

Sadiq Khan, (Mayor of London),
New London Plan,
G L A City Hall,
London Plan Team,
Post Point 18,
FREEPOST RTJC-XBZZ-GJKZ,
London SE1 2AA.

Dear Sadiq Khan,

DRAFT NEW LONDON PLAN

I have managed to see part (mainly Section 10) of your new London Plan proposals. My first question is 'Where can I have sight of the full document please?' I am not connected to the internet, and was not able to attend the presentation at Bexley Civic Offices on 1st Feb 2018 due to family commitments. Please respond to this request.

My Comments on Section 10 are as follows :-

GENERAL

Firstly your proposals for reduction of car use are centred on physically fit persons. You do allow for the needs of Registered Disabled Persons, and that is welcomed. However inbetween these two categories there is a significant band of persons that have disabilities making the use of Public Transport difficult, either temporary or long term, and that do not qualify for a disabled Badge. Examples are physical injury, Illness (particularly if infectious), long term incapacity, and in particular those with immune deficiency for whom the advice is 'do not travel on public transport'. eg those receiving chemotherapy. Many, including the elderly, rely on Family & Friends with cars to get them out and about.

Secondly your theme is, correctly, providing a commercially viable city. Part of this is Retail services. Shops and other retail outlets require shoppers. Shoppers require to get their purchases home. Whatever the rights or wrongs, any visit to a supermarket, certainly in the outer Boroughs, reveals that over 80% of purchases made are impossible to transport by Foot or Cycle due to sheer quantity and Bulk. The same principle applies to DIY and small furnishings. Some 1 in 10 do not use the Internet, for ability or financial reasons, and even those that do use the internet are uncomfortable to shop and purchase on line. It is immoral to discriminate against them.

Your proposals do not adequately address these situations, putting the population concerned at a severe disadvantage. Simply restricting Car Parking and charging for car use is not a fair solution. More radical assistance for these disadvantaged persons need to be included. My suggestions (not exhaustive) would be compulsory free transport (with Electric vehicles?) for all Hospital patients that cannot, or would have difficulty, using Public Transport to attend Hospital. Similarly a (much cheaper than a Taxi) door to door (electric?) vehicle service for eligible persons having general difficulty using P.T, temporary or otherwise .

Some retail have already offered free delivery for bulk purchases, but this is not a total solution as it still means vehicles on roads, with potential multiple trips if the delivery fails. Internet shopping suffers the same, and is not an acceptable option to many persons in any case. Many People have evolved a 'bulk buy of non perishable food' and as such make fewer journeys, saving their own valuable time in addition to the savings in pollution and congestion. It is the use of a car for small & light purchases that should be discouraged. Your proposals are not a solution, particularly for the outer Boroughs with inadequate infrastructure.

If you can improve the desirability of Walking and Cycling for the physically fit that is obviously a bonus. Further improvements to Public Transport are needed, particularly in the SE Outer Boroughs Bexley and Bromley that have no direct access to the Underground system at all! This fact always surprises TFL Staff who seem unaware, and unable to comprehend, such a deficiency in the London Transport System!

Other factors that deter walking and Cycling, particularly in Winter, are the Weather. Cold, Rain, Wind particularly. (Legislation against these in rush hours, like in the film Camelot, perhaps?!!!).

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

- 10.1.1 See above general comments. Vast improvement needed in Public Transport in Bexley Borough, to provide North South links within the Borough, and direct access to Abbey Wood from the whole of the Borough, preferably using Underground or light rail connections.
 - 10.1.2 See 10.1.1 above. North South connections within Bexley currently are only practical by road, and Congestion affects Busses and cars alike. The only other option available to some parts is by rail, but is time consuming because all routes are via the Slade Green Cannon Street to Cannon Street services, only operating once per half hour, and scheduled to 'wait' near or at Slade Green to provide a buffer for East West London Service timetable delays.
 - 10.1.3 See 10.2.3 and 10.7.4 below for Rail/Road freight comments. Erith is a perfect location for River Transport to all the inner London Wharves, therefore relieving Roads. Also for passenger use. See 10.1.4 below for a real enhancement to this latter facility.
 - 10.1.4 Providing a North South light rail or Underground link from (say) Bromley, Orpington, Sidcup, Bexleyheath to Erith would vastly enhance the desirability of Housing and Employment. Better still, extending this route to NE London at least as far as Stratford would provide "East London Crossrail 3". Now that really would regenerate the region and make the Car almost redundant!!!
 - 10.2.2 Not inclusive to temporally sick & injured, and elderly persons.
 - 10.2.3 The Proposed Freight interchange at Slade Green will cause a significant increase in SE Road traffic, contradicting the Healthy Streets ambition. Furthermore Freight Train movements will compromise the Bexleyheath Passenger service. I have proof of this because Network Rail are unable to provide one single freight train slot on the line on 22nd March this year! Therefore introducing Freight on the route as planned will necessitate reducing passenger services. I can provide more detail.
 - 10.2.5 Large Retail require large deliveries. Restricting delivery hours will require somewhere to park waiting vehicles.
 - 10.3.1 PLEASE bring the inferior Bexley Public Transport up the standard of London as a whole! See 10.1.2 & 10.1.4 above.
 - 10.3.2 PLEASE improve Bexley quality! See 10.1.2 & 10.1.4 above.
 - 10.3.3 Need improved PT access to Abbey Wood for Bexley residents, 10.1.1
 - 10.3.4 Great, but no help to East London. See proposal for Crossrail 3 in 10.1.4 above to give benefit to East London, the poor relation!
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- 10.3.5 Bexley does not even have an underground line to extend! These enhancements are very biased to West London, which is very well provided with Public Transport already. The balance needs to be re-adjusted to provide East London with similar capital schemes. The only way across the Thames is the Dartford Crossing, Car & Freight only. Pedestrians and Cycles are positively discouraged because of 'off peak' conveying only. We need a Car free link!
- 10.4.4 So Give Bexley well connected Public Transport as outlined above.
- 10.6.9 Fully agree, but recognise that less severe disabilities, temporary or permanent, that do not Qualify for a disabled badge yet do require use of a car to give them quality of life.
- 10.6.10 Refer to comment above, and accept that residents have more to do than go to work. In addition to shopping, their leisure activities might well include the requirement to visit Family and Friends well away from London on regular occasions, and to go on Holiday. In many cases this may be to locations not well served by Public Transport, and with the need to carry significant luggage, gifts and other produce, negating the option to use Public Transport anyway. They will therefore consider it worth having a car, even if not using it for work. I fail to see how the parking plan can accommodate this, and will result in every on street space oversubscribed. The plan must allow for such leisure requirements. Furthermore Provision of Electric Vehicle parking has not been integrated. Having charged a Vehicle, do they leave it there, or vacate allowing another electric vehicle to charge. If so where do they put theirs? The plan indicates that nowhere is available. This anomaly requires an urgent re-think if Electric vehicles are to become popular and usable.
- 10.7.4 The proposed Slade Green Freight Terminal does not comply with these aspirations. In Particular it is close enough to the River to have incorporated a River access and Jetty in order to transport the rail terminal freight to/from barges for distribution/collection in London. It must not use and cause pollution and congestion on Bexley & Greenwich Road Networks.

ADDITIONAL HOUSING

I object to further additional housing being built in Bexley Borough until long overdue improvements in infrastructure are completed. Schools, NHS facilities, Social & Elderly care, River transport services, & particularly North South rail only links in Bexley and on to other East London Boroughs.

OBSERVATION

Finally I note that you propose not provide a response or confirmation of this submission. This is blatant discrimination against residents who do not, or choose not, to use the Internet. If you claim to be all inclusive to all residents irrespective of ability etc., then you MUST respond and acknowledge Royal Mail submissions commenting on your new London Plan.

I therefore expect the common courtesy of an acknowledgement of receipt, and an update of the consultation progress in the future. Thank You.

Yours sincerely,

Dave Reynolds