

# Subject: Response to Planning Committee Output, Planning Decisions of Potential Strategic Importance

Report to: Planning and Regeneration Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 14 July 2020

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out for noting the response from the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills on behalf of the Mayor of London, to the Planning Committee recommendations on Planning Decisions of Potential Strategic Importance.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the response from the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills on behalf of the Mayor of London, to the Planning Committee output on Planning Decisions of Potential Strategic Importance, as attached at Appendix 1.**

## 3. Background

### Planning Decisions of Potential Strategic Importance

- 3.1 The Committee's letter to the Mayor of London, was sent on 13 December 2019<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/strategic-planning-decisions-letter-mayor>

- 3.2 The letter contained the following recommendations to the Mayor of London following the Committee's scrutiny and discussion on Planning Decisions of Potential Strategic Importance:
- Recommendation 1 - As part of the strategic planning process, the Mayor should discourage call-in requests on the relevant GLA web pages, and in his initial representation letter to the applicant and/or their agent at Stage 1 of the referral process. He should disclose the identities of anyone that has lobbied for and against a call-in, including any informal requests, setting out the reasons they gave and how he has taken these reasons into account. The Stage 2 planning report would be a logical place to include these details. This will allay suspicions that applicants or others are attempting to by-pass the democratic process of local authority scrutiny in order to obtain planning permission.
  - Recommendation 2 - The Mayor must review the current protocol governing representation hearings for strategic planning decisions at the GLA by the end of January 2020. In particular, community representation needs to be more prominent at representation hearings, based on the experience and feedback from those involved in the hearings conducted since May 2014.
  - Recommendation 3 - For all outstanding and future call-ins, the Mayor must make more explicit in the statutory referral report summary exactly how the three specific threshold policy tests for call-in have been applied. This would help London local communities understand why a planning decision has had to be taken at mayoral, rather than local, level.

#### **4. Issues for Consideration**

- 4.1 The response from the Deputy Mayor for Planning Regeneration & Skills on behalf of the Mayor of London is attached at **Appendix 1** for noting.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

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#### **List of appendices to this report:**

Appendix 1 – Letter from the Deputy Mayor for Planning Regeneration and Skills, dated 18 May 2020.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
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List of Background Papers: None.
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