes, 100 per cent of which will be genuinely affordable, on sites at Cable Street in Tower Hamlets and Christchurch Road in Lambeth.

- *Do you have dedicated staff to support community-led housing? If so, what are their job titles?*

The Mayor's Homes for Londoners team includes around 130 staff who work to take forward the whole scope of Mayor's Housing Strategy, including delivering on the proposals for community-led housing. Members of the Housing Policy team and Area Managers have been working to deliver on community-led housing for London. There are no job roles where the post-holder is solely responsible for community-led housing.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA121218-0547.

Yours sincerely

Paul Robinson
Information Governance Officer

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>