

Felgate, Gavin

From: Jonathan Solomons [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2024 11:59
To: Planning Policy Consultations
Subject: Local Plan 2040
Attachments: Local Plan 2040 - Letter of Objection J Solomons.docx
Categories: CONFIRMED

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

Please find attached my letter of objection to the current Local Plan 2040

Jonathan Solomons

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Jonathan Solomons

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28 May 2024

To Whom it May Concern

I write as a Trustee of the S&P Sephardi Community and lifelong member and regular attendee at Bevis Marks Synagogue

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Local Plan 2040 in its current draft, specifically Policies HE1, S12, S13, and the Policies Map. I believe the plan is fundamentally unsound for the following reasons:

Firstly, Policy HE1 fails to adequately protect heritage assets. The requirement for development to merely “consider” enhancing conservation areas is insufficient; active enhancement should be mandated. Additionally, HE1 does not offer adequate protection for Bevis Marks Synagogue. The reference to the Synagogue’s “immediate setting” in HE1(8) is flawed, as no such concept exists. The protection should extend to the entire setting of the Synagogue, especially since it is included in the Tall Buildings Area, and the permissible height contours in Figures 14 and 15 clearly encroach upon the Synagogue and its setting.

Secondly, Policies S12 and S13 regarding tall buildings are inadequate. These policies should not just “take into consideration local heritage assets” as stated in S12(5), but must fully respect, preserve, and enhance the significance of those assets. S13 should offer similar protections for views of and from the Synagogue as it does for The Monument, with special regard given to the culturally and religiously significant setting of the Synagogue.

Furthermore, the presumption against tall buildings in Conservation Areas, as outlined in the current Local Plan Policy CS14, must be retained in the new draft. Additionally, it should be explicitly stated that the Tall Buildings Area does not override heritage and townscape considerations.

I reserve the right to add or amend my proposed changes.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Jonathan Solomons

Trustee, S&P Sephardi Community