

THE EXECUTIVE

11 MARCH 2003

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

THE COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DRAFT LONDON PLAN: EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>This report is presented to the Executive as it proposes that authority to make the Council's response to the draft London Plan be delegation to the Director of Leisure and Environmental Services.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The Executive approved the Authority's response to the Mayor for London's draft London Plan in October 2002. The draft London Plan is now at its next key stage, the Examination in Public (EiP). A Government appointed Panel will consider the draft London Plan and the comments it has generated. The EiP is scheduled to start on 3 March 2003 and end on 17 April 2003, although, the Council has the opportunity to make further representations to the Panel if appropriate.</p> <p>However, due to the tight deadlines involved in the process, it will be difficult to have all representations agreed by Members before they are put to the EiP Panel for its consideration.</p> <p>It is important to ensure that the Council's interests are fully considered by the EiP Panel. To do this effectively, Officers will need to be able to respond quickly to any requests for further information or points of clarification. The Executive is therefore asked to consider delegating the authority for the Council's participation in the EiP process to the Director of Leisure and Environmental Services (DLES), provided such representations accord with the Council's corporate policy objectives. Should it become appropriate to consider amending the Council's policy position, Officers will report this to the Executive for its consideration beforehand.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to delegate authority for the Council's participation in the draft London Plan EiP to the DLES, provided such representations accord with the Council's corporate policy objectives.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>The Council needs to make sure its interests are fully considered by the EiP Panel. To do this effectively, Officers need to be able to respond quickly to any requests for information from the EiP Panel. By delegating authority for this to DLES, Officers will be able to address the relevant issues without needing to report to the Executive. However, this delegation will only be exercised where it accords with the Council's corporate policy objectives.</p>		
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1. Background

The Mayor of London is currently in the process of preparing the London Plan. The London Plan must go through a statutory consultation process. So far, the Mayor has published 2 versions of his Plan; "Towards a London Plan" published in May 2001 and then the "draft London Plan", published in June 2002. The Executive approved the Council's response to the draft London Plan on 8 October 2002. Having now received all of the comments on the Plan, the Mayor has arranged for the EiP to begin on 3 March 2003.

2. The Examination in Public (EiP)

- 2.1 The issues to be considered at the EiP are determined by the Panel (as opposed to either the Mayor or any of the respondents). The EiP is not a review of all the proposals in the draft London Plan. It is a way of ensuring that there is public discussion of those major strategic issues of concern where the panel considers that an examination could provide it with more information.
- 2.2 The Panel has already indicated its intention to invite LB Barking and Dagenham to appear at the EiP on 2 matters. Firstly, in relation to East London and the Thames Gateway and secondly, on Parking Strategy. The Council will therefore be represented around the table when these issues are considered.
- 2.3 However, the Council does have the opportunity of making further written submissions (max 2000 words) on any of the other matters to be considered by the Panel. Officers are currently considering which issues may need further written comments made.
- 2.4 Given the tight deadlines and the need to respond quickly to any points that the EiP Panel raises, Officers need to be able to make written and verbal representations on the Council's behalf without direct Member approval. Provided such representations accord with the Council's corporate policy objectives, it is appropriate to allow DLES to determine how best to respond to the EiP on the Council's behalf. This approach is commonplace in other London local authorities.

3. Conclusion

It is important to make sure that Barking and Dagenham is effectively represented throughout the draft London Plan EiP process. To do this, DLES will require delegated authority to determine how best to respond to the EiP Panel's requests for information.

Background Papers

- Barking and Dagenham Unitary Development Plan, 1996.
- Mayor's draft London Plan
- EiP Panel's "Notes for Participants"