

**METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE
RESPONSE TO 'TOWARDS THE LONDON PLAN'**

From: Director of Property Services

GLA SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

General

Various proposals are included which will impact on the MPS/MPA estate but I believe the direction of the strategy should be supported in this regard.

It perceives the key challenges for the future as follows:-

- Challenge 1: Economic and demographic Growth
- Challenge 2: Increasing the supply of housing
- Challenge 3: Creating a prosperous City
- Challenge 4: Ensuring an accessible City
- Challenge 5: Promoting a Green City
- Challenge 6: Creating a City for People

Challenge 1 Economic and Demographic Growth

London's population is expected to grow from 7.4 million to 8.1 million over 15 years. This is due to net migration (5 of 211) with some 7000 more people each year. This implies a potential growth in policing demands for the metropolis and increasing diversity among its population – both with implications for the Service.

The adoption of such a strategy should help the MPS with its own long term planning. It seeks to encourage growth in Traditionally deprived areas, such as East London. This may have implications for future BWT numbers and longer term planning for the operational estate.

Challenge 2: Increasing the supply of housing

Emphasis on social inclusiveness and the provision of affordable housing for key workers are strong strands. The MPS/MPA are reviewing our residential strategy but emphasis has already shifted towards the promotion of affordable housing for police (and civilian staff) who are seen as key workers. Free travel may provide some police officers with greater freedom to live in cheaper locations outside the Metropolis, but it is important that many officers should continue to be seen as living within the city they serve. Affordable housing initiatives should assist this,

but there is also the need for affordable properties to be available for junior civilian staff. It proposes a new approach to the re-use of vacant public accommodation. Instead of securing the best price for such premises, public authorities will be encouraged to secure maximum community benefit (for example by releasing land to Housing Associations for affordable homes) rather than the maximum price (4.7). This could result in the MPA losing significant funds through reduced capital receipts unless the final decision remains with the Authority owning the disposable asset.

Challenge 3: Creating a prosperous City

No comments

Challenge 4: Ensuring an accessible City

No doubt others will comment on the policing implications which will accompany these proposals

Challenge 5: Promoting a Green City

The MPA/MPS have already commented on GLA proposals related to sustainability and share the "Vision for the future" (1.20). The MPA Environmental Strategy should be complementary to the Special Development Strategy but the potential policing implications associated with specific elements (e.g. Air Quality: Rising Street Crime and concern about safety and levels of drug addiction (1.14) will need specific consideration.

Challenge 6: Creating a City for People

No comments

Other

My only other comment relates to a possible omission. The draft offers no guidance with regard to the instillation of radio aerials. The Mayor is opposed to mobile phone aerials on land belonging to constituent bodies but an organisation such as the MPS needs aerials for effective communication. It will also benefit the MPA if our aerials could be used as host aerials for others (e.g. mobile telephones) and we may wish to make representations if the strategy is expanded in this regard.

TG Lawrence

Director of Property Services