

CED012

# Local Plan Partial Review – Examination Matters, Issues and Questions Hearing Statement

Matter 2: Spatial Strategy  
Issue 2a: Vision and Strategic Objectives (CV1 and  
CO1-7)

February 2018



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA



## Matter 2 – Spatial Strategy

### Issue 2a: Vision and Strategic Objectives (CV1 and CO1-CO7)

1. **Has the vision for Kensington and Chelsea to 2028 as reflected in the proposed changes to CV1 and the strategic objectives C01-C07 been positively prepared?**
  - 1.1 NPPF guidance (March 2012) states that for a strategy to be positively prepared it should seek to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where reasonable to do so and be consistent with achieving sustainable development. In terms of the vision the three underlying principles of stimulating regeneration, enhancing the reputation of our national and international destinations and upholding our residential quality of life all touch to a greater or lesser degree on the vision and the strategic objectives which flow from it, being positively prepared. However, it is the principle of stimulating regeneration which is now borough wide, which goes to the heart of what flows from the vision into the strategic objectives and the Plan as a whole being positively prepared.
  - 1.2 This is expressed in terms of better transport, better housing and better facilities, aiding better health. The Council also acknowledges the need to build more housing with a significant quantum being built by 2028 to address the serious shortfall and housing need in the Borough.
  - 1.3 Development requirements are dealt with in terms of the quantum of new homes required (including affordable homes) and employment is addressed in terms of a range of new businesses having been allowed to grow and thrive. Different areas of the Borough such as Earl's Court and South Kensington are mentioned including development opportunities. In terms of supporting infrastructure better transport and better community facilities are mentioned, promoting better health. The reference to facilities is also expressed in terms of the provision of sufficient primary and secondary school places and better shopping facilities with new town centres at Kensal and the Earl's Court Opportunity Area.
  - 1.4 Each of the strategic objectives, (Keeping Life Local; Fostering Vitality; Better Travel choices; An Engaging Public Realm; Diversity of Housing and Respecting Environmental Limits) are interpreted into appropriate crosscutting policies designed to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements which are consistent with achieving sustainable development.
  - 1.5 In responding to whether the draft of the Local Plan was in general conformity with the London Plan, the GLA commented (SUB9) that the vision is welcomed (in terms of being positively prepared) as it is

comprehensive, ambitious and positively supports new development which will build on the success and strategic advantages of the Borough and its location and infrastructure. The strategic objectives support the delivery of new development and the improvement of new facilities and amenities as well as supporting the local environment. It is noted that the strategic objective for housing has been amended to boost housing delivery in the Borough and the Mayor confirms that the approach is in line with the “good growth” concept outlined in the Mayor’s publication, “A City for All Londoners”. The notion of achieving sustainable development is picked up in response to question 3.

- 1.6 Further details of the legislative context, evidence, alternative options considered and the actions that the Council has taken with regard to the duty to co-operate are set out in the core document SUB15 – Policy Formulation report – Vision and Strategic Objectives, May 2017.

## **2. Does it remain justified as the most appropriate strategy for the Royal Borough?**

- 2.1 The vision and strategic objectives remain justified as the most appropriate strategy for the Royal Borough. The alternative options considered are set out in section 2.4 of the core document SUB15 – Policy Formulation report – Vision and Strategic Objectives, May 2017. The vision is comprehensive and covers the three dimensions of sustainable development as outlined in the NPPF. The needs of the Borough’s residents and its businesses are catered for with an underlying pledge of improving the residential quality of life for everyone. The need to boost housing delivery remains the most appropriate strategy given housing need within the Borough and there is an acknowledgment that this needs to be both private market and affordable.
- 2.2 The acknowledgment of the Borough having a strong and varied sense of place, despite it being geographically small in area and the need to build on this in partnership with other organisations and more importantly our residents remains justified. It is in line with the Leader’s pledge in July 2017 to create a future for the Borough together with our residents. The vision is justified and is the most appropriate strategy for the Royal Borough as it combines economic, social and environmental gains jointly and simultaneously through the planning system as outlined at paragraph 8 of the NPPF. It has also been positively prepared.

## **3. Is it in general conformity with the London Plan?**

- 3.1 In their letter of conformity with the London Plan dated 16 March 2017 (SUB9) as mentioned the GLA commented that the vision is welcomed as it is comprehensive, ambitious and positively supports new development which will build on the success and strategic advantages of the Borough and its location and infrastructure. The Mayor also

considered that the strategic objectives support the delivery of new development and the improvement of new facilities and amenities as well as supporting the local environment.

- 3.2 It was also noted that the strategic objective for housing had been amended to boost housing delivery in the Borough and the Mayor confirmed that the approach was in line with the “good growth” concept outlined in the Mayor’s publication, “A City for All Londoners”. A further letter from the GLA dated 3 November 2017 (CED004) dealing with further modifications confirmed that the 16 March 2017 letter was the Regulation 19 version. In it the GLA deal with the proposed modifications which related to the Council’s decision to suspend estate regeneration projects. As such, it did not deal further with the vision and strategic objectives. However, it was reported that the Mayor was sympathetic to the decision, and he considered that, subject to an early review, the proposed modifications (and resulting Local Plan) would be in conformity with the London Plan.

**4. Will it support the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with national policy?**

- 4.1 To assess whether the vision has been positively prepared the vision for the Borough will be assessed against guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF March 2012). Paragraph 151 of the NPPF refers to Local plans being prepared with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. To this end they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in the Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Paragraph 152 advises that opportunities should be sought to achieve each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and achieve net gains across all three. Paragraph 155 refers to a wide section of the community being proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of an area. All this encapsulates the notion of Local Plans supporting the delivery of sustainable development.

- 4.2 The Local Plan’s vision until 2028 has not fundamentally changed as a result of the LPPR. The three underlying principles of stimulating regeneration, enhancing the reputation of our national and international destinations and upholding our residential quality of life for everyone remain unchanged and together they address the economic social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Rather than solely concentrating on North Kensington the principle of stimulating regeneration is now borough wide with the provision of better transport, better housing and better facilities, aiding better health, but also a commitment for developing a strong and varied sense of place working in partnership with other organisations and more importantly, our residents. This principally covers the economic and social dimensions.

- 4.3 The vision provides the framework to meet and exceed the Borough's housing target, The Council remains committed to developing further a strong and varied sense of place in the Borough and to ensure a high quality of design which is also environmentally sustainable way so that future development is not only well integrated into its context but is energy efficient. In terms of employment the Council is committed to provide jobs that are readily available across the Borough in a range of new businesses. Underlying all of this is the desire to uphold the residential quality of life in the Borough and to ensure that it is improved for everyone.