

A CITY FOR ALL LONDONERS - CONSULTATION RESPONSE BY IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

Imperial College London welcomes the Mayor publishing his vision and his ambitions for the capital, contained within 'A City for all Londoners'.

There is a great deal within the document to support and the ambitions are laudable. Those which are particularly supported by Imperial College London are identified below, before then going on to set out how higher education and research institutions fit within the vision, with examples of the roles that they can and do play. This response concludes by listing eight recommendations that Imperial College London asks the Mayor to consider as a first step going forward.

Support by Imperial College London for the Vision

Imperial College London wishes to register its particular support for the following ambitions contained within 'A City for all Londoners':

- **Part 1 – Mayoral aims for Accommodating Growth**
 - The need to intensify development across the City: it is vital in a constrained urban area to optimise the use of land that has already been developed, in order to protect our open spaces.
 - The promise to be the most pro-business Mayor yet: this is needed if London is to continue to be a success.
 - Encouraging a compact and well-connected city with more cycling, walking and public transport to reduce dependency on cars.
 - Intensifying development around well connected transport modes: this is not simply in respect of town centres, but should look to make best use of the most accessible land.
 - The desire to accelerate development within the Opportunity Areas.
 - Investing in public transport.
- **Part 2 - Mayoral aims for Housing**
 - The recognition that the shortage of housing that is affordable is acting as a drag on the attractiveness of London as a place to live and work. Whilst Imperial College London does not think that moving back to a requirement for 50% of new homes to be affordable will work and will actually act as a deterrent on all development, reducing the amount of housing being brought forward overall, it does think that more need to be done. Two solutions that should form part of the approach are set out as the fifth and sixth actions requested by Imperial College London at the end of this submission.
 - The encouragement being given to rented homes. In particular there does indeed need to be greater recognition of the different economics faced by PRS development.

- **Part 3 - Mayoral aims for Economy**

- The support given to growth sectors such as tech, creative, media and life sciences. Imperial College London would suggest that research and engineering should be added to this list.
- The encouragement given to entrepreneurs to successfully start and scale up new businesses in the Capital.
- The openness to people and ideas from around the world.
- The promotion of London's top business credentials.
- The desire to improve education post-16 within the Capital.
- Supporting small and medium sized businesses. However, care needs to be taken with plans outlined for requiring some business space to subsidise other business space.

- **Part 4 - Mayoral aims for Environment, Transport and Public Space**

- Improving the health of Londoners.
- Making sure that the city remains attractive to people in businesses from around the world.
- Taking advantage of smart technologies.
- The promotion of a lower carbon economy.
- Improving air quality.
- Shifting towards a more affordable, lower carbon energy system and more energy efficient buildings. Minds need to be kept open to explore innovative ways of achieving this, with flexibility to allow different approaches.
- The creation of more cycle 'super highways' and 'quiet ways', as well as the promotion of cycling more generally.
- The recognition that higher density development is needed.
- The desire not to diminish the city's historic environment and protected heritage assets.
- Achieving inclusive neighbourhoods that are accessible to all.
- The desire for a fairer equal city, regardless of nationality, colour, faith, gender, sexual orientation or age.

The broad objectives outlined within the document, including those identified above which Imperial College London particularly support, are worthwhile and ambitious aims that most people in London should be able to get behind. As the Mayor acknowledges, many will be challenging.

The Mayor needs to recognise that the higher education and research sectors, and organisations such as Imperial College London in particular, can play a role in helping to meet many of the Mayor's ambitions. The subsection below identifies how the work and approach of Imperial College London fits within the vision, with examples of the roles that it can and does play, before going on to set out eight recommended actions.

The Need to Recognise Higher Education and Research Institutions

It is disappointing that nowhere within 'A City for all Londoners' is there any recognition or even reference to higher education and research institutions, such as Imperial College London.

At the end of the Executive Summary the Mayor states that he will work constructively with 'any other organisation that wants to join me in the interests of Londoners'. Imperial College London is one such organisation, many of whose own ambitions and aims dovetail with the Mayor's. Imperial College London does so much more than teach undergraduates. To help illustrate this and facilitate a better understanding, some explanation of its activities and approach is provided below, where it is directly relevant to the Mayor's ambitions within 'A City for all Londoners'.

Imperial College London's mission 'is to achieve enduring excellence in research and education in science, engineering, medicine and business for the benefit of society'. It is a global research driven organisation that seeks to address challenges in the future within these areas, by making discoveries, educating leaders and developing innovations. Its research is focused around four themes:

- discovery in the natural world;
- engineering and novel solutions;
- health and wellbeing; and
- leading the data revolution.

Whilst its educational achievements are probably well known, with Imperial College London consistently rated in the top three Universities in the UK and the top ten in the world, it is important to understand that research is central to its activities. The 2014 Research Excellence Framework, which assesses the quality of research in UK higher education institutions concluded that 97% of Imperial's research is classed as having 'outstanding' or 'very considerable' impact. Imperial College London collaborates with businesses, academia and non-profit, healthcare and government institutions across the globe, recognising that the full benefits of its work cannot be realised by itself. It actively encourages multidisciplinary research, since it believes that only by bringing together expertise from different disciplines can the next generation of global challenges be solved.

However, it should not be thought that such work simply involves the production of research papers.

The research from Imperial College London helps to inform decision makers and influence policy. For example, in 2009, the outbreak of H1N1 pandemic (known as Swine Flu), led to Imperial College London academics working in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and government

departments, the work of which informed public policy decisions in the UK, as well as pandemic planning in Europe and the USA. Five of the current chief scientific advisors to the government have emanated from Imperial College London.

As well as informing decision makers, the Mayor should recognise that huge investment is made in translating this research into the real world. As an example, with the help of a £40 million gift from alumnus Sir Michael Uren and his foundation, Imperial College London is bringing forward the Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub at White City, which will house life changing research being used to deliver new and affordable medical technology, helping people affected by a diverse range of medical conditions. It will incorporate clinical areas to provide patients with direct access to these innovations, which in turn will help the research for the benefit of others. Imperial College London recognises that engineering expertise is increasingly important for addressing global health and wellbeing challenges, with the development of new devices and techniques helping to restore the quality of life of patients at a sustainable cost. With the help of people like Michael Uren, Imperial College London is already committed to putting this into practice in London.

On the economic front, the Mayor's vision includes considerable focus on enabling entrepreneurs to successfully start and scale up new businesses in the Capital. Imperial College London is doing this.

Imperial College London is developing its new White City Campus, where it is seeking to attract huge investment to develop and support new partnerships and new areas of research. It has already opened the I-HUB, a new Translation and Innovation hub at the White City Campus, specifically to co-locate start-ups, entrepreneurs, and major corporations alongside Imperial's academic community. The building will include facilities for graduates setting up their own companies when they leave Imperial College London. This is only the beginning. Imperial College London is committed to creating an innovation district, which will bring together the College's academic community, businesses, entrepreneurs and academic partners to address global challenges, as well as creating high quality jobs and economic growth.

As well as the research and innovation of Imperial College London, there are a number of other of the stated ambitions of the Mayor, which the College is also seeking to put into practice. For example, ensuring equality for all is also a key cornerstone for Imperial College London, which has a zero tolerance approach to bullying and harassment and seeks to create an environment which is respectful and collaborative. Imperial College London was one of the founding members of the Athena SWAN Charter that was established in 2005 to encourage commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, within the UK higher education and research sectors.

Imperial College London also seeks to reach out beyond its own organisation to support others and has an extensive outreach programme. It engages with schools and local communities and delivers a wide range of events and public lectures. In 2013-2014, its Outreach Office worked with over 700 schools. In addition, Imperial College London is supporting school teachers across the UK to inspire primary-age students about science through Reach-Out CPD, a free on-line continuing professional development resource which helps teachers deliver inspiring and engaging primary science lessons. These examples dovetail with the Mayor's ambition to increase opportunities for all.

Imperial College London attracts outstanding students from across the world and wants to be able to continue to do so. Its students then go on to benefit both the countries of their origin and the UK. It is worth

noting that in 2014, over a third of all Imperial College London graduates went into careers in the health sector.

Having identified above some of the activities of Imperial College London, it is hoped that it can be seen how such organisations can help to deliver real benefits for London and make a contribution to achieving a number of the Mayor's stated ambitions within 'A City for all Londoners'.

As a first step going forward, Imperial College London asks the Mayor to consider undertaking the eight recommendations set out below.

Eight recommendations from Imperial College London:

- 1 In preparing the new London Plan, it is recommended that recognition continues to be given to organisations such as Imperial College London and that a supportive policy framework is provided to facilitate the role that they can play in helping to meet some of the Mayor's key ambitions.
- 2 With the European Union having provided considerable research funding to organisations such as Imperial College London historically, it is recommended that as part of the Mayor's lobbying of Government, pressure is applied to ensure that research is given at least as much, if not more, priority post Brexit.
- 3 It is important to Imperial College London that access for students from across the globe can continue to be provided and the continuing support of the Mayor for this is recommended.
- 4 Imperial College London needs to have the ability to be able to recruit the best staff from around the world and again this needs to continue to be recognised as the UK starts to develop its own immigration policy.
- 5 In developing its policy for affordable homes, it is recommended that the London Plan supports organisations such as Imperial College London directly providing homes for lecturers, researchers and other staff.
- 6 Encouragement should be given to the provision of student housing, when the London Plan is revised. This would not only help to meet this important and specialised area of housing need, but it would also free up more traditional housing stock that is currently occupied by students, thereby providing additional homes for others.
- 7 In reviewing the London Plan, it is recommended that the Policy Framework for the White City Opportunity Area is updated to provide a supportive and positive framework to help attract the investment needed to create a new innovation research hub that will be of benefit to London and the UK as a whole.
- 8 When the Mayoral CIL is reviewed, it is recommended that different rates are considered for different uses. For example, there needs to be a distinction between the value generated by market housing compared with the lower value of other forms of housing, such as student accommodation and PRS.

Imperial College London would welcome the opportunity to meet in City Hall to discuss these representations.