

City Plan Examination Hearings Closing Statement

Councillor Matthew Green

15th October 2020

As I set out in my opening statement to these examination hearings, our draft City Plan it is a living document that is much less prescriptive than the current and outdated framework we are seeking to replace. That is why we have welcomed this process as it has allowed us to have many constructive discussions about potential modifications and we look forward to making those changes considered necessary for the plan to be deemed sound.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank both the Inspectors for running a well-managed and efficient examination, as well as the Programme Officer, Charlotte Glancy, for all the support she has given to the process. We are also grateful to all participants for giving up their time to engage in the exercise and their contribution to many constructive debates, which have at times been very challenging, but which have helped to shape the plan for the better. I'd also like to express my gratitude to our own City Plan team and all the officers supporting them for their hard work and dedication.

Due to the pandemic, these hearings have taken place virtually which is a first for Westminster. I'm sure everyone will agree that this has not affected the quality of the discussions and exchanges in any way and I would like to say a further thank you to all those behind the scenes who have ensured the technology has worked for this unprecedented public examination that has run without issue on line.

As I have already told this hearing, our City Plan will enable us to deliver decisions based on a plan that is right for the city and that we will be able to adapt to the emerging context. That is its strength. But at its heart, and most importantly, the draft City Plan 2019-2040 is a plan for people. It sets out to deliver an ambitious strategy for Westminster where regeneration will invigorate both our residential and business capabilities.

So as the City Plan public hearings come to a close, we now look forward to working with the Inspectors on the next stage of the examination and hopefully towards adoption of a brand new City Plan for Westminster which will shape the city as one of the best places to live, work and play for decades to come.

Thank you.