

**Examination - London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)
Local Plan 2015 to 2031
Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 10am**

Opening Statement

Alex Savine, Head of Planning Policy

The Legacy Corporation welcomes the examination of the Local Plan as submitted in November 2014.

The purpose and remit of the LLDC and approach to developing the Local Plan

It is important to emphasise the context in which the Local Plan has been prepared, with the Legacy Corporation being the first development corporation in its role as a local planning authority to prepare a Local Plan for its area in the same way that any other London Borough would and also the first Mayoral Development Corporation. With a relatively small geographical area and with a significant proportion of that area available for new development, along with the opportunities presented by the legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Local Plan seeks to embed an unprecedented level and concentration of growth into the existing surrounding communities of east London as they themselves develop and change. Along with the uniqueness of the area and distinctiveness of its different neighbourhoods, it is also important to emphasise the corporate role of the Legacy Corporation in delivering new sustainable development and working with its partners to deliver projects and infrastructure, including new schools, that will benefit not only those who live within its area but surrounding communities too. Playing a part in achieving 'convergence', that those communities who hosted the 2012 Games will have the same social and economic chances as their neighbours across London by 2030', is a key overarching corporate objective which drives its activities and projects and programmes.

In this context the Local Plan seeks to balance a wide range of interests and ambitions, while building on the significant previous efforts to plan for and implement change and growth. Elements of four core strategies, two area action plans and the Mayor of London's Olympic Legacy Supplementary Planning Guidance (2012) have previously captured much of this. This previous work has been reviewed and where necessary evidence has been updated or replaced to produce a single Local Plan which builds on but also takes a fresh approach to planning for the area, balancing different policy perspectives where this has been considered necessary. It attempts to do this in a proportionate way, addressing

particular policy issues and planning for infrastructure within the context of the four boroughs for which the Legacy Corporation account for 4.27% of their total land area and approximately 1% of current population.

The Local Plan reflects the corporate vision and purpose of the Legacy Corporation, with the vision being expressed in a specific and spatial way. This purpose being *“to use the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of the London 2012 Games and the creation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to develop a dynamic new heart for east London, creating opportunities for local people and driving innovation and growth in London and the UK.”*

It is considered that this approach, developed through the various consultation stages which have been undertaken, presents an appropriate balance between the meeting of strategic need, accommodating housing and business growth within London as a whole, while meeting needs at an east London and a neighbourhood scale in a way that is both viable and deliverable. In the identification of relevant policy approaches and appropriate levels of new infrastructure, the Legacy Corporation considers that the Plan strikes the right balance.

Consultation and Duty to Cooperate

The Local Plan has been through three formal stages of consultation, as detailed in the Consultation Report, August 2014 (LD/17) and supplemented by Consultation Report, November 2014 (LD/18). This has included a wide range of less formal consultation and engagement with the existing Legacy Corporation communities, representative groups, landowners and those seeking to bring forward development within the area. It is considered that this meets the requirements set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Formal structures and processes for involvement of the four boroughs and other relevant authorities and statutory bodies have also been central to the development of the Local Plan. These are summarised, along with the approach to relevant strategic and cross boundary issues within the Duty to Cooperate Background Paper (TBP/03). Again, this range of involvement and consultation is considered to have helped the Local Plan to strike the right balance within its overall strategy for the area and subsequently for the detailed policies that then flow from this.

Conformity with the NPPF and London Plan

The Local Plan as a whole is considered by the Legacy Corporation to plan positively and sustainably for the development of its area and to have otherwise have met the requirements of the NPPF, with the Soundness Self-assessment (LD/23) specifically setting out how the Plan is considered to conform. The GLA have also confirmed that the Local Plan is in general conformity with the London Plan (LD/25).

Legal and procedural requirements

The Legal Compliance Self-assessment (LD/24) sets out in detail how the Legacy Corporation considers that it has met the legal and procedural requirements for preparation of the Local Plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan carried out at each formal stage and likewise an Equalities Impact Assessment, with recommendations taken into account appropriately.

Conclusion

With the minor amendments and corrections identified (Documents LD26/LD29), the Legacy Corporation considers that it has a sound and positive plan which provides sufficient flexibility in its approach to adapt to the potential changes in circumstances over the plan period to 2031 while embedding core principles established in previous Local Plans, strategic planning permissions, the London Plan and the Mayor of London's Olympic Legacy Supplementary Planning Guidance. It is considered that the plan will help to ensure that the planned change will contribute positively to the wider achievement of convergence in East London, reinforce the areas developing role a centre of metropolitan importance and become an area in London of international significance. It is hoped, given this that you will be able to conclude through the Examination process that the Legacy Corporation Local Plan is sound, positively prepared and legally compliant. Where it is concluded that there are modification necessary to achieve this conclusion, these will as previously indicated, be accepted and incorporated by the Legacy Corporation.