

# Local Plan Partial Review Issues and Options Consultation Summary



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## Section 8: Arts and cultural uses

**Issue 1: How should the Council ensure that arts and cultural uses continue to be protected and that new uses are supported in appropriate locations.**

### Question 1

Should the Council continue to support the Borough's role in both local and world-class arts and culture?

**26 responses. Key points:**

- Near unanimous support for this approach.
- Important to support attractions/ values which have a local character, as well as provision of "top class entertainment."
- Need to support the world class arts and cultural uses, uses which are significant to the UK as well as London and the Royal Borough.
- Need for a coordinated approach with Westminster City Council (WCC) to protect and enhance the quality of the South Kensington Strategic Cultural Area. This could include the preparation of a joint Kensington and Chelsea and WCC SPD concerning the South Kensington Strategic Cultural Area.
- Need to protect arts studios.
- Need to amend Local Plan Policy CF7 to introduce a sequential approach. An arts and cultural use should only be replaced off site if provision on site is not possible. Off-site provision must be seen as a last resort.
- Need to recognise that the strategic sites can play a role in supporting the Borough's arts and cultural role.

### Question 2

Should the Council continue its existing approach in protecting existing arts and cultural uses and permitting enabling development where the overall provision is maintained?

#### 26 responses. Key points:

- Support for any policies which encourage the retention of existing arts and cultural uses.
- Supporting income generating uses are vital if the Borough's world class institutions are to thrive.
- Protection of all arts and cultural uses is essential, the local and the community based as well as those of a national importance.
- Enabling development should only be supported as part of a wider "sequential" policy which favours the retention of existing arts and cultural uses on site.

### Question 3

Should the Council continue to take a "town centre first" approach to the location of new arts and cultural uses and direct uses which are likely to generate large numbers of visitors to the larger centres.

#### 19 responses (including 1 "don't know"). Key points:

- Whilst high trip generating uses should be generally be located in town centres, this should not be blindly followed. Locations near town centres may also be appropriate.
- Need to ensure that any future expansion of the South Kensington Museums is not precluded simply because these institutions do not lie within a town centre.
- Cultural uses should be spread across the Borough and be appropriate to the needs and interests of local people.

Do you have any other comments, issues or options (reasonable alternatives) you would like to raise regarding this section?

#### 3 responses. Key points:

- The Mayor of London reiterates the London Plan's treatment of arts and cultural uses, reiterating their support for the South Kensington museums complex. He notes that the Council's current approach "fits well" with the Mayor's approach.

## **Issue 2: What spatial approach should the Council adopt to support enhancing the cultural draw and promoting the arts and cultural uses across the Borough?**

### **Question 1**

Should the Council continue its existing approach in protecting and enhancing cultural uses in the South Kensington Strategic Cultural Area?

#### **15 responses. Key points:**

- This is essential to support the world class cultural complex, a complex attracting over 16.5 million visits each year.
- There is a need to invest in the transport infrastructure necessary to make South Kensington an easy, safe and attractive place to visit, study, shop and work.
- Whilst the cultural uses in South Kensington should be supported this should not be at the expense of other areas. This includes the North Kensington/Portobello area.
- There is a need for better engagement with local people to ensure that both the needs of the institutions and local residents are met.

### **Question 2**

Should the Council specifically support enhancing the cultural draw of the following places?

Those within the existing policy:

- South Kensington Strategic Cultural Area
- King's Road / Sloane Square
- The Notting Hill Gate and Portobello Road area
- Kensington High Street

Possible new creative industries clusters at:

- Kensal Employment Zone and Kensal Gasworks
- Freston / Latimer Road Employment Zone (linking to Imperial West Innovation Hub)
- Lots Road Employment Zone
- Somewhere else

#### **25 responses. Key points:**

- The majority of those who responded supported enhancing the cultural draw of South Kensington, King's Road, Notting Hill and Kensington High Street.
- The role of the Employment Zones as clusters for creative industries was also supported, particularly in the northern Employment Zones.
- New creative clusters providing the space and facilities for creative industries to flourish will help ensure that the Borough remains a place where new talent can develop.

- Creative clusters should evolve and not be imposed.
- Care must be taken to ensure that any policy is flexible enough to allow for creative industries to come forward – but not a “requirement” which could be at the expense of the overall viability of a site.