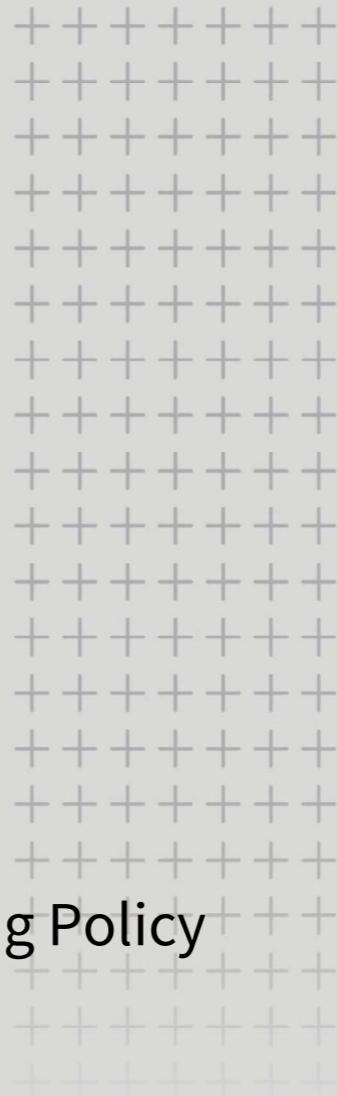


Appendix: Socio-Economics

Annex 1: Planning Policy Context

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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, which should be a 'golden thread' running through both plan-making and decision taking.
- 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. In relation to economic and employment land it states the following:
- 1.3 *"A competitive economy requires a planning system which operates to encourage (and not impede) sustainable growth, and the NPPF places weight on the need to support economic growth through the planning system."*
- 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. 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, 2021

- 1.6 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.

Regional planning policy

The London Plan, 2021

- 1.7 The Mayor's London Plan (2021) 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 London 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.
- 1.8 The 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).
- 1.9 The 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).

Mayor's Economic Development Strategy, 2018

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.

Local Policy

Southwark Core Strategy, 2011

- 1.13 The 2011 Core Strategy is a planning document setting out how LB Southwark will change up to 2026 and includes the underlying vision, spatial strategy and strategic policies. The strategic

policies are focused around several themes including sustainable development, transport, retail and recreational offer, affordable and private housing, jobs and businesses and open space.

- 1.14 To maintain the borough's economic vibrancy, the Core Strategy's goal for the Bankside, Borough and London Bridge Opportunity Area is to deliver 25,000 net new jobs by 2026, providing for a mix of uses providing high quality office accommodation alongside world-class retail, tourism, culture and entertainment facilities and public spaces (see para. 4.7).
- 1.15 The Core Strategy also lays out a strategic objective to create a liveable public realm (see Strategic Objective 2E: A liveable public realm), which highlights the need for more, high-quality public realm and open space improvements around London Bridge station.
- 1.16 Across the Core strategy, consideration is also given to tall buildings and the role new developments can play in improving public space, people's quality of life, and attracting businesses to the area, and identifies the area around London Bridge (within the Bankside, Borough and London Bridge Opportunity Area) to be ideally suited for tall buildings (see para. 5.110).

Draft New Southwark Plan, 2018

- 1.17 The proposed submission version of the New Southwark Plan (NSP) was submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2020. It sets out the borough's planning and regeneration strategy up to 2033 and once adopted, it will replace the saved Southwark Plan policies and the Core Strategy.
- 1.18 Like the Core Strategy, it sets out a vision and specific strategies for different areas of the borough. In the London Bridge area, the Plan recommends that new developments:
 - *“Attract global commerce with headquarter and local offices and build on its reputation for arts and crafts, food and trade while serving local needs through its town center role”;*
 - *“Support the creation of a distinctive and inspiring world class environment through a mix of inspiring new architecture, restored and reactivated warehouses and other heritage revealed with ‘placemarks’, public art and quality public realm that provides openness, connectivity and a ‘green grid’. Greenery and innovations in environmental resilience should be incorporated into buildings”;* and
 - *“support the development of vibrant new high streets on St Thomas Street” (see para. AV.10.2).*

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