

15 May 2023

Mr Jules Pipe CBE
Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills
Greater London Authority
City Hall
Kamal Churchie Way
London, E16 1ZE

Dear Deputy Mayor Pipe,

INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYMENT LAND

On behalf of the business community, may I seek your assistance on the issue of land for industrial and employment use in London. At the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), we have heard from our business members that this is a pertinent issue that is affecting their operations, but also has wider implications for the Mayor's decarbonisation objectives.

Our members have informed us that the availability of land for employment and industrial use in the boundaries of Greater London has fallen, particularly sites within the North Circular. This is forcing firms – predominantly those in freight and logistics – to locate sites further away from inner London.

As a result, freight and logistics firms are driving further to make deliveries into the centre as industrial land is repurposed for other uses. This additional mileage is leading not only to additional costs for these businesses but adds to the already-unacceptable levels of pollution and congestion on London's roads.

The impact for the Mayor's ambitions to reach net zero in London by 2030 cannot be overstated. Indeed, firms are investing heavily in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to transition their vehicle fleets. This infrastructure is often located on industrial sites, and are required to be in locations that can support short journeys in and out of inner London.

In 2019, LCCI worked with the Mayor to include a policy of no net loss of industrial land in his update to the London Plan, a measure which was then removed by the then Secretary of State. This issue has become no less important since then, and we would urge you and the Mayor to ensure there are protections on industrial land in the next update to the London Plan.

Securing sites for industrial use is vital to powering London's economy. Sectors that utilise these sites – such as those in freight and logistics – have grown in importance as consumers and businesses alike shift their transactions online. We at LCCI absolutely recognise the need for residential development, but economically important sites should be protected too.

I and London Chamber members would be happy to explore this matter further with you.

May I thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burge', written in a cursive style.

Richard Burge
Chief Executive