

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY PANEL

12 SEPTEMBER 2006

Chairman: * Councillor Marilyn Ashton

Councillors: * Mrs Camilla Bath * Thaya Idaikkadar
* Robert Benson * Mrs Kinnear
* Keith Ferry * Navin Shah

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDATION 2 - Greater London Authority: Government Proposals for Additional Planning Powers**

The Director of Strategic Planning introduced a report which outlined a draft response to the Government's proposals to extend the Mayor of London's powers in relation to planning.

All Panel members were in agreement that strong representation should be made against the Government's proposals. During the discussion on the report, the following issues were raised:

- The determination of planning applications by the Mayor should be held in public session, with democratic representations received where appropriate, to ensure a transparent decision-making process.
- In cases where the Mayor took over determination of planning applications from the London Borough of Harrow, assurances should be given that any monies resulting from a Section 106 legal agreement would be allocated to the Borough for locally identified needs.
- In the event that the Mayor was minded to direct approval of a planning application that the Borough wished to refuse, there should be a process in place for the Borough to be notified of the draft decision and given an opportunity to respond before the final determination of the application.
- There should be a process in place by which the Borough could appeal against decisions made by the Mayor.
- The proposals did not appear to be in keeping with the spirit of the Local Development Framework process and the London Plan.
- The proposals had the potential to have additional resource implications.
- There may be an equalities impact as the proposals would take away the right of representation.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Cabinet)

That the comments as set out in the report of the Director of Strategic Planning, amended in accordance with the views expressed by Panel members, be forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Association of London Government.

[REASON: To make the Government aware of the Council's views].

[Note: The Panel wished it to be recorded that this decision had unified cross-party support].

(See also Recommendation 3).