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Mayor of London
yourviews@london.gov.uk
By Email Only

Dear Sir,

A City for all Londoners

On behalf of our client, University College London (UCL), we write in response to the Mayor's 'A City for all Londoners' document. UCL welcomes the opportunity to comment on this document which will form a direction of travel for the upcoming London Plan review.

UCL is London's leading multidisciplinary university. Following expansion over recent years, it now has over 12,000 staff and 38,000 students. This includes over 17,000 undergraduate students and 20,000 graduate students, with further significant growth in numbers expected over the next ten years.

UCL provides excellence and leadership in teaching and research, was ranked fourth in the QS World University Rankings 2012/13 and 2013/14, seventh in 2015 and is among the top 15 universities ranked by The Times (14), The Guardian (11) and The Sunday Times (10).

UCL hosts a wide variety of research institutes with an even wider variety of funding partners. Funding partners and supporters of research include UK and overseas Government Departments, a range of UK and international charities and charitable foundations. Partners in research projects include a wide selection of the world's other great academic and research institutions.

UCL competes on a global stage with other top-rank universities overseas (such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford) and in the UK (such as Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College). In order to attract the best graduate researchers and academic staff and the brightest undergraduates it is essential to be able to offer world class facilities and a high quality environment.

UCL is the largest higher education institution in Camden and makes a significant contribution to Camden's local economy. Furthermore, UCL has aspirations to develop a new campus in Stratford (UCL East), at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, as part of the Cultural and Education District.

The provision of world class teaching and research space and student accommodation are regarded as essential components of UCL's ability to attract high quality students and staff, both from the UK and abroad. Student choices are increasingly driven by the wider 'student experience' of which the provision of high quality learning and living accommodation is considered a key aspect.

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With the above context in mind, UCL are surprised that the Mayor does not make any reference to higher education in his City for all Londoners document.

Higher education is one of London's most competitive sectors and a true differentiator in the global 'war for talent.' Any review of the London Plan and the Mayor's vision for the future of the city must, therefore, acknowledge the powerful contribution that higher education institutions make - and will continue to make - to the economic, social and environmental success of London. These contributions may, amongst others, be through the creation of vibrant places and neighbourhoods or through the delivery of world-leading research and development and associated partnerships with industry or start-up workspace.

The Mayor must express his support for the higher education sector in the forthcoming review of the London Plan and UCL welcomes the opportunity to work with the Mayor, his officers and other institutions in shaping this aspect of the plan.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Richard Maung
Deloitte LLP

cc. C Plank (UCL)