

Thames Tideway Tunnel DCO Examination

Examining Authority (ExA) Questions (Second Round)

Response from Mayor of London Unique Ref no. SP00032

13th January 2014

On 19th December the ExA issued its second round questions. Most of these were for the applicant Thames Water to respond to. One question (31.1) is specifically addressed to the Mayor, and is answered below. Transport for London has separately responded to a number of questions.

Q31.1 Can the Applicant, the Mayor of London and the local planning authorities comment on any implications the Revised Early Modifications to the London Plan may have in relation to the application?

The revised early minor alternations to the London Plan (REMA, published October 2013) were made to ensure it is as up-to-date as possible, in particular regarding references to government guidance and national legislation enacted since the London Plan was published in July 2011. In relation to the application, the REMA do not introduce new policies or modify existing policies in such a way as to amount to a material change in the policy context. The revised early minor alterations therefore do not have any implications for the examination of the application.

The Mayor will shortly (expected 15th January) be publishing more comprehensive proposed changes to the London Plan – these will be known as the Further Alterations to the London Plan (Jan 2014). These will be out for consultation for a period of 3 months and are expected to be examined at an Examination in Public in late 2014/early 2015. Although more substantial in their nature, GLA officers do not feel that the changes in relation to the Thames Tideway Tunnel will materially affect the consideration of the Thames Tideway Tunnel at the current Examination. This is because they relate only to matters of clarity in the supporting paragraph (currently numbered 5.59) to London Plan Policy 5.14 and are set out below where **bold** text indicates proposed additions and ~~strikethrough~~ text indicates proposed deletions:

In 2007, the Government approved construction of the Thames Tideway Sewer Tunnels in two phases (Lee Valley to Beckton and west London to Beckton). **For the latter, Government notes that ‘need has been demonstrated’^[1], and Thames Water submitted its application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2013.** This will address the long-term problem of combined sewer overflows, which has resulted in the discharge of millions of tonnes of untreated sewage into the Thames each year. This is a strategic project for London ~~that should be completed by 2020.~~ Opportunities to reduce the construction and operational impacts, the overall energy demand and the costs of the project should be taken. In addition, there are continuing programmes to deal with problems of sewer flooding in some areas of London; these need to be completed **and where required, the lack of sewer capacity addressed.**

^[1] Defra: National Policy Statement on Waste Water (March 2012), p 17 -21