

Decision Maker: **Development Control Committee**

Date: **31st August 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **THE MAYOR OF LONDON'S STATEMENT ON THE LONDON
PLAN TARGETS**

Contact Officer: Stephanie Turner, Planner
Tel: 020 8313 4477 E-mail: stephanie.turner@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Bob McQuillan

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

To advise Members of the Development Control Committee of the Mayors Statement to the Examination regarding London Plan targets.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members to note the report and consider whether the Council should make further representations (which are set out in Appendix 2) to the Mayor regarding the targets contained within the London Plan.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. (amended)
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Planning
 4. Total current budget for this head: £3.3m
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 98
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough wide
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 On the 6th July 2010, The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon Mr Eric Pickles confirmed in a written parliamentary statement that Regional Strategies will be revoked with immediate effect. He considers that this will give Councils the freedom to prepare local plans without having to follow top down targets which have in the past threatened the Green Belt.
- 3.2 Regional Spatial Strategies have been revoked through Section 79 (6) of the 2009 Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act and will therefore no longer form part of the development Plan under Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Therefore;
- The policy statement on regional strategies (Feb 2009) is now cancelled
 - References to regional strategies in policy statements are no longer valid
- 3.3 The guidance that accompanies the Parliamentary Statement advises that the London Plan will continue to provide the planning framework for London boroughs. The guidance states that as part of a wider process of decentralisation in London, the Government are reviewing how powers and discretion can be shifted downwards from central Government to the Mayor and Assembly, to London Boroughs and to local neighbourhoods. This will include reviewing scope for devolving power from the Greater London Authority down to the Boroughs and below.
- 3.4 There is no longer a requirement for the London Plan to set targets. However, the Government has stated that “if the Mayor chooses to propose targets on particular matters, this will be a matter for him and London Partners to consider”
- 3.5 The GLA has responded to the parliamentary statement in a statement to the Examination in Public on behalf of the Mayor (attached as Appendix 1). The Mayor supports the retention of the majority of the targets which are contained within the draft replacement London Plan. However, there are changes proposed to the targets set out in Policy 5.7 (installed energy capacity generated from renewables); Policy 5.20 (target for aggregates to be provided) and policy 3.9 (gypsy and traveller pitch provision). An early alteration is proposed to the plan with regards to housing targets.

Policy 5.7 renewable energy

Table 5.1 which contains targets for installed energy capacity generation by renewables will be removed and an updated table will be published as supplementary guidance.

Policy 5.20 Aggregates

The Mayor intends to set a more realistic and achievable target for aggregates to be provided. This target however only relates to six boroughs (Havering, Redbridge, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond)

Policy 3.9 Gypsies and travellers (including travelling show people)

The Mayor intends to replace Policy 3.9 and Table 3.4 which sets out the target for gypsy traveller pitch provision with a different policy approach that will enable boroughs and stakeholders to meet required needs in the light of local circumstances.

A set of minor alterations relating to aggregates and gypsy traveller pitch provision will be published in September and will be the subject of public consultation. Therefore consideration

of Policies 3.9 and 5.20 will be postponed to allow for the consultation of these minor alterations to take place.

Policy 3.3 Housing Supply

The Mayor supports the continued retention of the housing supply targets and states that planning for housing in London is more than a local issue. However, he also states that now that the Government has removed the prescriptive requirements about how targets should be drawn up and tested there are better and more inclusive ways of preparing the next round of targets that better reflect the particular needs and circumstances of London. Over the next 2 years, the Mayor will work with boroughs and other stakeholders to develop and implement an approach that meets these objectives, builds in a more bottom up, participative and consensual approach and will prepare an early alteration to the plan using this approach.

- 3.6 The Council has already responded to the draft alterations to the London Plan and has objected to the proposed housing targets (see DCC report October 2010). A written statement explaining the Council’s objection to the housing targets has also been submitted to the GLA for consideration at the Examination in Public.
- 3.7 Whilst the Mayor’s planned review of the housing targets can be welcomed, Members may consider that, having regard to the recent parliamentary statement, all proposed targets need to be reviewed prior to the adoption of the new London Plan or removed from the Plan altogether. At Appendix 2 are some suggestions for further representations members may wish to make to amplify the Council’s objections.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The draft alterations to the London Plan is the subject of an Examination in Public which is taking place between Sept- Oct 2010. Following this, a new London Plan will be published to replace the current 2008 London Plan. The new London Plan will form part of the Development Plan for all London Boroughs. It will set the framework for preparing our own Local Development Framework which will in due course replace the existing Unitary Development Plan. Bromley’s Core Strategy when prepared will be required to conform to the London Plan.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Financial, Legal, Personnel
Background Documents	<p>The London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London) Consultation draft replacement plan; October 2009.</p> <p>Report to DCC 1st Dec 2009 “Consultation on the Draft Replacement London Plan”</p> <p>Parliamentary Statement revoking Regional Strategies 6th July 2010</p> <p>Statement to the EIP on behalf of the Mayor of London 20th July 2010</p>