

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
GLA City Hall
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19 December 2016

Dear Mr Khan

RESPONSE TO THE 'A CITY FOR ALL LONDONERS' MAYORAL STATEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to respond with views on the above document. Whilst we understand that you are not consulting on the statement as such, Environment Agency staff attended a number of the November 2016 workshops associated with the document's launch. We therefore hope that it would be helpful to reiterate our views, expressed at these workshops.

Headline comments

- 'A City for all Londoners' expresses an ambitious and aspirational vision, focussed on a theme of social equity and opportunity for all Londoners and we welcome it. We recognise that it is strategic and high level, and we are happy to continue to support your team, as they develop the details and evidence underpinning the vision, through your plans and strategies during 2017 and beyond.
- Some of London's key environmental challenges are recognised. We agree that resilience to the effects of climate change is vital to the health and well-being of all Londoners. The aims to tackle poor air quality, and aim for a low carbon economy are laudable. Equally vital is the need to ensure that Londoners are safe from the risks of flooding, have secure water supply and means of waste water treatment, that London's capacity to deal with its own waste is maximised, that all have access to 'green' London, and that nature is supported.
- We fully support your call for an integrated, multi-functional, approach to the environment and environmental infrastructure, and a collaborative approach to its co-delivery with other infrastructure.
- The ambition for 'good growth' is welcome, and it is clear that the intention is to develop a 'green city', which is accessible to all. Realisation of the aims for a resilient, healthy London will rely upon innovative solutions, and on an integrated approach to 'green' infrastructure when developing 'grey' infrastructure. The principles and

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objectives of 'good growth' also need to be applied to resolve environmental challenges in existing London, potentially through retrofit programmes.

- We welcome your intention to work with infrastructure providers to develop a common strategic investment programme for the capital covering transport, water, energy, waste, green infrastructure and digital. The Environment Agency will continue to support this programme with advice and data moving forward.
- You are looking beyond London's boundaries, and are planning to agree joint infrastructure investment corridors with the wider south east. London's population growth will have consequences for investment in environmental infrastructure, and mechanisms for collaboration, both inside and outside London. As a key environmental stakeholder, we welcome the opportunity to engage at a technical level with that cross-boundary conversation. An example of this is around the potential sites that will need to be secured for a new Thames Barrier that although outside of London itself, will be critical to London's future as a resilient world city.
- In our view, London's waste is under-represented in the document. There is an established policy objective for London to be net self-sufficient in managing its waste by 2026, although the delivery of this objective has its challenges. Further, pressure for other forms of development may 'out-price' and displace sites handling waste, and the co-existence of housing development adjacent to waste sites will not provide an environment consistent with 'good growth'.
- Land Contamination is also under-represented in the document. We agree that it is a complicated challenge for housing development, especially within the designated growth areas. Contamination might tailor expectations of development quantum, timing and density. We anticipate that you might identify your expectations through the London Plan, and other Mayoral strategies.

I hope these comments are helpful as intended. If your teams have any queries please contact the co-ordinator of our response, Stephen Walker, Principal Officer (Planning and Sustainable Development), London Team, Environment Agency, Tel: 07557 205536, or e-mail: steve.walker@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Simon Moody
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Environment Agency