

London Plan Examination in Public – Written Statement

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Waste and Circular Economy

M68. Would Policy S17 provide a justified and effective approach to reducing waste and supporting the circular economy? Would it further the aims of Good Growth policies GG1-GG6? Would it focus on planning matters of London wide importance? In particular:

- a) **Would the definition of ‘circular economy’ as set out in paragraph 9.7.1 be justified and would it be effective in reducing waste, increasing material reuse and recycling and reductions in waste going for disposal?**

The Environment Committee has strongly supported the circular economy principle, broadly as set out in paragraph 9.7.1. See for example the committee’s Wasting London’s Future report. In this report, the committee defined the circular economy as follows:

The circular economy minimises the extraction of natural resources and reuses and recirculates goods to extract the maximum value from the original manufacture. By seeking to recirculate resources after use by repair or recycling, the circular economy recognises “waste” as a valuable commodity. Examples of the circular economy include incentivised return schemes and lease-hiring models.

This definition recognises the role of the circular economy approach in minimising resource extraction, which should be included in the definition in paragraph 9.7.1.

- b) **Would Policy S17 provide an effective and justified strategic framework for the preparation of local plans and neighbourhood plans in relation to this matter? In particular what is the justification for the waste to landfill and recycling targets set out in Policy S17A4? Could these be effectively monitored? Bearing in mind the timescales involved would these be effective?**

The target to avoid biodegradable and recyclable waste to landfill is justified by landfill’s position at the bottom of the waste hierarchy, and the availability of much more sustainable options for managing those materials types. Likewise the target to increase recycling for municipal waste represents the most sustainable option for the majority of the municipal waste stream. The Environment Committee has examined these targets and not disagreed with them, focusing instead on ways to achieve them.

- c) **Would it provide an effective framework for development management? In particular, would the requirement for a Circular Economy Statement in relation to referable applications be effective and justified?**

The Environment Committee has recognised the need for circular economy models need to be driven throughout the economy.

Our investigation into London's recycling highlighted the importance of sufficient space for separation of recycling streams in dwellings, and the specific challenge presented by flats in finding this space. Environment Committee has previously recommended strengthening the wording of policy SI7, as follows: Recycling provision for new homes should be strengthened in the London Plan. To elevate the importance of recycling, the wording should read – "Dwellings must be designed with adequate and easily accessible storage space that supports the separate collection of dry recyclables.