

Policy 4.9

Question 1: How would the policy be implemented and the units created secured and managed to be independent and affordable in perpetuity?

1. Argument and Evidence

- 1.1 The LSDC is of the view that it is important to retain and expand the reference to small shops in the London Plan to cover this particular issue and enable the policy to be implemented (Policy 4.9 B).
- 1.2 Our submission is based on information provided from two of LSDC's current areas of work:
 - Capital Consumption: the transition to sustainable consumption and production in London, published with BioRegional November 2009 (Core Document 39).
 - London Leaders campaign started in 2008 and now in its third year of operation (Core Document 40).
- 1.3 The Capital Consumption report includes a section on opportunities for city-level action (page 42) which points to the importance of providing infrastructure and development that reduces the need to travel.
- 1.4 The London Leaders campaign has included a number of relevant initiatives including Eat to Live that have shown what can be achieved through local community enterprises, and the potential for such enterprises to manage local retail outlets where these are available in their area.
- 1.5 In addition it is becoming clear that the issue of local shops is on the national agenda. The Coalition's Programme for Government (Core Document RD35) states, under Section 2 on

Business (page 10), that the Government will seek a level playing field between small and large retailers by enabling councils to take competition issues into account when drawing up local plans.

- 1.6 In this context it would be useful to consider whether Policy 4.9 could be strengthened to address the opportunities for more local shops, relating them directly to local community enterprises in order to ensure continuity and help to address some of the issues related to competition.

2. Conclusion on Policy

- 2.1 Our view is that a strong strategic policy in the London Plan on local shops is essential to realise the opportunities for improving sustainability and quality of life in London. To improve implementation, LSDC proposes that the Panel recommends two new sub sections in Policy 4.9 B after the existing sub section (to be numbered a):
 - b *identify with their local communities the opportunities for local community enterprises to utilise any new provision of local shop units (see also Policy 7.1).*
 - c *stipulate where any small units secured through s106 planning obligations should be made available to local community enterprises that can provide a specific service to the local community.*