

London Plan Examination in Public – Written Statement

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Delivering Social Infrastructure

M51. Would Policy S1 provide an effective and justified approach to the development of London's social infrastructure? In particular would it be effective in meeting the objectives of policies GG1 and GG3 in creating a healthy city and building strong and inclusive communities? In particular:

- a) Would Policy S1, in requiring a needs assessment of social infrastructure and encouraging cross borough collaboration provide an effective and justified strategic framework for the preparation of local plans and neighbourhood plans in relation to the development of social infrastructure?**

The Assembly's Planning Committee refers the Panel to its written statement on matter 89.

Overall, the Assembly's view is that Policy S1 does provide an effective and justified approach to delivering the required social infrastructure needed to support London's development sustainably. However, the Assembly is concerned that this Policy should be further strengthened and integrated with the principals of Good Growth.

We understand the concept of 'Good Growth' to mean growth that is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable and it is the Mayor's intention that these core policies should be taken into account for all planning and development in London.

The Committee believes that Policy S1 needs to be amended to:

- Strengthen references to policy GG1
- Cross referenced with policies D2 and D6 – development should only be permitted where there has been an assessment that the range of supporting social infrastructure is adequate for the planned increase in density.

b) Would it provide a justified definition of social infrastructure?

Paragraph 5.1.1, sets out the range of services and facilities that constitute 'social infrastructure' should be expanded to cover 'community infrastructure' such as meeting places, community centres and halls.

These facilities require land, and suitable sites, in close proximity to new homes. However, there is evidence that the increased housing targets are putting pressure on some boroughs to make stark choices in prioritising infrastructure where sites are limited

They too contribute towards a good quality of life and the Mayor should consider amending Policy S1 to refer specifically to these types of infrastructure in the policy itself or making specific reference to the range of services set out in paragraph 5.1.1.

c) Would it provide an effective development management framework for boroughs, particularly with regard to Policy S1D, F and G?

Policy S1 F! should be amended to reference 'an assessment that re-provision of social infrastructure is realistic and has a source of agreed funding in place prior to development'.

The Assembly's Health Committee is concerned that the Plan appears to allow for considerable intensification of development without identifying a mechanism for ensuring that adequate social infrastructure is in place or will be provided in a timely fashion. Access to social infrastructure is a key factor in health inequalities.

The Committee would welcome firmer commitments that development will not be permitted unless an accompanying needs assessment for social infrastructure has been undertaken and specific maximum timescales are in place for the delivery of the required infrastructure.

As a consequence, in relation to health equality impact assessments, Policy S1 F2 should be amended to read 'Development proposals that would result in a loss of social infrastructure in an area of defined need should be refused unless [...] the loss is a) part of a wider public service transformation plan which requires investment in modern, fit for purpose infrastructure and facilities in order to meet future population needs or to sustain and improve services and b) a full health equity impact assessment for the local population has been conducted'.