

MAYOR OF LONDON

Sakina Sheikh AM

Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee
London Assembly
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Dear Sakina,

Thank you for your letter which makes six recommendations following the London Assembly Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting on 20 July 2022 to discuss the Housing Design Standards London Plan Guidance (LPG) and Small Site Design Codes LPG. I apologise for the delay in my response.

I thank the Committee for the suggested changes to the LPGs made in **Recommendations: one, three, four and five**, and I will look at how much of what has been recommended can be incorporated into the final version of these LPGs.

In **Recommendation two** the Committee asks for the Greater London Authority (GLA) to develop London-wide design guidance or design codes for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, and that this should be consulted on as part of work on the new London-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA). It also asks that I commit to publishing the guidance or design codes alongside the new GTANA, to support local authorities in meeting the identified needs in the GTANA.

I am keen that Gypsy and Traveller accommodation is well designed and delivered to a high quality. I recognise there is no national guidance on this topic following the government's withdrawal of 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller sites: good practice guide' in 2015. It is not possible to link work on this topic to the timescale of the London-wide GTANA as it was commissioned in March 2022, is now well underway and is due to be published later in 2023. The London-wide GTANA is also a needs-based piece of research that is not aimed at addressing design matters, so the scope of that work could not readily be extended. However, I will explore ways of providing and promoting guidance on good design for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in the future.

Recommendation six asks for the GLA to share more information with the Committee regarding the size, make-up, and diversity of the GLA Planning Team's consultation database and of respondents on the Talk London website.

Individuals and organisations can sign up to the GLA planning newsletter and statutory notification of planning policy consultation through this [form](#). The statutory notification currently has 3,337 subscriptions. This is only one of multiple routes that we use for consultation. Where consultations relate to a specific geographical area, we look more closely at communities active in the area, to target our consultations, and where the area is undefined we use multiple channels to promote consultations, including social media and existing platforms like Talk London. We are not currently able to provide a breakdown of the diversity of the people signed up to our own consultation notification system, but are actively looking at how this could be possible in the future.

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We collect information from people registering on Talk London covering gender, ethnicity, employment status, housing situation and borough of residence, to understand how representative respondents are of London as a whole. We do not collect information on disability or sexuality on Talk London as under the General Data Protection Regulation this information is classed as 'special category' data and we can only collect it if specific conditions are met, for example, having the explicit consent of the participant. GLA policy teams can request to collect this data for a specific consultation if it is required.

Talk London is an open community; anyone can join, and we do not exclude members of over-represented groups from joining. Initial responses to consultations tend to be overrepresented by older and white Londoners. However, there are a number of actions we can take to increase the diversity of respondents so they better represent the make-up of the London population. This includes promoting Talk London's content to acquire new members in our underrepresented groups and targeting emails to encourage the participation of underrepresented groups. In this way, the diversity profile of our consultation responses is not dependent on the overall profile of those registered on Talk London.

A consultation summary report is published with all final LPGs, and this sets out who responded to each consultation and what engagement was undertaken. There will be a consultation summary report published with the final Housing Design Standards LPG and Small Site Design Codes LPG.

The consultation that took place in early 2022 on the Housing Design Standards London LPG and Small Site Design Codes LPG was not the first opportunity Londoners had had to influence them. This planning guidance had already been consulted on for three months between October 2020 and January 2021, as part of what was then known as the Good Quality Homes for All Londoners LPG. The details of the first consultation and how we responded to it are in the consultation summary report published [online](#). An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been published and consulted on for both consultations [EqIA Good Quality Homes for all Londoners](#) and [EqIA Design and Characterisation](#).

The LPGs themselves relate directly to London Plan policies, and there was extensive engagement with Londoners in the production of the London Plan itself, including the formal consultation process, which resulted in over 4,000 written submissions. Over 300 different organisations or individuals participated in the hearing sessions for the Examination in Public of the London Plan. Details of the early and formal engagement for the London Plan can be seen on pages 43 to 83 of [this document](#).

I welcome the Committee's offer to work with the GLA's Planning Team to help increase the diversity of the planning consultation database and my officers will engage with the Committee on this.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London