

London Tenants Federation – 2571

Written submission Consultation and Engagement - M6

Was the consultation carried out during the preparation in accordance with relevant legislation and did it involve early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with the community, local authorities, organisations and businesses?

LTF is a London-wide representative social housing tenants' organisation. Our members represent some of the most excluded communities in London, where many residents find developing planning policy and making representations extremely difficult and technical. They feel excluded by the existing processes relating to both. The fact that strategic planning documents stretch, as with the London Plan, to 25 years is particularly difficult, when many of our key concerns require immediate responses.

Nonetheless, LTF has worked hard over many years to engage our members in regional housing and regeneration strategy, including where strong determinants of policies impacting on our homes and communities are included in regional planning policy. Representatives of twelve of our member organisations engaged in a range of matters for discussion at the London Plan EiP 2010/11.

LTF is also member of Just Space and commissioned them to work with us on project work focused between 2012-16 on engaging tenants and other community groups relating to large scale developments particularly in London's two Mayoral Development Corporation areas. Our engagement with Just Space has often facilitated good sharing and exchanging with other community groups and supported good levels of peer learning about planning policy.

We feel that our work and that of Just Space shows that much more could be done by the Mayor's office to include groups / community members, in addition to the statutory bodies and groups and individuals that already engage but come from middle-class professionals and already engaging in responding to planning policy.

This is important if the Mayor's duties as set out in paragraph 155 of the NPPF are to be fully achieved and in order that his duties relating to treating all Londoners with equality (regardless of income) are to be met.

We suggest:

- (i) **that the Mayor establish community forums relating to the different strategies that the he has responsibilities for and are in related chapters in the London Plan** (supported financially by the Mayor's office) – to facilitate grass-roots monitoring of the effectiveness of policies, strategies and plans and to support grass roots groups involvement in the development of new ones. **This should be included in the introduction of the London Plan.**

LTF proposed this in terms of strategic housing policy, with eleven other community groups, as far back as 2012 in relation to a response to the revised London Housing Strategy. We repeated this in 2014 in response to a draft London Housing Strategy (supported by around 30 other community organisations) and again in 2016 when the previous head of housing and homelessness at the GLA suggested we submit a formal proposal on this.

We submitted such a proposal first as part of our response to ‘A City for all Londoners’ consultation, then again in response to the draft London Housing Strategy. The proposal was also included in Just Space’s ‘towards a Community-led Plan for London (also 2016).

In May 2018 this year we submitted the proposal to the London Assembly Housing Committee as part of our submission to its investigation around tenant involvement in decision-making about our homes post-Grenfell.

In response to this, we recently had welcome and positive response, with a meeting with the deputy London Mayor for Housing and his and have his officers about this.

We feel that something similar is required for each of the strategic policy issues that the Mayor has responsibility for in order to ensure that community groups (proportionally inclusive of low-income households) and small businesses are proactively involved and to reflect a consensus vision for sustainable development.

(ii)

- **the development of a Mayoral statement of community involvement relating to the London Plan;**
- **encouragement (in the London Plan) of the boroughs to adopt (in consultation with local communities) a statement of community involvement that reflects ground rules proposed by the Grand Union Alliance (GUA) in response to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation’s Statement of Community Involvement in 2015**
- **adoption of similar in opportunity areas (which should be set out in the London Plan).** These are particularly important where opportunity areas cross-borough boundaries and where currently many boroughs may feel they have no remit to bring residents together across borough boundaries.

The OPDC adopted a number of the ground rules proposed by GUA in its SCI <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/opdc-statementofcommunityinvolvement-042017.pdf>

We request that the Grand Union Alliance proposed ground rules for delivering effective community involvement be added to the EiP library.

NB The Grand Union Alliance was established by London Tenants Federation working with Just Space, who we commissioned to support us in our grant funded work with resident and community groups in London’s two Mayoral Development Corporation Area.

The GUA’s ground rules were based / built on ground rules initially drawn up by a Neighbourhood Planning Network in Bristol and adopted in Bristol City’s Statement of Community Involvement.