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Planning and Building Control
London Borough of Tower
Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London
E1 1BJ

16 February 2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

SUBMISSION OF THE TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL PLAN 2023 - 2038 TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXAMINATION

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is pleased to formally submit our Local Plan 2023-2038 under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 (as amended) alongside the required accompanying documents and supporting evidence for independent examination.

We consider that the Submission Draft Local Plan is sound and legally compliant.

All submitted documents are listed within the attached index: *Tower Hamlets Local Plan: 2038 Submission Documents Index* together with an accompanying reference number. All of these documents have been made publicly available through the Tower Hamlets website on a dedicated Local Plan Examination webpage accessible through the following link: [Local Plan Examination](#). Please let us know if you would like any of these to be provided in physical format.

Preparation of the draft new Local Plan

The Council has undertaken a number of stages of public consultation as part of the plan preparation process, as follows:

- Stage 0: Initial call for views.
- Stage 1: (Regulation 18) Draft New Local Plan
- Stage 2: (Regulation 19, 2024) Proposed submission Draft New Local Plan.
- Stage 3: (Regulation 19 Focused Policies, 2025) Proposed Submission Draft New Local Plan

It is worth noting that the Council published the proposed Submission Version Local Plan (pursuant to Regulation 19) twice, with the first publication taking place in Autumn/Winter 2024 and the second taking place in Summer 2025. The second regulation 19 publication was a focused consultation on a small number of policies to address representations received to the first regulation 19 publication. These policies would supersede the corresponding policies published as part of the earlier Regulation 19. To aid with the examination process a

'consolidated plan' (CSD03) has also been produced, which combines all policies from the initial regulation 19 publication, and replaces those which were updated in the second publication (CSD03). This represents the policies which the Council intends to be subject to examination. Representations, along with the Council's response to these, from both consultations have been made available in the appendices of the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement, as well as in spreadsheet format.

Modifications

Tower Hamlets Council requests Under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that the Inspector(s) recommend modifications needed to make the plan sound and legally compliant, if necessary. Please treat this letter as our formal request, required under the relevant legislation.

Statements of Common Ground

The Council has been working with individual stakeholders on Statements of Common Ground (SOCG), a number of which have now been agreed and signed. The outstanding SoCG's remain in the negotiation phase and the council endeavours to send these upon completion to the Planning Inspectorate in the following weeks. A schedule of the status of SoCG's can be found in the appendix to the Duty to Cooperate Statement.

Examination in Public Hearing Sessions

The Council estimates that we will need in the region of 10-15 sitting days for hearings. However, this is only an approximate estimate and will be dependent on the matters issues and queries identified by the appointed inspector.

The Council is currently planning to hold the Examination in Public within the Town Hall (our main council offices) located at 160 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1BJ. It is intended that they will be held in person, with potential for livestreaming if possible.

As mayoral elections will be taking place during the months of May and June, we expect that examination hearings will not commence until July at the earliest, to allow for the necessary 6-week notification of hearings following relevant members being briefed.

Programme Officer

Louise St John Howe has been appointed by the Council to act as Programme Officer during the Examination process. Her contact details are as follows:

Email: louise@poservices.co.uk

Telephone: 07789-486419

Post: PO Box 10965, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10

Submission Notification

Notification will be sent to all those who have commented on the Tower Hamlets Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft, requested to be kept informed of progress on the Local Plan, or have asked to be notified of when we have submitted the Local Plan for examination. We will also notify specific and general consultees.

We look forward to working with PINS and our allocated inspector(s) throughout the examination process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Palit', written in a cursive style.

Natalya Palit

Plan-making Manager

Email: natalya.palit@towerhamlets.gov.uk