Dear Pauline,


The Greater London Authority’s response to Main Matters 5 and 7 of the hearings programme is set out below:

**Main Matter 5: Affordable Housing**

The Council proposes to delete that part of paragraph 2.42 of the justification to Policy DM H3 which sets rent caps on affordable rents. What are the planning reasons for this proposed deletion?

The GLA supports the changes to paragraph 2.42 of Policy DM H3 with regards to the removal of the suggested rent caps on affordable rents (please refer to GLA’s representation submitted on 28 August 2013 (LDF24LDD04JFO4 and 05)). However, in order to be in general conformity with the London Plan, paragraph 2.42 will need to make clear that Merton’s Tenancy Strategy (January 2013) and Housing Strategy 2012-2015 do not constitute planning policy.

**Main Matter 7: Site Selection Process**

**Site 37, Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium**

As stated on the letter sent to Merton Council on 27 September 2013, the Mayor would support the retention of Site 37 Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium as a greyhound stadium use and other compatible stadia uses where feasible. The letter, reference LDF24LDD04JF06, is in Appendix 1.
If you would like to discuss our comments in more detail, please contact Jonathan Finch on 020 7983 4799.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Murray
Assistant Director - Planning

cc  Richard Tracey, Merton London Assembly Constituency Member
    Nicky Gavron, Chair of London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee
    Planning Casework (London), DCLG
    Colin Lovell, TfL
Dear Tara Butler,


Thank you for your letter of 15 July 2013 responding to the Deputy Mayor’s formal representations to the proposed submission consultation, reference PDU/LDF24/LDD04/04 and the Councils on-going engagement with regards to the conformity issues raised by the Mayor.

Whilst it is considered that the broad thrust of the draft proposed submission version of Sites and Policies Plan and Policy Maps DPD are now in conformity with the London Plan (2011), the Mayor maintains the particular concerns raised regarding the proposed allocated use for site 37 Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium and the potential wording that could be interpreted as a diminution or loss of the greyhound stadium use in the future, despite the generic “stadium” designation proposals. The Mayor recommends that the wording is more explicit in seeking to retain a greyhound stadium use and other compatible stadia uses which do not prejudice its current functioning as a cultural and leisure offer as supported by London Plan policies on culture, sport and entertainment provision (Policy 4.6).

Yours sincerely

Stewart Murray
Assistant Director - Planning

cc  Richard Tracey, Merton London Assembly Constituency Member
     Nicky Gavron, Chair of London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee
     Planning Casework (London), DCLG
     Colin Lovel, TfL