

Ealing Council Core Strategy Independent Examination

Matter 11 – Public Services, Retail and Employment uses

Submission by Tony Miller on behalf of Ealing Borough Liberal Democrats

Issues and questions

1. Does the Core Strategy provide an appropriate, effective and soundly based framework for the provision of a range of public facilities and services?

1. Concentration of the bulk of new housing in the already crowded town centres as a result of the policy of development corridors will result in a significant lack of social support, because of the lack of space for new provision as well as a current shortage in several places. This is illustrated by comparing the location of the major housing developments in Map 4 with the “new and expanded infrastructure” in Map 10.
2. This will have the following perverse results:
 - a. children, particularly in the younger years, will be beyond reasonable walking distance of schools. Housing is being planned to be located closer to transport links which are mainly radial. As a result, despite being able to walk to stations parents will increasingly drive their children to school, thus defeating the policy objective of reducing such trips;
 - b. medical facilities are also poorly located for new concentrations of users in town centres, and new provision is not coming forward. As an example, the health clinic planned to be housed in the site of the previous Daniels store in Uxbridge Road was cancelled last year by the PCT, and no alternatives have yet been found, though this seems still to be shown on Map 10;
 - c. leisure facilities, particularly for sports, are increasingly being squeezed out of the town centres due to development and cost pressures linked to higher sites values. Once again, to reach out-of-centre facilities there will be greater pressure to drive.
3. Policy 6.2 makes no specific reference to the provision of arts and cultural facilities, despite the film industry in particular being particularly associated with Ealing. The CS provides no lead on how this asset could be developed for the benefit of the borough and fails to follow Policy 3D.4 of the London Plan (Development and promotion of arts and culture), in particular that DPD policies should “identify, protect and enhance Strategic Cultural Areas and their settings”.