

DRAFT NEW LONDON PLAN – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Statement on Matter M44

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Noise and Nuisance

M44. Would policies D12 and D13 provide a justified and effective strategic framework to mitigate the impacts of existing noise and nuisance generating activities or uses on proposed new noise-sensitive development and reduce, manage and mitigate noise in relation to new development?

In particular:

a) Would Policy D12, in setting out the ‘agent of change’ principle, be necessary in light of paragraph 123 of the NPPF?

Yes – London Forum welcomes the new NLP policy D12 for Agent of Change and it is justified and should be effective. The policy is necessary.

Paragraph 123 deals only with the “traditional” concern of avoiding the introduction of new sources of noise, such as new noisy uses, on existing receptors. Most of paragraph 123 of the 2012 NPPF deals with noise emanating from new development – even the third bullet does not deal directly with the introduction of sensitive uses close to noise emitting uses.

The “agent of change” principle requires new sensitive uses that are being developed close to an existing use which emits noise, such as a pub, night club or music venue, to be properly insulated against that noise. This has subsequently picked up in para 182 of the 2018 NPPF.

London Forum **strongly supports** the “Agent of Change” principle articulated in Policy D12, which sets a strong framework for London borough local plans.

b) Would the identification and protection of ‘Quiet Areas’ be effective, as set out in Policy D13B? Would it be justified?

Yes – this carries forward Policy 7.15 C: Reducing and managing noise in the current London Plan, which requires each borough to map and nominate new Quiet Areas and to protect existing ones. This took forward the policy in the fourth bullet in para 123 of the 2012 NPPF.

c) Would policies D12 and D13 provide an effective and justified strategic framework for the preparation of local plans and neighbourhood plans in relation to these matters?

Yes, but only with the following addition.

PROPOSAL: Policy D13 should have an extra section C as follows:-

Pubs, restaurants and other places for meeting, leisure and shopping should be designed and inspected for the prevention of echoing noise. Conditions should be placed on new developments, change of use and on new licences for the fitting of acoustic facilities that will reduce the volume and impact of sound generated by people talking and by 'background' music being played.