



Planning Policy
Westminster City Council
17th Floor, City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

24th September 2020

Ms Jill Kingaby
Intelligent Plans and Examinations (IPE) Ltd

Dear Ms Kingaby,

Fitzrovia West and Soho Neighbourhood Plans Examinations

Thank you for your letters dated 11th and 14th September regarding the Fitzrovia West and Soho Neighbourhood Plans examinations.

Although your letters are primarily directed towards the respective neighbourhood forums for Fitzrovia West and Soho, several of the questions you pose will require the forums to come to agreement with the council through the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground (SCG).

As you are aware, the council's City Plan is currently undergoing examination in public, with hearing sessions taking place during the weeks of 28th September – 2nd October and 12th – 16th October 2020. Given the strain on the planning policy team's resources over this period, we will be unable to work with the forums prior to and during this time to make substantive progress on outstanding issues. Officers have written to the respective forums confirming this, which they have acknowledged.

Nevertheless, we are committed to working constructively with the neighbourhood forums to ensure their respective examinations can proceed as quickly as possible following the close of the City Plan examination hearings. We will also be in a better position to advise of the expected final iteration of the City Plan's policies, in order to address the issue of conformity with strategic planning policies. In the meantime, we have advised the forums to consider your questions and advise us of areas of agreement with the council to allow us to proceed with a Statement of Common Ground following the close of the hearings.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Clarkson

Michael Clarkson MRTPI
Principal Policy Officer