

27 February 2020

T +44 (0)20 7198 2000
F +44 (0)20 7198 2001
www.lsh.co.uk

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Planning Policy
C/O Be First
9th Floor Maritime House
1 Linton Road
Barking
IG11 8HG

Lambert Smith Hampton
United Kingdom House
180 Oxford Street
London
W1D 1NN

By email: localplan@lbbd.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

BARKING AND DAGENHAM'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2019 – 2034 CONSULTATION

Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH) has been instructed by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to make representations to the above consultation. This representation concerns the MPS' infrastructure requirement for a car pound facility within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and their emerging neighbourhood police facility infrastructure requirement.

Requirement for a car pound

The MPS have an infrastructure requirement for a car pound facility within the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham or surrounding boroughs. The requirement is for 6 - 7 acres of open industrial land (leased from private landlords or purchased freehold).

A car pound facility is where the MPS deal with vehicles that have been stolen, seized for motoring offences or for forensic examination. The MPS are finding that the owners of their existing car pound sites are seeking to pursue development opportunities and cease the current use when the lease permits. Both of the current car pound sites are subject to pressure for industrial and/or residential development and intensification of use.

The MPS are concerned that that if their existing car pounds have to be vacated, there may be no alternative sites available within London. This might mean that the MPS is no longer able to provide a car pound service, which would have serious implications for safely recovering and searching vehicles that are seized. The difficulties that exist in finding land for car pounds also extend to other aspects of policing, including the following:

- Driver training;
- Firearms training; and
- Dog Training.

The MPS are therefore requesting that the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham work with the police to identify suitable plots for the delivery of a car pound facility within the borough. (Barking and Dagenham is considered to be a good location for the delivery of a MPS car pound facility).

Further to the above, the MPS request that the Barking and Dagenham Local Plan and/or Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) include a section highlighting the importance of the MPS car pound requirement in the borough.

Neighbourhood police facility infrastructure requirement

The MPS have an emerging infrastructure requirement for a neighbourhood police facility that can provide a base of operation for officers of the MPS. Further information on the neighbourhood police facility will be disclosed soon.

Summary

The MPS have an infrastructure requirement for a car pound facility and are requesting that the Council work with the police to identify suitable plots. The MPS would like this infrastructure requirement to be referenced in the Local Plan and/or IDP. The MPS also have an emerging infrastructure requirement for a neighbourhood police facility which will be disclosed soon.

We consider that it would be sensible to arrange a meeting to discuss how the MPS car pound infrastructure requirement can be accounted for in the borough and the potential for a site allocation in the future. We will look forward to hearing from you when you have had a chance to review the contents of this representation.

Yours faithfully,



Vincent Gabbe
Director

DL: +44 (0)207 198 2253
M: +44 (0)7526 175 904
E: vgabbe@lsh.co.uk