

Old Kent Road Business Network responses summary (as reported February 2018)

- Vehicular access, yard and loading space is important for businesses to function
- Business rates need to be reasonable
- Workspace providers are not suitable for all types of businesses
- The plan should consider there is a range of leasehold and freehold businesses in the Old Kent Road area with different needs
- Affordable rents for creative businesses and artists and recognise these as important thriving community
- Mixed use development is often not designed with businesses in mind
- Better consultation and communication with businesses is needed
- Improve partnerships with workspace providers and make use of Section 106 agreements to secure affordable space
- The council could have a role in match-making developers with businesses
- Make alternative business uses for first floors
- Help businesses to secure new premises and help with expansion
- Recognise industrial type businesses are still in demand
- Consider Article 4 Directions to protect against the loss of employment use to permitted development
- Recognise the importance of the economical and industrial function of Old Kent Road across the opportunity area
- Consider business relocation options both in the Old Kent Road area and further afield