

Appendix: Socio Economics

Annex 1: Socio-Economics Planning Policy Context

Annex 2: Education and Healthcare Facilities within Local Impact Area



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A Final Report by Hatch
October 2021

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National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework, 2021

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. The latest iteration of the NPPF was published in 2021 and states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.2 The NPPF advocates Sustainable Development and this should be reflected by the emerging local plan and be informed by robust evidence to support clearly defined allocations for land for employment.
- 1.3 The framework states that housing provisions should be reflective of current and future demographic trends and market signals i.e. size, type, tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community. Where major development involving the provision of housing is proposed, planning policies and decisions should expect at least 10% of the total number of homes to be available for affordable home ownership.
- 1.4 Furthermore, NPPF identifies several key principles in relation to building a strong, competitive economy and creating the conditions which can support businesses' expansion. In this regard, it recommends identifying strategic sites which can match this strategy and encourage sustainable economic growth.
- 1.5 Good design is also identified as a key aspect of sustainable development which has the potential to create better and healthier places in which to live and work. New developments are encouraged to include public space and to support local facilities, which can further support the integration of these new developments with existing businesses and communities.
- 1.6 Local planning authorities are further encouraged to promote healthy communities by supporting developments which provide social infrastructure, such as education facilities within the local area.

National Planning Practice Guidance, 2018

- 1.7 The Practice Guidance provides a methodology for assessing economic development needs. It states that plan makers should liaise closely with the business community to understand their current and potential future requirements.
- 1.8 Guidance for the effective use of land states that where a planning application is submitted, local planning authorities will need to consider whether the proposed development would have an unreasonable impact on the daylight and sunlight levels enjoyed by neighbouring occupiers, as well as assessing whether daylight and sunlight within the development itself will provide satisfactory living conditions for future occupants.

Regional Planning Policy

The London Plan, 2021

- 1.9 The 2021 London Plan sets out the Mayor's vision for London and outlines the strategic approach to economic, social, environmental, cultural, housing and transport development in London over the next 20 to 25 years. It is a spatial development strategy which covers London's 32 boroughs and the Corporation of the City of London.
- 1.10 It places an emphasis on good growth, referring to sustainable growth that works for everyone. The approach frames economic growth by its potential to improve the health and quality of life of all Londoners, to reduce inequalities and to make the city a better place to live, work and visit. Each policy area in the New Plan is informed by six Good Growth policies:
 - Building strong and inclusive communities;
 - Making the best use of land;
 - Creating a healthy city;
 - Delivering the homes Londoners need;
 - Growing a good economy; and
 - Increasing efficiency and resilience
- 1.11 The New London Plan recognises the importance of consolidating office provision in London, especially in town centres, to accommodate and support the projected growth in office employment (see Policy E1: Offices, para. 6.1.3).
- 1.12 The New London Plan also emphasises the important role of cultural facilities, such as music venues, in providing opportunities for all Londoners to experience and get involved in culture, stating that the capital's culture and creative sector delivers "both economic and social benefits for the capital", such as building strong communities, increasing healthy life outcomes and generating civic pride (see Policy HC5: Supporting London's culture and creative industries).
- 1.13 Policy G4 states development proposals should not result in the loss of protected open space and where possible create areas of publicly accessible open space, particularly in areas of deficiency.
- 1.14 Development and regeneration proposals for an area provide an opportunity to re-think how land and buildings are used and whether there is a more optimal configuration or use of that land. The co-location of facilities with other uses, such as other forms of social infrastructure or housing, is encouraged to use land more efficiently and to enable a more integrated service delivery (see Policy S2: Health and Social care facilities, para. 5.2.8-9).
- 1.15 Policy H1 sets the ten-year targets for net housing completions that each local planning authority should plan for. According to this policy, the LBTH should aim for 34,730 net housing completions in the period 2019-2029. This is the highest housing target of all London Boroughs and emphasises the role LBTH is expected to have in contributing to overall housing delivery across London.

Mayor's Economic Development Strategy, 2018

- 1.16 The Mayor's Economic Development Strategy sets out a plan to grow London's economy, support businesses, boost innovation and create a fairer, more inclusive economy that works for all Londoners.
- 1.17 The strategy recognises the importance of tourism for the capital, and pledges to improve the "visitor experience" by continuing to develop its tourism offer and focusing on the quality of visitor infrastructure and amenities.
- 1.18 Educational and lifelong learning is highlighted as an important input for a more inclusive economy. To this end, the document states that the mayor will invest in new spaces for learning to improve the quality of the learning environment for students. Similarly, the strategy is committed to continuing investing in community and social infrastructure such as schools, health services and green spaces, as well as cultural facilities to build inclusive communities.

London Environment Strategy, 2018

- 1.19 The London Environment Strategy sets out a plan to reduce air pollution with an aspiration to turn London into a zero carbon city by 2050. As well as cleaning up toxic air, it places importance on creating new green spaces where most needed within the city.
- 1.20 The strategy recognises the gradual loss of green space across London in recent years, as well as the imbalance in provision of green space in different parts of London. It states 'almost half of Londoners have poor access to parks' and that the quality of parks has declined as Council budgets have become tighter. It highlights the benefits of quality green space on people's health, quality of life and attractiveness of London as a place to 'live, visit and do business'.
- 1.21 One of the aims from the strategy is for London to be the world's first National Park City, where 'more than half of its area is green' and the 'natural environment is protected and the network of green infrastructure is managed to benefit all Londoners.'
- 1.22 The strategy recognises that Areas of Deficiency in Access in Public Open Space (AoD) have reduced in recent years in London, particularly in large regeneration areas like Kings Cross and the Olympic Park. Where there is no space to create new parks so planning guidelines have promoted the creation of pocket parks and other small open spaces less than 400m from where people live.
- 1.23 The London Plan includes policies that ensure any development outside of the protected green space network, including gardens, does not lead to an overall loss of green cover (proposal 5.1.1.b).

Local Planning Policy

Tower Hamlets Plan 2031

- 1.24 The Tower Hamlets Plan sets out how the London Borough will grow and develop until 2031. It identifies how many new homes, jobs and services are needed to support the area's growing population and where and how they should be provided.
- 1.25 Key strategic objectives are:

- **Managing the growth and shaping change;** Growth must contribute positively to existing needs and be delivered alongside appropriate social and transport infrastructure. As well as this growth must be balanced, well designed, optimise the use of the best available technological innovations, and enhance the environment and well-being of Tower Hamlets residents.
- **Sharing the benefits of growth;** Growth must deliver social, economic and environmental net gains jointly and simultaneously, promote community cohesion, enable community leadership and engagement as well as bring an improved quality of life, health benefits and reduce health inequalities.

- 1.26 The plan also sets out the policies to maximise the supply of housing in the borough to meet both local and strategic needs. It states that in the period 2016-2031 a minimum of 54,889 additional homes will be built, which is greater than the objectively assessed need of 46,458 homes. Of this total, 21,100 dwellings will be affordable (representing 45% of the overall need).
- 1.27 Section 4 of the Tower Hamlets Plan 2031 establishes the Vision for Lower Lea Valley. It states that by 2031, "the Lower Lea Valley will experience comprehensive regeneration and redevelopment of former and underused industrial areas. Connectivity will be transformed with a series of new bridges and riverside walkways across the River Lea, and crossings along the A12 and A13, which will integrate existing and new communities in the area. The development of the Lea River Park (including the Leaway) will provide a new strategic publicly green space and a series of new pedestrian and cycling routes, linking the River Lea to London's wider green grid network. Development in the area will have sufficient transport and social infrastructure to facilitate the creation of thriving mixed communities alongside vibrant neighbourhood centres. Housing provision will be accelerated through the Poplar Riverside Housing Zone and delivered alongside new local employment, enterprise and business opportunities."
- 1.28 Development in the Lower Lea Valley will be required to accommodate the following uses to meet the future needs of the borough: a minimum of 5,478 residential units, 755 office jobs, 1,023 industrial jobs, a primary school, a secondary school, 1.4ha of open space as well as retail and leisure floorspace.

Tower Hamlets Growth and Economic Development Plan 2018-2023

- 1.29 The draft Growth and Economic Development Plan is a short-term strategy for Tower Hamlets that identifies the policies required to create a borough that delivers sustainable and inclusive economic growth in a way that enables residents and businesses to prosper.
- 1.30 The Plan examines the challenges facing Tower Hamlets and sets out three priorities in order to overcome these difficulties. These priorities are **preparing young people for success, helping working age residents thrive** and **creating the conditions for business growth**.
- 1.31 Despite Tower Hamlets exceeding the national average in terms of educational attainment at secondary level, the borough does experience excellent progress of sustained employment for young people. The Plan aims to alleviate this problem by equipping young people with tools to help them make the right decisions in their pursuit of further education, training and/or employment. It also aims to pilot a programme of careers education early in secondary school, before critical options and choices are made.
- 1.32 There is also a mismatch between residents' skills and the jobs available in the borough and beyond Tower Hamlets. The Plan outlines how the Growth and Economic Development

Partnership Board will work with employers and training partners to identify areas of skills shortage in the borough and create a pipeline of willing and able employees.

- 1.33 The Plan sets to improve the conditions for business growth by implementing a programme of business support for Tower Hamlets businesses and entrepreneurs, developing a Workspace Strategy to inform the provision of workspace in new developments and establishing a High Street and Town Centres Strategy that details a programme of support for the borough's town centres and high streets.

