



**National
Trust**

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2 March 2018

Mr. Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
GLA City Hall
London Plan Team
Post Point 18
London SE1 2AA

Dear Mr. Khan,

Response to the Draft London Plan – Chapter 7, Heritage and Culture

The National Trust's London team welcomes the Draft London Plan and the opportunity to comment on it. The comments below are restricted to Chapter 7, Heritage and Culture.

In London, the National Trust cares for twelve historic sites open to the public, ranging from intimate historic houses such as Sutton House in Hackney, and the modernist icon, 2 Willow Road in Hampstead, to large-scale country houses and parklands, as at Osterley Park and Morden Hall Park. Additionally, we support a network of twelve independent heritage sites, and curate a cultural programme in the city – which includes being a core strategic partner for your London Borough of Culture initiative. We have in excess of 200,000 members in London, and more than 1.6 million in the wider south east region.

The National Trust's London team strongly support your ambitions for heritage and culture as outlined in the Draft London Plan. In particular, we fully endorse **Policy HC1 Heritage conservation and growth** and its articulation of the value that the historic environment brings to the *'economy, culture and quality of life'* within the city (7.1.1). Given our work in London in the field of heritage engagement we also welcome the assertion that *'every opportunity to bring the story of London to people and improve the accessibility and maintenance of London's heritage should be exploited'* (7.1.3).

Policy HC2 World Heritage Sites, Policy HC5 Supporting London's culture and creative industries, Policy HC6 Supporting the night-time economy, and Policy HC7 Protecting public houses are all welcomed and supported by the National Trust in London. They are especially noted for the breadth of heritage they seek to preserve and promote,

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fostering a more inclusive understanding of heritage that reflects the diversity of Londoners (7.5.4) (7.6.11) (7.7.2).

On **Policy HC3 Strategic and Local Views** and **Policy HC4 London View Management Framework**, we are in support of the approach adopted. We note, however, that the vast majority of the existing Designated Strategic Views (Fig. 7.6) are from north, west, or central London – a product of historic wealth and power, and these areas' influence over London's development to the present day. This seems counter to your more inclusive approach to heritage engagement as presented in the Plan.

Our recent work in partnership with the Horniman Museum and Gardens indicates that there would be popular support for the protection, in some form, of certain vistas from south London. In particular, the view from the Horniman Museum's Gardens is specifically referenced in his bequest of the museum and its gardens to the people of south London. We note that '*important local views*' are to be designated by local boroughs and '*should be given the same degree of protection as Strategic Views*' – and endorse this principle (7.3.6). However, we also encourage the Mayor to consider what mechanism might be triggered should some of the views that are currently undesignated, but popularly considered to be important, come under threat from inappropriate development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information on any of the comments offered above. We hope they support you and your team in creating a final London Plan that secures the heritage and culture of our city for many generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Watson
Creative Director
National Trust London

CC:

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Cont/d