

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London  
London Plan revised early minor alterations  
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By email to [mayor@london.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@london.gov.uk)

29 July 2012

Dear Mayor Johnson

**'London Plan revised early minor alterations'**  
**Deletion of the London Plan Glossary definition of 'Air Quality Neutral'**

Clean Air in London (CAL) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on 'Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan' launched on 6 June that closes at 5.00 pm on 31 July 2012:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/early-minor-alterations-london-plan>

**Comment:** We support the Mayor's decision to delete the definition of 'Air Quality Neutral' in the Glossary to the London Plan (page 47 of the consultation document). As we set out in correspondence with Transport for London we regard that definition as inaccurate and inconsistent with the statutory London Plan and the commitment in the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy (MAQS) to 'ensure that no new development has a negative impact on air quality in London'. Further, we have seen no evidence that you consulted on the Glossary definition of 'Air Quality Neutral' before publishing it alongside the London Plan.

**Reasons:** A development which merely seeks to 'minimise' its emissions may very well still contribute to an overall increase in air pollution – which is clearly at odds with the commitment in the MAQS. Given that many parts of London continue to exceed statutory limit values for a number of air pollutants, leading to serious and well-documented adverse effects on public health, the MAQS commitment should itself be regarded as a minimum. It is vital, therefore, that its meaning, which is perfectly clear, is not undermined through flexibility of interpretation.

CAL therefore confirms its support for the removal of the London Plan Glossary definition of 'Air Quality Neutral' with no change to the policy on air quality (7.14).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you and your team for proposing this change for which 'Clean Air in London' has campaigned.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Simon Birkett  
Founder and Director