



64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

Reference:
WCC_LETTER_001

19th December 2019

Dear Mr Sims and Mr Fleming,

Thank you for your letter dated 9th December introducing yourselves and posing some initial questions regarding Westminster's City Plan 2019 - 2040. My apologies for the short delay in responding. This letter provides answers to the majority of questions posed – where there is expected to be a delay I have clearly indicated when an answer will be provided.

Q2

It would be helpful if, based on local knowledge, the Council could indicate its own best current expectation of the likely numbers of hearing participants and sitting days, as well as any preferred dates.

Twenty-three consultees who responded to the Regulation 19 consultation on the City Plan indicated they would like to appear at the hearings.

A series of potential hearing dates in the period February – May 2020 have been provided to the Programme Officer in the covering email to this letter. Once your availability and preference has been confirmed, the council will book the necessary rooms and confirm this with the Programme Officer.

Q3

To that end, we ask the Council to correlate the useful end-notes to the Reg 19 Consultation Statement CORE 0010 with the related Rep Nos in CORE 011

Please see attached to this letter a document which correlates the end-notes to the representor numbers (document reference WCC_LETTER_002). Please let me know if this sufficiently allows for easy navigation of comments.

Q4

The Council is asked to confirm that all SOCGs will be completed and signed and placed in the Examination Library on the Examination web page by the end of December at the latest.

The Neighbouring Boroughs SCG has now been signed by the London Borough of Wandsworth and an updated document uploaded in the Examination Library (see [SCG_004_V2](#)).

The SCG with Lambeth has been agreed at officer level and colleagues at Lambeth have put the document to their Cabinet Member to consider via a formal [report](#). The decision date for the report will be 30th December, followed by a five day call-in period. An updated signed document is therefore expected to be uploaded onto the council's Examination Library in very early January.

Council officers are in the process of negotiating three further Statements of Common Ground with stakeholders which are expected to be published in the Examination Library at the following dates:

- The Mayor of London and Transport for London (see answer to question 8 below) by 17th January 2020.
- Environment Agency and Thames Water by the end of February 2020.
- Marylebone Cricket Club by the end of December 2019.

Q5

The Council is also asked to ensure that the Examination Library is kept up to date with a very clear e-link from the web page.

The Examination Library is clearly linked from the main Planning Policy web page on the council's website, see: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/planning-policy>

Q6

We therefore ask the Council to review its Schedule of modifications, separating out the proposed minor and Main Modifications and to provide clear justification for each MM based on the tests of soundness.

A review of the schedule will be provided as requested by 16th January 2020.

In the meantime, attached to this letter is a schedule which clearly shows where modifications in the Schedule were agreed via a Statement of Common Ground in response to your comments in paragraph 19 of your letter (document reference WCC_LETTER_003).

Q7

We therefore invite the Council to make a formal request under section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act for the Inspectors to recommend MMs if necessary to make the Plan sound and legally compliant with immediate effect (or in any event before any Schedule of Proposed MMs is published for consultation later in the Examination).

The Council formally requests that the Inspectors recommend main modifications to the City Plan 2019 – 2040 where they are necessary to make the Plan sound and legally compliant with immediate effect.

Q8

We accordingly request the Council to provide clarification of the conformity of the Westminster City Plan with the (New) London Plan.

We are working with the Greater London Authority and Transport for London to prepare a Statement of Common Ground to clarify which matters raised by the Mayor in his response to the Regulation 19 consultation (Submission document CORE 017) are considered to be non-conformity matters. This statement will take into account proposed minor modifications and clearly set out which matters remain outstanding. This is expected to be published in the Examination Library by 17th January 2020.

Q9

We request the Council provide clarification as to where the foregoing elements of supporting evidence are or will be available.

The questions posed in your letter have necessitated some further work to enable the council to fully answer them. As a result, the council will not be in a position to provide this information until the end of February 2020 at the earliest.

Yours Sincerely

Kimberley Hopkins MRTPI
City and Planning Policy Team Leader
Westminster City Council