

Stennett, Jasmine

From: Sophie Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2026 10:47
To: Planning Policy Consultations
Subject: Comment on Change MM55 to the City Plan 2040

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I just wanted to comment on the last-minute addition to the City Plan 2024, after presumably months or years of thought and many reports on progress to the residents of the City of London.

Firstly, this looks like a deliberately late insertion, let's assume in the hope that the people who live and work in the City would not notice. If this is so, you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Secondly, as well as being a flat-owner in the [REDACTED], I am a Blue Badge Tourist Guide and work a lot in the City of London. I'm a big fan. I find many of the new developments and public realm work exciting and love the revitalisation of areas of the City that sometimes come about, although few buildings are stunning. But I don't think you realise how much the building of high-rises and the obsession with rooftop gardens makes the City look more and more like Seattle, or Melbourne, or any other boring CBD on this planet.

You are custodians of the oldest mature financial hub in the world! Antwerp's bourse might be older but the city is now a shrimp. Nothing goes on forever and if you show zero respect for residents, workforce, history and architecture in the City, you are sowing the seeds of its demise. Look at the crash in office space in Canary Wharf. And what are you doing? Turning yourself into Canary Wharf II with a few pockets of history corralled and dwarfed in between. What is this obsession with making even MORE money, going higher, broader - and, shamefully, blander?

Why aren't you doing more for people, for social housing - possibly in unused office blocks before they are knocked down for another skyscraper (and before you say you can't do it, look at guardianships, now common in expensive empty business)? How about doing something about Old Billingsgate Market that actually involves people in the City, rather than a dead venue, how about doing something about the Custom House that brings that area of the river to life again? Maybe you are in your 2040 report, I haven't read the whole thing yet. But I will.

If you've got this far, I doubt you'll listen to any of us. But hey. Worth a try.

Yours,

Sophie

SOPHIE CAMPBELL
Journalist and London Guide

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