

East of England LGA Written Statement

Respondent no.1384.

Matter 10

Spatial Development Strategy

Overall Spatial Development Strategy

M10. Should the vast majority of London's development needs be met within London?

a) Is the approach of seeking to accommodate the vast majority of identified development requirements between 2019 and 2041 within London justified and would so doing contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development?

b) Alternatively, would accommodating more of London's development needs in the wider South East and beyond better contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development?

The Mayor of London has committed to meeting the vast majority of London's development needs within London. This is one of the fundamental principles of the Plan from which many of the policies take their lead.

An option to divert more of London's development needs (over and above that already proposed within the Plan) to the wider south east has not been presented, considered or consulted on as part of the Plan preparation process.

No evidence has been prepared by the Mayor of London that considers the advantages and disadvantages of a spatial strategy containing a greater scale of dispersal/exportation. There is no evidence available with which to make informed judgements. A dispersal spatial strategy has not been subject to strategic environmental assessment.

Crucially, the views of key stakeholders such as potential recipient local authorities beyond London have not been sought. There has been no meaningful dialogue with local authorities on the consequences (good and bad) of a more substantive dispersal/exportation spatial strategy.

In light of this it would be inappropriate to introduce a dispersal spatial strategy at this stage in the Plan making process. If it is to be considered at all, this is a matter for a future review of the Plan taking into account circumstances as they exist at that time.

c) If so, is there a realistic prospect that such an approach in London and the wider South East could be delivered in the context of national policy and legislation?

There is no realistic prospect of delivery of a more substantive dispersal/exportation spatial strategy for this Plan for the reasons set out in response to M10b).

Theoretically, there are not considered to be any insurmountable national policy or legislative hurdles to such an approach should it prove desirable by a future Review of the Plan. Any such strategy would, however, have to be informed by technical evidence, be subject to public consultation and have the agreement of local authorities beyond London.