

Dear Mayor,

On behalf of the London Thames Gateway Forum, I wish to make the following objection to FALP:

Paragraph 1.24 fails to note increasing demand for recycling:

The indicated decline in manufacturing fails to note or make reference to the growing need for recycling. Recycling is tending towards remanufacture or locating close to remanufacturing in order to reduce transport distances, costs and associated air pollution. In particular, the reference to “scientific and technical activities” suggests the production of waste of strategic value. Shipping abroad is unsustainable, specifically in terms of materials such as the lanthanides, the rare earth metals, over which China, currently, has a stranglehold.

Paragraph 2.85 underestimates the need for strategic industrial locations and for employment land in general. No research basis is given so the question (where is the evidence) arises:

Strategic industrial location loss cannot be replaced and its absence will limit local employment opportunities and the provision of essential goods and services. These services underpin local communities and local business, for example, local commercial vehicle servicing is essential to many businesses. Similarly, the loss of this land negates the potential for increasing recycling and remanufacturing.

Strategic industrial locations are critical, also, in that they provide for many ethnic minority business starts, most of which serve needs within those communities, the importing and distribution of food, for example. These permit the growth of the restaurant economy; providing for lunch and evening trade requires local supplies to minimize wasted travel time.

SILs are key aspects of local wealth creation. They diversify local employment opportunities and encourage the retention of important skills. The manufacturing and recycling components either contribute to exports or limit imports, in that respect they contribute to Britain’s balance of payments in a manner that purely internal trading does not. They offer sustainable, local opportunities for business starts including new manufacturing processes . SILs in Greater London are close to our main scientific universities and are important in the generation of new university science based business creation.

Loss of large areas of industrial land generally lead to large losses in local employment: this adds to the national welfare bill and helps to develop areas of considerable local unemployment.

Roy Tindle, Director
London Thames Gateway Forum