



*C/o Secretariat: London Sustainability Exchange, 84 Long Ln, London SE1 4AU*

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27 February 2018

Dear Mayor,

**Draft New London Plan response**

The London Textile Forum (LTF), established in 2013, raises the profile of re-using and recycling textile waste both in London and further afield; with the vision of making London a hub for textile recycling and renowned for its circular economy in textiles and design. The Forum aims to provide a platform for organisations involved to engage and influence the future of textile recycling. LTF's secretariat is provided by London Sustainability Exchange with support from LWARB, the Textile Recycling Association and West London Business.

The fashion and textile industry is one of the biggest polluter in the world. According to a 2017 report by WRAP<sup>1</sup>, the UK clothing industry generated 23.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent, up from 24 million tonnes in 2012, a rise mainly due to the increase in the total amount of new clothes bought. The draft London Plan clearly seeks to address the issue of climate change through a policy framework that will help reduce emissions. Our specific recommendations on the text of the draft London Plan below seek to ensure the infrastructure is in place to address the impacts of the textile industry and will help ensure your policy ambitions are realised in practice.

We fully support the concept of 'Good Growth' which underpins the draft London Plan and welcome the recognition of the role the circular economy will play in delivering this vision.

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<sup>1</sup> WRAP (2017), *Valuing our clothes: the costs of UK fashion*, 54p. Available at: [http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/valuing-our-clothes-the-cost-of-uk-fashion\\_WRAP.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/valuing-our-clothes-the-cost-of-uk-fashion_WRAP.pdf)

The inclusion of circular economy design principles in the design chapter is very encouraging. Embedding circular economy into new and existing homes will assist in delivering the London Environment Strategy (LES) aims of becoming a zero waste city, and the vision to become a low carbon circular economy.

At our most recent LTF meeting, kindly hosted by City Hall on 10 January 2018, attendees agreed upon a number of actions to advance London's textile circular economy. From this dialogue, we are able to make the following recommendations regarding the Draft London Plan policies:

- We strongly support (policy SI7 A 2) encouraging waste minimisation and waste avoidance through the reuse of materials and using fewer resources in the production and distribution of products.
- We support (policy SI7 B) the inclusion of the requirement for referable applications to support circular economy outcomes, aim to be net zero waste and include a Circular Economy Statement.
- **From our industry dialogue it is clear that a major constraint in the development of a textiles circular economy supply chain within Greater London is a lack of availability of affordable industrial space.** We strongly support (policy SI 8 A) that in order to manage London's waste sustainably to the equivalent of 100 per cent of London's waste should be managed within London (i.e. net self-sufficiency) by 2026. To ensure this is actually achieved by 2026, wording of policy SI 8 A.4 and SI 8 A B.3 should be strengthened. We would recommend:
  - Inserting the following wording into the end of SI 8 A.4: "by 2021"
  - Inserting into the start of SI 8 A B: "...by 2021 using Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs) if required."
  - Inserting a new bullet point SI 8 A B.4: "Inform apportionment requirements and allocation of specific industrial sites with a London-wide analysis of the circular economy requirements of specific resources, e.g. plastics and textiles. The public and private sectors should be involved in this process."

If we can further clarify these recommendations, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Dakers

Chair, London Textile Forum

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