

09 December 2016

Greater London Authority  
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Historic Royal Palaces is the charity that looks after:

**Tower of London**  
**Hampton Court Palace**  
**Banqueting House**  
**Kensington Palace**  
**Kew Palace**  
**Hillsborough Castle**

We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers.

### ***'City for All Londoners' – Consultation document***

Historic Royal Palaces welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the plans laid out in the 'City for All Londoners' and we look forward to hearing more about the Mayor's ambition to ensure that everyone is able to share in and make the most of London cultural heritage. 4 million people visit the sites managed by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) every year. They are an important part of London's history and identity, give shape and character to whole areas of the City and help to drive a thriving economy of visiting and tourism.

We are pleased to note the emphasis on communities within the document. Our work in the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, as well as in outer London in Kew and near Hampton Court all evidence the success of high-quality cultural experiences in enriching neighbourhoods, and how targeted uses of our resources can build social capital.

HRP is keen to encourage more domestic and London-based visitors to make use of the resources we have and to enjoy London's rich heritage. Like the Mayor we feel that not enough Londoners are making the most of what the City has to offer, we therefore support the annual London Borough of Culture and the Love London Pass scheme.

We are pleased to see that transport infrastructure plays a big part in the Mayor's vision. For locals and tourists who use our sites their visitor experience begins from the moment they set out to visit us and improvements in the public transport system to make their journeys as comfortable and accessible as possible will benefit us all. We hope that in addition to supporting improved infrastructure in areas of growth the Mayor will extend his support to areas of existing economic and cultural activity such as the Tower of London, Kensington Palace and Hampton Court. We welcome the commitment to attractive, accessible and distinctive public spaces and seek the mayor's support to ensure that the areas around our sites continue to improve and become great places for Londoners and visitors to visit.

HRP also attracts a significant international audience to London (70% of visitors to the Tower of London and Kensington Palace are from overseas). We are pleased therefore to see that the Mayor is looking to increase participation in culture and we would welcome an increase in

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affordable hotel provision in London. We would welcome the opportunity to feed into the more detailed plans in this area as they develop.

We are pleased to read about the principle of protecting London's heritage assets. As custodians of the Tower of London World Heritage Site we anticipate being consulted on relevant areas of the London Plan that may affect the World Heritage Site. We support the principle that tall buildings should only be permitted where they can add value to the existing community, and not where they have potential to impact on the significance of the World Heritage Site.

Several of our sites are in areas of low air quality, not only can this affect our staff and visitors' health but it also can affect the fabric of the historic buildings. The commitment to creating a greener city for all is to be commended. We support the 'Healthy Streets' initiatives to encourage walking cycling and exploring using road space for different purposes at different times of day particularly around the hotspot of cultural activity along Kensington High Street and near the Tower of London.

The heritage industry is primarily charitable or not for profit therefore the problems of affordable housing in London affect us; worries about the cost of housing can mean we are in danger of losing talented individuals and some of our most essential staff. We welcome the Mayor's commitment to tackling this complex issue.

Historic Royal Palaces would be pleased to contribute further to plans that protect London's valuable heritage and enhance the City's cultural vibrancy for Londoner's and visitors alike.

Yours faithfully



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