

From: Daniel Sacerdoti [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 May 2024 14:25
To: Planning Policy Consultations
Subject: Local Plan representation

Categories: CONFIRMED

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

To whom it may concern,

I write as the [REDACTED] of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation, the custodians of the Bevis Marks Synagogue. Ours is the oldest Jewish community in the UK, having been founded in 1656 at the readmission of Jews to the UK by Cromwell.

The magnificent Grade I listed Bevis Marks opened in 1701 is our Cathedral Synagogue, being the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the UK.

I make this representation that the Local Plan 2040 as drafted is **not sound**. I make this representation generally, but specifically in respect of Policies HE1, S12 and S13 and the Policies Map.

I consider the draft unsound on the following grounds:

HE1 does not adequately protect heritage assets. It is not enough that development should “consider” enhancing conservation areas; enhancement should be actively **sought and pursued**. HE1 also does not adequately protect Bevis Marks Synagogue. As drafted, HE1(8) refers to the Synagogue’s defined “immediate setting”; however no such concept of immediate setting exists. As with other heritage assets, the **whole** setting of the Synagogue should be protected. This is particularly important because the Synagogue is included in the Tall Buildings Area, and the permissible height contours in Figures 14 and 15 clearly impinge upon the Synagogue and its setting.

S12 and S13 tall buildings policies are also inadequate. They should not simply “take into consideration local heritage assets” as 12(5) states, but must pay **full regard** to and **preserve and enhance** the significance of those assets. S13 should protect views of and from the Synagogue in a similar way to the way The Monument is treated, albeit special regard should also be paid to the culturally and religiously important setting of the Synagogue.

The current Local Plan Policy CS14 presumption against tall buildings in Conservation Areas must be retained in the new draft. As well, a sentence should be added to clarify that the Tall Buildings Area does not override heritage and townscape considerations.

I reserve the right to add or amend my proposed changes and I should welcome being invited to participate in discussion at the Plan's examination.

Yours,

Daniel D Sacerdoti [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]