

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY ACT 2007

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY

Part 7: Planning

Development control

Section 31: Mayor to determine certain applications for planning permission

81. This section amends the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act”) to give the Mayor power to direct that planning applications which are of potential strategic importance in Greater London should be determined by him in place of the local planning authority. It also provides for the application of enactments in relation to cases where the Mayor determines an application, including provision enabling the Mayor to enforce the terms of any planning permission he has granted. The term "application of potential strategic importance" will be defined in secondary legislation. The secondary legislation will also set out the procedure for giving directions.
82. In deciding whether to give a direction, the Mayor must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Where a direction is given, the Mayor will determine any connected applications for listed building consent, conservation area consent and hazardous substances consent. For any planning application he decides, the Mayor may pass decision making for any subsequent applications for the approval of reserved matters or approval of details under a listed building consent, back to the relevant London borough.
83. Secondary legislation will set out the procedures the Mayor must follow in determining applications.
84. The Mayor's existing power to direct a local planning authority to refuse a planning application of potential strategic importance is unaffected by this section (see section 74(1B) of the 1990 Act) other than by the changes to the thresholds identifying planning applications as being of potential strategic importance set out in the secondary legislation made under this section.