



Planning Aid for London asks Mayoral candidates to commit to building a fair and inclusive London

Community town planning support service Planning Aid for London (PAL) is asking candidates for the London mayoral elections to commit to three asks to help people participate in decisions about the future of London.

London's Mayor faces the colossal task of leading London's recovery from Covid-19. The planning system will be crucial in the efforts to save London's high streets, support local businesses and improve people's health and well-being as part of a post-pandemic, prosperous and climate-resilient future. Planning works best when Londoners have real power over the decisions that affect them.

PAL has written to London Mayoral candidates with three asks to help ensure everyone Londoner can participate in decisions about the future of London:

1. **Resources for Planning Aid Services:** London's Mayor should provide dedicated resources to support free planning aid advice services in London, needed to enable meaningful participation.
2. **Capacity building for communities:** London's Mayor should match this support for planning aid services with a programme of capacity building and training for people, especially those from disadvantaged communities.
3. **Mayoral Statement of Community Involvement:** The mayor's office should create a Mayoral Statement of Community Involvement that sets out minimum standards for meaningful public involvement in planning. The statement should also define how digital engagement methods will be inclusive and accessible for all.

PAL has also published a briefing to set out why community participation in planning is needed, and how the mayor can help support this. Read the briefing [here](#).

PAL Trustee Katy Lock added:

'Only when people are meaningfully engaged in the planning process can the opportunities to reduce inequalities and increase social and economic inclusion be realised. At a time when many communities are facing multiple barriers to influencing change in their local area, PAL is calling on all Mayoral candidates to commit to putting people at the heart of London's future by supporting measures to make meaningful public participation a reality.'

Visit www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk to read PAL's full briefing to the candidates of the mayoral elections in London.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

About Planning Aid for London

Planning Aid for London (PAL) is an independent charity that offers planning advice to those who would otherwise not be able to afford professional help. PAL's advice and support on town planning matters is free, independent and professional. PAL has been providing training and support to communities and individuals across London for over forty years. The advice provided clearly reflects the current planning system in London but is not part of local or central government nor developer influenced. PAL works with individuals and communities all over London to help them with make change in their neighbourhoods and areas. Follow PAL on Twitter @Planaidlondon to keep up to date with PAL's activities and keep an eye out for the new resources which are soon to be made available on PAL's website.

Find the website at www.planningaidforlondon.org.uk