

# Bexleyheath Business Improvement District comments

Page: [Draft New London Plan](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

Following feedback from our 200+ businesses in the Bexleyheath BID area we wish to make these general comments on their behalf. Generally speaking the plan is welcomed and we are pleased to see that Town Centres, Retail, NTE and BIDs are a present theme throughout the draft.

We raise real concern as to the term 'Londoners' used by the GLA and Mayors office. Most of our consumers and businesses align themselves as Kent residents rather than London and this needs consideration. To label any resident within a London Borough as a Londoner is borderline stereotyping and not accurate. The uses and needs of infrastructure, transport and services widely vary in different parts of London and in particular Bexley.

Transport is a key issue locally and to hear that all Londoners could make 80% journeys by means other than private car ownership may work for some parts but not all of London. Whilst it is generally quite easy to travel in and out of Central locations it is not so to travel cross Borough or beyond Greater London. It is felt that consideration should be taken within this plan to understand the needs of each Borough and their accessibility and travel needs. A simplistic plan around Zone 1 - 6 could be a solution. Furthermore the mention of high densification and development of housing around town centres is again welcomed but consideration and local planning should be considered in this framework. Having more residents in a town is great but we still require parking facilities for staff, consumers and those residents whom do own a vehicle without impacting what the essentials of running a business.

We are particularly pleased to see town centre Health checks, input and support passed back to the local authorities to consider each town centre in its own right and not blanket cover them all under one strategy/plan. However the plan does not mention how this is to be implemented or funded and we fear that this could be open to local interpretation. For example town centres that have a BID could be asked by the authority to fund these actions rather than action them directly. Far too often BIDs are being asked to undertake tasks and projects that are not able to prove additionality to any baseline services and this could prove to be another of these problematic areas.

It is good to see that Policy HC6 Supporting the night-time economy does not confine the night-time economy to central London. Bexleyheath, for example, is a centre for the night-time economy within southeast London, with restaurants, pubs, bars, and nightclubs attracting a wide range of people from across the region. We welcome the identification of Bexleyheath in Figure 7.7 as a cluster of nighttime activity; however the designation as only 'more than local' significance is inaccurate. Bexleyheath has a sub-regional significance, and it is requested that it be designated as NT2 Regional/Sub-regional in Figure 7.7 and also in Table A1.1 of Annex 1.

We welcome this opportunity to provide our feedback and look forward to hearing feedback during the public enquiry.

Page: [Policy SD6 Town centres](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

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Page: [Policy HC6 Supporting the night-time economy](#)

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Page: [Chapter 10 Transport](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

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