

London Plan Examination in Public – Written Statement

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Dated	7 December 2018

Matter 9

(a) Are Good Growth policies GG1 to GG6 consistent with national policy and/or justified, and would they help ensure that the Plan provides an effective strategic framework to achieve sustainable development?

(b) Are the policies in chapters 2 to 12 of the Plan appropriately informed by and consistent with Good Growth policies GG1 to GG6?

Key argument: The Assembly supports the Good Growth policies. We understand them to be the Mayor's expression of aspects of sustainable development as set out in the principle purposes of the GLA Act 1999 (amended) and as set out in the Plan's introduction.

We understand also that the six Good Growth policies, as well as being policies, are the 'strategic objectives' of the Plan and, together, make up the Mayor's vision. This could be made more explicit. The Assembly is concerned that the Good Growth policies/objectives are not consistently identified and followed through in chapters 2 to 12. This could lead to the Plan not being properly interpreted by stakeholders. Furthermore, the Assembly is concerned that there is insufficient emphasis on the cross-cutting and integrated nature of sustainable development.

Central to Good Growth is the understanding that social inclusivity and environmental improvement are crucial to economic performance and prosperity. The Assembly is concerned that these strategic objectives cannot be realised without sustainability being addressed in a more integrated way throughout the Plan.

Summary

The Mayor's Good Growth policies represent his strategic objectives for London and should run through all planning policy. This is particularly important where the Mayor seeks to manage growth that is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

Throughout the Plan's policies there are references to circumstances where development

proposals should be resisted (for example, Policy H12 Housing size mix part B which states that 'Generally, schemes consisting mainly of one-person units and/or one bedroom units should be resisted'). The Mayor needs to strengthen these policies by reference to his core 'good growth' policies. This should add weight to policy and support boroughs to deliver the type of growth the Mayor is proposing.

Previous versions of the London Plan have set out an overall vision for London and a set of strategic objectives. This version of the Plan appears to establish the Mayor's vision in policy (**Good Growth Policies 1 – 6**). The Assembly understands 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.¹

Policy in chapters 2 -10 must therefore be referenced to the Good Growth policies 1-6 to provide extra protection against unsustainable development. The Assembly is not convinced that the policies in chapters 2 to 12 of the Plan are appropriately informed by and consistent with Good Growth policies GG1 to GG6.

¹ Draft London Plan, paragraph 0.0.29