

DRAFT NEW LONDON PLAN – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Statement on Matter M11

Respondent Number	1684
Organisation	London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies
Contact name	Michael Bach
Email	[REDACTED]
Telephone	[REDACTED]
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M11. Is the strategic approach to accommodating development needs within London justified and consistent with national policy?

In particular:

- a) Is the focus on the Central Activities Zone, Town Centres, Opportunity Areas and through the intensification of existing built-up areas in inner and outer London whilst protecting the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land justified and would it be effective in meeting identified needs and achieving sustainable development?**
- b) Alternatively, should some of London’s development needs be met through reviewing Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land in London?**

This Matter, with use of the words “within London” seems to be additional to M10.

M11 a) – The focus described is justified. It would not be effective in meeting needs nor achieve sustainable development in all locations due to the capacity reasons given in London Forum’s response to M9 and M10.

M11 c) – London’s boroughs are reviewing Green Belt land and their reasons could be explored at the EiP.

London Forum **supports** the NLP policy to retain as much Green Belt land as possible but accepts that some small pieces of Green Belt within London, not inside its edge, could be changed by green land swaps to give better small town centre boundaries and improve the creation of green chains, which were covered by Policies 2.18 and 7.17 of the March 2016 London Plan but are (unfortunately) not mentioned in the draft NLP.

Metropolitan Open Land, although a London Plan designation, has always had the same protection as Green Belt, but its value has been more specifically for the open space it maintains within the urban area and its greenspace and recreational value.

London Forum **strongly supports** NLP Policy G3: Metropolitan Open Land and any loss should be resisted. We are very concerned that some London Boroughs have approved developments, such as schools, on MOL.

Also, NLP GG2 D does not relate green chains to MOL as in paragraph 7.56 of the March 2016 London Plan which states “Green chains are important to London’s open space network, recreation and biodiversity. They consist of footpaths and the open spaces that they link, which are accessible to the public. The open spaces and links within a Green Chain should be designated as MOL due to their London-wide importance.”

Similar words should be in the NLP in Chapter 8 Policy G4.