

HGH comments

QPR Football Club (pgrincell@hghplanning.co.uk)

Page: [Draft New London Plan](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

Representations to the New Draft London Plan

We act on behalf of Queens Park Rangers Football Club (QPR) and have been asked to review the New Draft London Plan on their behalf to assess the impact of the proposed policies. As drafted, there are a number of areas in the New Draft where QPR considers amendments should be made and these are set out below.

Background

QPR was founded in 1882 and has been based in West London since this time, with the current Ground at Loftus Road, Hammersmith and Fulham. Beyond Loftus Road, QPR also operates its first team and academy training facilities out of sites in Hillingdon and Hounslow, and has plans to develop a new facility in Ealing.

In addition, to its focus on professional sport, QPR is very active in the local community. The QPR in the Community Trust works in partnership with communities, to develop an inclusive range of sporting, educational, cultural and social opportunities, improving the quality of life for individuals and neighbourhoods.

Whilst QPR's primary focus is on its people and its community, it does need fully functional venues and facilities from which to operate effectively. Unfortunately, Loftus Road is no longer fit for modern purpose and is incapable of expansion or economic refurbishment. QPR has made no secret of its need to relocate to a new Ground with an increased capacity. In addition, its training, academy and community facilities all need upgrading and its plans to relocate to a new facility will require significant investment.

QPR is committed to being a West London Club, not only delivering professional sport, but also working with its local community to provide sport, education, training and opportunities for participation for all. The Mayor of London can play a major role in supporting these activities and the policies of the New Draft London Plan could have a significant influence on the long-term future and success of QPR. It is in this context that the following representations are made.

Professional sports

Policy 4.6 of the current London Plan provides support for the continued success of London's professional sporting enterprises and recognises the cultural, social and economic benefits that they offer to its residents, workers and visitors. However, this recognition of the importance of 'professional sport' has been lost from the New Draft and should be reinstated.

The presence of the many professional sporting clubs, including QPR, within London represents a significant economic, social and cultural asset and one that should be celebrated and supported. The New Draft Plan should recognise this and incorporate a new policy stating the Mayor's continued support for the activities of these clubs at all levels from their core professional activities through to the grass roots work they undertake with local communities.

Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities

Paragraph 5.5.5 of the New Draft does acknowledge that specialist sporting venue and stadiums have a role to play in providing facilities and enabling wider access to sport, as well as having an important cultural value. However, this should go further to acknowledge that these facilities are essential in delivering professional sport in London and their retention and enhancement should be encouraged. Furthermore, it should also acknowledge that these facilities, particularly training grounds, take up large areas with sports pitches and associated buildings, often in London's Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), that are essential to the function of the clubs and that need to be maintained and enhanced to ensure the successful operation of each club.

Draft Policy S5 itself fails to acknowledge the importance of professional sport and the role it plays. As such, the Draft Policy S5 should be amended as follows:

Category A – the first sentence should be amended to include the words in bold italics:

In order to ensure there is sufficient supply of good quality sports and recreation facilities **for all levels from professional sport through to the grass roots levels**, boroughs should: ...

Category B should include a new sub-category:

***) recognise the importance of professional sport in London and seek to promote facilities and an environment where it can continue to thrive.**

Category C should be amended to include the following wording at the end of the existing paragraph:

...balanced against the ‘very special circumstances’ that could arise from the need for the facilities, their importance for promoting either professional or grass roots sport and the benefits that can arise for promoting development in that location.

Policy G2 London’s Green Belt

Draft Policy G2 reiterates the importance of the Green Belt and states that it should be protected from inappropriate development. However, it fails to acknowledge that in 'very special circumstances' inappropriate development may be allowed. This is important in the context of the comments above in connection with professional sport. The current London Plan includes such reference in Policy 7.16 B and the New Draft Policy G2 should also be amended to reflect this.

Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land

The comments for G2 above also apply here and the wording of G3 should also be amended accordingly.

We trust the forgoing comments are clear and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss them further. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any queries.

Yours faithfully

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