

July 2017

Planning E-News

Following the completion of a number of separate revisions to the Westminster City Plan and changes in leadership and key Cabinet Members positions at Westminster, the council now intends to undertake a full review of the entire City Plan. This will allow the Council the opportunity to renew and update the Council's planning policy agenda in line with its City for All vision. The revised plan will allow the Council to progress all remaining and previously consulted upon changes as part of a single comprehensive revision which incorporates and updates policies currently 'saved' from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Westminster is currently seeking views on the 'Westminster City Plan Full Revision'. This consultation period is due to end on 28th July 2017. Once the revisions have been made this will be the 'local plan' for Westminster and will replace all current policies in the adopted Westminster City Plan, and saved policies within the UDP.

A full review of the all of the polices in Westminster's City Plan (November 2016) and "saved" UDP polices will include the following but is not limited to:

- **Reconsideration of existing policy designations;** including "Core and Wider Central Activities Zone (CAZ) and the "West End Special Retail Policy Area' and the way these relate to Westminster's and the Mayor's CAZ; the introduction of a new 'West End' designation;
- **A review of retail policies to include the addition of an exception to policy S21 Retail** in respect of development which provides for a better mix of uses, or more unique uses and to clarify policy related to A2 uses following the Council's Article 4 direction in respect of A1 to A2 uses.
- **Review of policies pm the night-time economy and, in particular, the concept and policy wording of the existing 'Stress Areas'** to reflect a more positive approach to the evening and night time economy, a **possible** relaxation of the policy restrictions on entertainment uses, **combined with a stricter requirement to contribute to a reduction in cumulative impact in the currently named stress areas.** Whilst the changes look promising it is highly likely that these changes will either be heavily diluted or carry conditions that will restrict the changes of use to an extent that could render them impractical.
- **A review of the uses protected by the St James's Special Policy Area,** in particular private members' clubs. The existing SPA policy seeks to protect private member's club's that have lined St James's Street and Pall Mall for hundreds of years and which are responsible for the area's prestigious and aristocratic reputation.

If you have any queries in respect of the above or any other matter, please contact one of the partners

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