

Michael Atkins (Port of London Authority) - Fri 20/08/2021 10:48

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for consulting the Port of London Authority (PLA) on the draft Pimlico Neighbourhood Plan which sets out a number of policies on a range of matters, including commercial and mixed-use development, design and heritage, housing, public realm and environment. I have now had the opportunity to review the draft plan and have the following comments to make. For information, the PLA is the Statutory Harbour Authority for the Tidal Thames between Teddington and the Thames Estuary. Its statutory functions include responsibility for conservancy, dredging, maintaining the public navigation and controlling vessel movement's and its consent is required for the carrying out of all works and dredging in the river and the provision of moorings. The PLA's functions also include for the promotion of the use of the river as an important strategic transport corridor to London. The PLA's Vision for the Tidal Thames ('The Thames Vision') (2016) provides the framework for the development of the Tidal Thames between now and 2035, and includes a number of goals to increase activity on and adjacent to the river including for more goods and materials to be transported on the river, more passenger journeys, greater sport and recreation participation on the river and an improved Tidal Thames environment.

Policies PIM 20 (Crossings from Nine Elms to Pimlico) and PIM 21 (Riverside activities):

It is welcomed that the neighbourhood plan includes specific river-related policies and in principle the PLA supports the intention of the policy for a continuous riverwalk along the north bank of the Thames, and the need for development proposals on or immediately adjacent to the riverside to enhance the general public's enjoyment of the riverside, including through new street furniture and improved planting. The PLA recommends that any new development or enhancement of the public realm in this area must include consideration for the provision of appropriate riparian life saving infrastructure, such as grab chains on the river wall, life buoys and escape ladders, in line with the PLA's 'a Safer Riverside Guidance' for development on and alongside the Tidal Thames <http://pla.co.uk/Safety/Water-Safety/Water-Safety> . Suicide prevention measures (such as appropriate signage) should also form a consideration as part of any public realm improvement projects at the riverside. It is recommended that support for such infrastructure is specifically included as part of policy PIM 21.

In addition, It is welcomed that the policies support the continued protection and enhancement of the operation of the Westminster Boating Base facility, which is in line with the PLA's Vision for the Tidal Thames (The Thames Vision) (2016) which includes the goal to see greater participation in sport and recreation on and alongside the water.

With regard to the potential crossing from Nine Elms to Pimlico, to confirm the PLA must be involved in any discussions to the proposed crossing including on the public realm and walking and cycling connections to/from the bridge,

I hope these comments are of assistance

Regards

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