

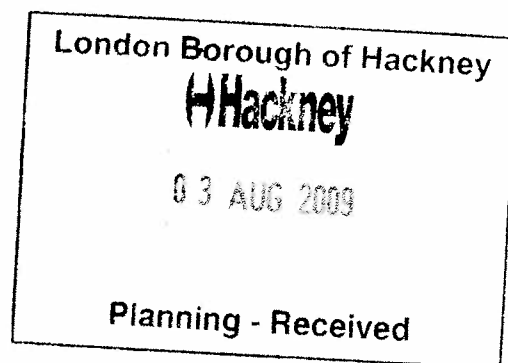


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Dear John



Consultation by the London Borough of Hackney on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document and Proposals Map: Representations of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Thank you for consulting the Regional Park Authority on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document and Proposals Map.

A substantial part of the Lee Valley Regional Park lies within the London Borough of Hackney, including Hackney Marshes and areas within Hackney Wick. The Authority has made detailed comments on all stages of the Core Strategy DPD, most recently at the Preferred Options stage in May 2008.

Unfortunately it appears that the Authority's response to the Preferred Options was not picked up by the Council. Officers from the Authority and the Council met on the 21st July to consider in detail the Authority's comments and the process for the Core Strategy over the next few months. A provisional response to the Authority's previous comments has since been provided (27th July).

The Authority's representations on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document and Proposals Map are set out below, based in part on recent discussions. Policy amendments are suggested where relevant.

These are officer level comments at this stage, forwarded to meet the consultation deadline of 7th August. These will be considered at the next available meeting of Authority Members which has yet to be confirmed.

Regional Park Authority Representations on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document and Proposals Map

Delivering Sustainable Growth

The Core Strategy Policy 5 'Hackney Wick New Community' should acknowledge explicitly the new areas of open space that will be provided as part of the Olympic Legacy and the fact that part of this land will lie within the Regional Park. The first paragraph of Policy CS5 should be amended as follows:

*The Council will direct significant investment and employment led mixed development to Hackney Wick which will take account of strategic industrial and priority employment designations and Olympic Legacy opportunities **including the provision of new open space and a linear park adjacent to the River Lee.***

These open spaces should also be designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) consistent with the designation of open space within the Hackney Wick area in the Unitary Development Plan (UPD) and their location in the Regional Park. Both sites fall within the boundary of the Regional Park and are in effect replacement for MOL and common land lost at Arena Fields due to the Olympic development.

These amendments would help to consolidate existing references within the Core Strategy to the Olympic legacy linear park e.g. paragraph 834 and the Proposals Map schedule which identifies these new areas as no. 262 'proposed linear park' which runs north south adjacent to the River Lee and no. 263 open space' a smaller area east of the River Lea Navigation.

There should also be an addition to the Proposals Map in relation to the Green Corridor designation. This notation should be continued through the linear park adjacent to the River Lee in order to maintain the continuity of public accessibility to open spaces in line with Policy CS 26 Open Space Network.

The Authority wishes that the regeneration of Hackney Wick supports the creation and maintenance of new open space/MOL in accordance with the Olympic Legacy plans, strengthens the continuity and connectivity of green links, especially those adjacent to waterways and integrates existing open space, waterways, walking and cycling routes such as the towpath (Pathway) with/as part of any new development.

Finally Map 4.1 Key Diagram should include the Regional Park boundary and identify Hackney Marshes and the new open space at Hackney Wick as 'major open spaces'.

Cleaner Greener and Safer Places

Open Space Network

The Core Strategy Policy 26 Open Space Network should refer to the Regional Park and the Park Plan proposals as they relate to the London Borough of Hackney. It is a requirement of the provisions of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966 that "*The local planning authorities shall from time to time include in their development plans or in any proposals for any alterations or additions to their development plans such part of the plan referred to in subsection (1) of this section (the Authority's Park Plan) or of any amendment to that plan as relates to their area*". (Section 14 (2))

The following addition should be made to CS Policy 26 Open Space Network:

Proposals for the Lee Valley Regional Park will be supported where they enhance the enjoyment of open space and provide opportunities for more active recreational and leisure pursuits for local residents.

This matter has been discussed with officers from Hackney. It was agreed that although there are passing references to the Regional Park and the Park Authority in supporting text a more explicit reference is needed in order to explain the special statutory provisions of the Regional Park/Authority and its relationship to the London Borough.

The supporting text should be amended to include reference to the Lee Valley Regional Park Act, the remit of the Park Authority (section 12, please refer to Appendix A at the end of this letter) and its provisions relating to development plans as set out in Section 14(2). Supporting text should also highlight the benefits of the open space, recreational, sporting and amenity resources of the Regional Park for residents, businesses and visitors and how it contributes to Hackney's Place Shaping agendas and how its use can address health inequalities experienced by local people.

The Implementation section should retain its reference to the Lee Valley Park Plan 2000 and make reference to the fact that this is currently under review and will be replaced by a revised Plan of Proposals called the Park Development Framework by the end of 2009.

The glossary could also usefully include a brief explanation of the Lee Valley Regional Park, the fact that it covers a total area of 4,000 hectares, and provides a range of leisure, sporting and ecological resources.

Proposals Map

The Regional Park boundary should also be shown on the Proposals Map as it relates to the Borough. This was a matter discussed with officers from Hackney who noted that the Park boundary is shown on the existing UDP Proposals Map but does not appear to have been moved across to the

Submission version. It was agreed that this could be reinstated on the Submission version.

Biodiversity

Core Strategy Policy 27 Biodiversity should include a reference to improving people's access to nature and place a stronger emphasis on creating new habitats especially within areas of large scale change such as Hackney Wick and alongside the waterways. Reference should also be made to the importance of the Regional Park as an important biodiversity corridor for a range of wildlife species, providing key habitats and connectivity between habitats both within the borough and beyond throughout the valley.

There is clearly a balance to be struck between improving access to sites of nature conservation interest and protecting the habitats and species that people come to see, but there are opportunities to achieve this within the Regional Park, for example such as at the Middlesex Filter Beds nature reserve and within new open spaces created through the Olympic Legacy at Hackney Wick.

Supporting text should also make reference to the Lee Valley BAP alongside the Park Plan. It should be noted that just Walthamstow Reservoirs form part of the SPA, Walthamstow Marshes are an SSSI.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Promoting Sustainable Transport

Supporting text still needs to provide further detail on the range of opportunities that exist within the Borough to further improve pedestrian and cycle access. In particular reference should be made in supporting text and potentially on Map 3.1 (which shows the London cycle network) to the Lee Valley Pathway project, a key section of the National Cycle Network which links the borough to the wider Regional Park and neighbouring areas. Reference should also be made to the need to improve pedestrian and cycle access between the communities of Hackney, public transport links and the Regional Park in line with the East London Green Grid.

The Authority wishes to be kept informed of the outcome of this stage of the draft Submission Core Strategy and Proposals Map consultation and how changes will be taken forward as part of the final Submission version of each document.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Wilkinson
Head of Planning and Regeneration

APPENDIX A: LEE VALEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY REMIT

As per the provisions of Section 12 (1) of the Lee Valley Regional
Park Act 1966

Section 12 (1) states

“It shall be the duty of the Authority to develop, improve, preserve and manage or to procure or arrange for the development, improvement, preservation and management of the park as a place for the occupation of leisure, recreation, sport, games or amusements or any similar activity, for the provision of nature reserves and for the provision and enjoyment of entertainments of any kind”