

Owen Whalley
Divisional Director
Planning & Building Control
Place Directorate
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent
London
E14 2BG

24th July 2018

Dear Owen

London Borough of Tower Hamlets – Draft Local Plan

TfL is writing to you in its statutory planning role as the Strategic Transport Authority and as part of the GLA family to outline our overall support for the approach taken for the development of the draft Tower Hamlets Local Plan. As part of the Greater London Authorities Regulation 19 response, we raised no matters in terms of general conformity of the Local Plan. Please note that this response should not be taken to represent our commercial property interests. Separate representations are being sent in this respect.

TfL officers have been working with borough officers to assist in the development of the draft Local Plan since its inception, and we will continue to offer further advice to the borough on any further development. We are therefore supportive of the general approach that has been taken in terms of transport. It must be noted that some of the underlying assumptions and tools used for the modelling that underpins the Local Plan are different from TfL's, particularly in terms of the work undertaken for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar OAPF, and in this respect are not directly comparable, but this is not considered to raise any fundamental issues.

The Local Plan represents an opportunity to embed the three core principles set out within the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS). That is to create Healthy Streets to improve the quality of life for everyone in London; provide a good public transport experience, through a seamless 'whole-journey' experience that will provide an attractive alternative to using the car; and to support Good Growth in London by ensuring new development is in line with the principles of good growth e.g. through reducing car dependency. The Local Plan should

draw on these principles, as well as those set out within the new draft London Plan.

The delivery of good growth across the borough, particularly in terms of the Opportunity Areas, is a key challenge and opportunity in which transport will play a critical role throughout the plan period. We have worked closely with the borough in the development of the City Fringe OAPF, the Olympics' Legacy SPG and continue to work with you on the development of the Isle of Dogs OAPF. These all represent vital opportunities to embed and act as exemplars for the principles outlined above, including the continued development of Canary Wharf employment district as a new Metropolitan Town Centre within the new London Plan.

Critical to this will be the delivery of infrastructure across the borough. TfL and the GLA will continue to work with you and stakeholders to ensure we achieve the ambitious vision set out within the new MTS. The MTS' core aim is for 80 per cent of all trips in London to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041 – with this needing to be even higher in central/inner London and in Opportunity Areas. The delivery of both local infrastructure, such as the South Dock Bridge and proposed connections across the River Lea, as well as Strategic infrastructure such as the Elizabeth line will play a key role in this. In this respect, TfL also welcomes the borough's support for strategic infrastructure such as river crossing capacity, both in terms of the Silvertown Tunnel and proposed Rotherhithe - Canary Wharf Crossing, as well as the delivery of new, more spacious DLR trains.

We understand that the Local Plan, once adopted, will be subject to review within five years of adoption as required by Government legislation and as set out in Section 5 of the Plan, and this will address the context of changes to national planning policy and the London Plan. We understand that this will address any differences between the Local Plan and the London Plan in terms of car parking or ensuring that the Plan encourages people to travel by sustainable modes, as well as to walk or cycle shorter local journeys. We welcome this approach and welcome further discussion with the Council at this time.

We trust this letter provides a suitable level of comfort for the borough in the continued development of the Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Turner', written over a light grey rectangular background.

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