

MAYOR'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY UPDATE

A review of progress and priorities for action

Please note:

- **This document is a working draft which is subject to ongoing consultation with key partners and stakeholders**
- **The document contains extensive hyperlinks. The document should be read in Word or Pdf format in order to fully appreciate the reports, statements and evidence it contains.**

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INTRODUCTION

Context

The Greater London Authority Act 1999 required the Mayor of London to publish a Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy – *Connecting with London's Nature* – was duly published in July 2002 and has provided the framework through which the capital's natural environment is protected and enhanced. The Biodiversity Strategy contains information about the ecology of Greater London, the habitats present across the city and the wildlife these support. It also sets out the reasons for protecting and enhancing the natural environment over and above the moral case for its conservation. These include the benefits related to health and well-being, climate change adaptation and broader environmental objectives including improved air and water quality.

Importantly it also set out the policies and proposals necessary for the conservation and promotion of biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Strategy contains core policies and proposals relating to: the protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs); increasing access to the natural environment; the greening of the urban environment; and, the protection of the Thames and London's other waterways. These core policies have been transposed into relevant [London Plan](#) policies. These policies (set out in Appendix 1) ensure that the biodiversity and natural environment are properly considered in the context of London's continued growth and development.

The Biodiversity Strategy also contains policies and proposals relating to supporting partnerships, managing data, and raising public awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and the natural environment. which have resulted in the emergence of the [All London Green Grid](#) (London's green infrastructure strategy), the establishment of [Green Space Information for Greater London](#) (London's environmental records centre) and a number of funded programmes including those delivered directly by the Mayor including his [Street Trees initiative](#), and funding programmes such as [Help a London Park](#), [Big Green Fund](#) and [Pocket Parks](#) for improvements to parks and green spaces. Furthermore, by providing a formal framework for the conservation and management of London's natural environment the Biodiversity Strategy justifies continued investment in biodiversity and natural environment initiatives across London by a wide range of partners including local authorities, non-governmental organisations, private land-owners and businesses.

The core policy objectives have continued to be reflected in the subsequent iterations of the London Plan and in statutory strategies which have been published since the publication of the Biodiversity Strategy - i.e. the Mayor's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy. Furthermore, despite a shift in Government policy towards localism and devolved decision-making, the GLA continues to provide some of the strategic support, advice and co-ordination required to ensure the core objectives of the strategy are being met in a consistent and coherent way across London.

Nevertheless, the national policy framework relating to the natural environment has evolved since the publication of the Biodiversity Strategy, particularly as a result of the publication of *The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*, the Government's Natural Environment White Paper published in 2011. This shifted the emphasis of natural environment policy acknowledging that a healthy natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal wellbeing. It set out how the value of nature can be mainstreamed across society by strengthening the connections between people and the natural environment; developing new approaches to articulating the economic value of the natural environment; and facilitating broader partnerships and local action. This is a policy framework which was already reasonably well-reflected in the Biodiversity Strategy because of the need to address natural environment issues in an urban context where the connections to people and economy were already well-rehearsed.

Although the Biodiversity Strategy has not been subject to a formal review since its publication in 2002, it has largely remained fit for purpose. This assessment was endorsed by key stakeholders at a London Assembly Environment Committee in September 2013. However, in order to demonstrate that it is broadly in conformity with current national policy the Mayor has accepted would be appropriate to produce an update or which would set out: what the strategy has achieved to date, and where the leadership and support of the Greater London Authority needs to focus in the future in order to support the collective endeavour of those organisations working to protect and manage London's natural environment.

Consequently, this update to the Biodiversity Strategy sets out:

- A summary of the current status of London's habitats and wildlife;
- the progress which has been made on implementing the policies and proposals of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy;
- how the policies and proposals relate to current Government policy, and;
- the priorities for action going forward to optimise the collective efforts of the Mayor, the London Boroughs, statutory agencies, environmental organisations and Londoners to protect, manage and enhance London's natural environment.

Current status of London's biodiversity resource

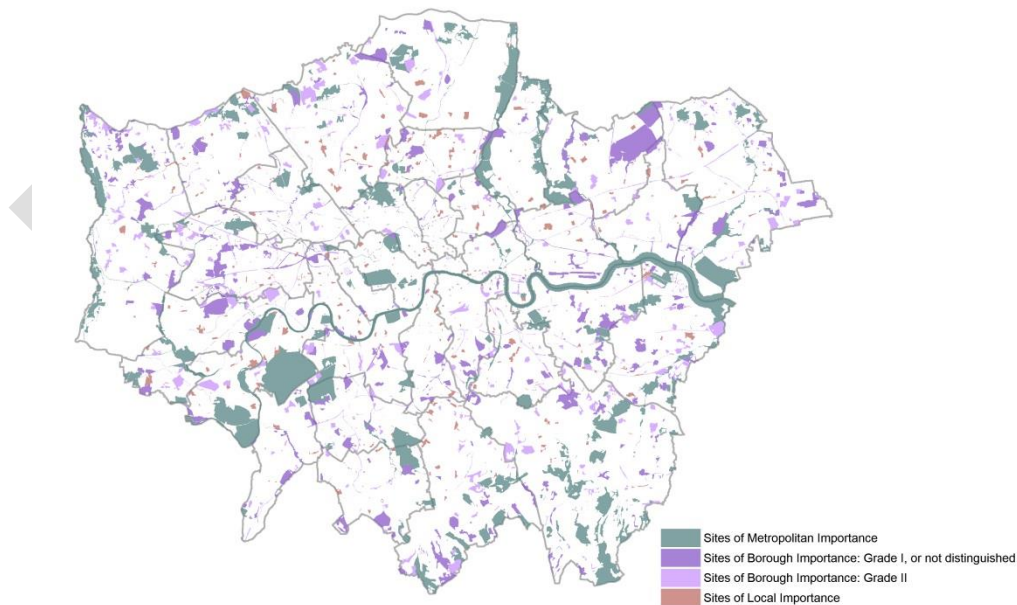
Set out below is a summary of the information currently available about London's habitats, wildlife and related issues such as access to nature. This provides a snapshot only and is based on the best available published data.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Important wildlife sites in Greater London are identified as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). SINCs are a land-use planning policy 'designation' conferred through Policy 7.19 of the London Plan, consequently SINCs receive a significant degree of protection through the planning process. Table 1 shows that over 19.24% of Greater London's land area is identified as a SINC, variously graded as Metropolitan, Borough and Local depending upon the relative importance and value of the SINC.

Grade	Area (ha)	Percentage of Greater London
Metropolitan	16249	10.19%
Borough	12652	7.93%
Local	1778	1.12%
Total:	30679	19.24%

Figure calculated from GiGL SINC dataset (December 2013)



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Although SINC coverage has increased since 2002, there have also been losses across London at specific sites, and the figures do not indicate quality. SINCs are semi-natural so require constant management to maintain their wildlife value. Nevertheless the percentage of SINCs reported to

be under positive conservation management has increased from 42% in 2009, to 50% in 2010 and 59% in 2011.

N.B. London's SIN network includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – those sites which have a statutory nature conservation designation. The condition of these sites is monitored at a national level. The area of land within SSSIs in London considered to be in favourable or recovering condition has increased from 73% in 2000 to 93% in 2012.

London's semi-natural habitats:

London's SINs, and the extent to which they are under appropriate management, provides the core framework necessary to conserve London's biodiversity. However, they do not tell the whole story. If biodiversity is to be effectively conserved and resilient to pressures such as climate change, the extent of wildlife habitat needs to be expanded and the connectivity between it increased. Restoring and enhancing London's habitats is important for conserving the capital's wildlife and also contributes to improving the quality of life for Londoners.

Since 2000 almost 39,000 hectares have been reported as having been enhanced in London and over 18,000 hectares have been restored. Examples include: creation of over 600ha of new woodland in Thames Chase on London's eastern fringe; the creation of reed beds in the central London Royal Parks; the expansion of 3.5ha of heathland at Mitcham and West Wickham Commons; and the creation of 45ha of various biodiversity action plan habitats in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

It is not feasible to undertake a direct, like-for-like comparison between the land-cover figures published in the Biodiversity Strategy and current land-cover figures because current data would need to be derived from multiple (not fully compatible) datasets. Nevertheless, Table 2 below compares data on land cover and habitats where there is comparable data.

Habitat or land-use	Biodiversity Strategy (2002)	GiGL data
Green space	c. 65% of London's land area	57% of London's land area ¹
Gardens	c.22% of London's land area	24% (total) - 14% vegetated ²
SINC	29855 ha	30679 ha (2013 data)
Woodland	7000 ha	7569 ha (2009-10 data)
Chalk Grassland	300 ha	301ha (2009-10 data)
Reedbed	125 ha	142 ha (2009-10 data)
Acid Grassland	1300 ha	1491ha (2009-10 data)
Heathland	80 ha	55 ha (2009-10 data)

Figures from Biodiversity Strategy and Greenspace Information for Greater London

These figures suggest that despite the reduction of the total amount of green space in London this not resulted in a significant adverse impact on the amount of semi-natural wildlife habitats. Indeed there has been an increase in the area of land identified as SINs. [N.B. There appears to be a 25ha reduction in the area of heathland; but this is likely to be an anomaly in the data

¹ Greenspace Information for Greater London datasets, 2013

² London: Garden City? LWT/GiGL/GLA, 2011

as there is no suggestion that large areas of heathland have been lost in London – indeed there has been heathland restoration projects undertaken in recent years. The anomaly is likely to be a consequence of errors in habitat description between acid grassland, which the data suggests has increased by almost 200ha, and heathland.

The biggest reduction in London's wildlife habitats is as a consequence of loss of vegetated garden space and the loss of brownfield or wasteland sites. Both habitats are particularly important in an urban context because:

- a) gardens comprise a significant proportion of London's green space resource and are places where people can interact with nature most often
- b) brownfield or wasteland habitats can provide conditions that support a wide range of rare or unusual wildlife, particularly invertebrates.

London's gardens:

Private gardens provide many people with daily contact with nature and form a pleasant component of residential areas. A single garden may provide habitat for a range of plants and wildlife and collectively they are an important resource for conserving species such as hedgehogs, amphibians and pollinating insects.

To inform policy formulation for the London Plan the GLA commissioned London Wildlife Trust and Greenspace Information for Greater London to undertake a study into changes to London's domestic gardens. The study, *London: Garden City?*, shows that between 1998-99 and 2006-08:

- The area of vegetated garden land declined by 12%, a loss of 3,000 ha.
- The amount of hard surfacing in London's gardens increased by 26% or 2,600 ha.
- The area of garden buildings (sheds etc.) increased by 55% or 1,000 ha.
- The amount of garden lawn decreased by 16% or 2,200 ha.

The changes in garden cover are primarily due to many small changes to individual gardens as part of their management and use by homeowners, rather than large scale changes or housing development on garden land (although this can result in significant loss of garden land at a local level).

London's bird populations:

The British Trust for Ornithology has undertaken work on behalf of the GLA to calculate population trends for bird species monitored in sufficient numbers in the Greater London area, and to compare, statistically, London trends with those for the same species in the surrounding areas.

Trends were calculated for 33 species for the period 1994-2011. Over that period 21 of the 33 species increased significantly in Greater London (Blackcap, Blue Tit, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Cormorant, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Magpie, Moorhen, Pied Wagtail, Ring-necked Parakeet, Robin, Whitethroat, Woodpigeon and Wren). Five species declined significantly in the

Greater London region during this same period (Blackbird, Grey Heron, House Sparrow, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Starling and Swift).

Despite the worrying declines in species such as House Sparrow, Starling and Swift which are particularly apparent in London because these species were previously common, the population trends largely mirror national trends. This suggests that there are no particular nature conservation or land management issues which need to be addressed specifically in London, especially as the actual causes for declines are undetermined. However, loss of nest sites in buildings (resulting from the trend to seal buildings for energy efficiency reasons) and the loss of vegetated areas in gardens (see below) may well be a reason for the decline in species such as House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird and Swift.

Where tailored conservation efforts have been undertaken for particular species which have an urban or London affiliation there have been some notable successes. The creation of biodiverse green roofs, for example, in locations where Black Redstarts are known to breed seems to have maintained the London breeding population (despite redevelopment of many former wasteland sites) and the provision of nest-boxes and protection of nest-sites has resulted in a spectacular increase in the number of breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcons which are now present in most parts of London.

Areas of Deficiency in access to nature:

Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature are those areas in London where people have to walk more than 1 km to reach a SINIC of at least borough importance.

Since 2006, the area of London defined as being deficient in access to nature has fallen from 22% to 16%. Almost 25,000ha were classified as being deficient in 2010, which is over 9,000 ha less than in 2006. Much of this decrease is likely to have been achieved either by creating better access to sites where there has previously been none or creating new access points to sites already accessible to the public. However, the creation or restoration of habitats that has resulted in the increase in the area of SINICs will also have made an important contribution as some Sites of Local Importance will have been upgraded to Sites of Borough Importance.

DELIVERING THE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Policies and proposals - delivery status

Progress on the delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy is set out below. The Biodiversity Strategy comprises 12 generic policies and a series of specific proposals. It is progress in delivery of the specific proposals which are the best indicator of how well the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy has been implemented to date. In order to describe what progress has been made the proposals have been grouped under thematic headings and each proposal is assigned a delivery status with a short commentary to justify the assessment.

Proposal groupings

- Protection and enhancement through the planning system
- Land management
- Greening the built environment
- Access to nature and public engagement
- Survey and monitoring
- Supporting and extending partnership working
- Research and policy development
- Monitoring progress
- Miscellaneous

Proposals	Action to date	Status + future action
Protection and enhancement through the planning system		
Proposal 1: The Mayor will identify Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMIs). Boroughs should give strong protection to these sites in their Unitary Development Plans. The Metropolitan Sites include all sites of national or international importance for biodiversity.	Relevant policy London Plan Policy 7.19 <i>Biodiversity and access to nature</i> is included in London Plan and all London Boroughs have transposed this policy into their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). A pan-London network of SMIs has been identified. An advisory service is provided by London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), chaired by the GLA.	Delivered, plus ongoing action. Any additional sites should be identified by London Boroughs and their partners and ratified by the LWSB.
Proposal 2: Boroughs should use the procedures adopted by the Mayor to identify and protect Sites of Borough and	Relevant policy London Plan Policy 7.19 <i>Biodiversity and access to nature</i> is included in London Plan and all	Delivered, plus ongoing activity. Boroughs are identifying and confirming

<p>Local Importance for Nature Conservation and other local designations. The Mayor will assist and advise them in this.</p> <p>Proposal 3: The Mayor will and boroughs should resist development which would have a significant adverse impact on the population or conservation status of protected or priority species.</p> <p>Proposal 4: Where, exceptionally, development is permitted which has an adverse impact on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation or other local designation or on the population or conservation status of protected or priority species, the Mayor will and boroughs should aim to secure compensatory measures to mitigate such adverse effects.</p> <p>Proposal 5: The Mayor will and boroughs should take account of the protection of wildlife habitats and biodiversity in the consideration of all planning applications.</p> <p>Proposal 7: The Mayor expects that biodiversity and wildlife habitat will be taken into account in proposals for the redevelopment of garden land, and will develop guidelines for the evaluation of such proposals.</p> <p>Proposal 10: In consultation with other expert groups, the Mayor will produce</p>	<p>London Boroughs have transposed this policy into their LDFs. An advisory service is provided by London Wildlife Sites Board (LWSB), chaired by the Greater London Authority.</p> <p>London Plan Policy 7.19 <i>Biodiversity and access to nature</i>, and its translation into LDFs, provide a robust policy framework. Also addressed by relevant legislation, including the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended).</p> <p>As above, plus other London Plan policies including Policy 5.11 <i>Green roofs and development site environs</i>; Policy 5.13 <i>Sustainable drainage</i>; Policy 7.21 <i>Trees and woodlands</i>; and Policy 7.28 <i>Restoration of the Blue Ribbon Network</i></p> <p>London Plan Policy 7.19 <i>Biodiversity and access to nature</i> and its translation into LDFs at Borough level.</p> <p>London Assembly report Crazy Paving published in 2005. London Garden City? A London Plan research report published in 2010. Consequently, London Plan Policy 3.5 <i>Quality and design of housing developments</i> was included in the subsequent London Plan. The policy recognises value of gardens and allows London boroughs to resist development of gardens where this can be locally justified.</p> <p>Development Plan Policies for Biodiversity Best Practice Guide</p>	<p>SINCs through the LDF process with advice and support from the LWSB.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. Policy framework in place. Efficacy of policy framework is largely dependent on local planning decisions.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. Policy framework in place. Efficacy of policy framework is largely dependent on local planning decisions. Mechanisms such as biodiversity off-setting to be investigated.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. Policy framework in place. Efficacy of policy framework is largely dependent on local planning decisions.</p> <p>Delivered in part. Policy framework in place. Efficacy of policy framework is largely dependent on local planning decisions.</p> <p>Delivered. No further action required until full review of</p>
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<p>model policies for biodiversity conservation to assist London borough councils with this aspect of their Unitary Development Plans.</p> <p>Proposal 11: The Mayor will take biodiversity issues into account in the consideration of planning referrals and comment on biodiversity issues wherever relevant.</p> <p>Proposal 12: The Mayor will press the Government to bring Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation into the criteria for Mayoral planning referrals.</p> <p>Proposal 13: The Mayor will provide expert advice on biodiversity to London borough councils on planning issues, other than statutory planning referrals, which could have strategically important consequences for biodiversity.</p>	<p>published in November 2005. Although some changes to planning policy since publication the tenets are still sound.</p> <p>Assessments are undertaken by the GLAs Planning Decisions Unit (PDU), supported by 'Natural Environment' and 'Urban Greening' planning toolkits developed by the GLA Environment Team , plus specific advice on more complex or contentious cases.</p> <p>Lobbying was undertaken during the Livingstone administration but did not result in change to Mayoral remit. This proposal is no longer relevant following changes to national policy agenda established by Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>GLA officers have provides expert advice to boroughs as and when necessary albeit the amount of staff resource available to provide such advice has been reduced in recent years. GLA officers Chair the London Wildlife Sites Board. Borough officers have established their own network – the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum (LBBF) - to share advice and expertise. This meets regularly.</p>	<p>Strategy.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. Internal GLA procedures regularly reviewed to ensure relevant issues are being addressed.</p> <p>Action taken; but proposal no longer relevant. No further action required.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. Further work required to ensure LWSB and LBBF can provide more support for Boroughs.</p>
<p>Land Management</p>		
<p>Proposal 19: The Mayor will and boroughs should protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Blue Ribbon Network.</p> <p>Proposal 20: The Mayor will work with others and particularly the Environment Agency to establish a restoration strategy</p>	<p>London Plan policy 7.28 <i>Restoration of the Blue Ribbon Network</i> and its translation into LDFs at Borough level provides policy framework that promotes river restoration and enhancement.</p> <p>The London Rivers Action Plan published in 2009. Between 2000 and 2011, 40 km of river habitat in London</p>	<p>Policy framework delivered. No further policy development required until next Strategy review.</p> <p>Delivered. Further work required to ensure existing restoration strategy is</p>

<p>for the tributary rivers of the Network. Among other aims this will aim to identify options for reinstating natural features.</p> <p>Proposal 21: The Mayor will encourage land managers, including London borough councils and other public bodies, schools, faith groups and commercial organisations, to take biodiversity into account in the management of their land. This should include managing important habitats to protect and enhance their nature conservation value, providing safe access for all, involving the local community and creating new wildlife habitats where appropriate.</p> <p>Proposal 25: The Mayor will produce a good practice guide for London borough councils to the production of open space strategies, which will include proposals for enhancing their open spaces for biodiversity.</p> <p>Proposal 26: A framework for London's trees and woodlands will be prepared by the Mayor in partnership with other relevant bodies, including Trees for London, the London borough councils, the London Tree Officers Association, the Community Forests, Green Gateway and the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Proposal 28: The Mayor will encourage the sympathetic management of</p>	<p>had been improved, including 18 km that has been restored. This is ongoing and is being galvanised by the Thames River Basin Management Plan - a requirement of the Water Framework Directive - and the preparation of Surface Water Management Plans by Boroughs as a consequence of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010</p> <p>People, Parks and Nature was published in 2008, providing guidance on how to enhance green spaces for biodiversity. Recent initiatives such as Help a London Park, Pocket Parks and Big Green Fund have identified biodiversity conservation and enhancement as a key objective. Through support for Green Space Information for Greater London most land managers have the ability to access the information they need to take account of biodiversity in the way land is managed.</p> <p>Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guide was published in 2008. A revision of this guidance (to include consideration of green infrastructure) will be produced.</p> <p>The London Tree and Woodland Framework was published in 2005, jointly with Forestry Commission. This is a non-statutory document. Preparing Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies Supplementary Planning Guidance was published in 2013 to assist Boroughs in taking full account of the urban forest and the benefits it provides.</p> <p>The former London Biodiversity Partnership prepared a Cemeteries and</p>	<p>incorporated into the new frameworks being developed in response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Delivered. Ongoing action by provision of advice through All London Green Grid seminars and influence exerted via All London Green Grid advocacy and funding programmes.</p> <p>Delivered. Updated guidance on Green Infrastructure Strategies is planned.</p> <p>Delivered. Ongoing policy development, including production of a London i-Tree Eco report.</p> <p>Delivered. No further action required.</p>
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<p>cemeteries and churchyards for biodiversity and the quiet enjoyment of nature.</p> <p>Proposal 29: The Mayor will promote the important role of private gardens for wildlife and, together with other members of the London Biodiversity Partnership, will provide information to encourage London's gardeners to make their gardens wildlife-friendly.</p> <p>Proposal 35: The Mayor will work with Transport for London and will encourage the Highways Agency, Railtrack, the borough councils and other transport bodies to ensure that the potential for wildlife habitat on the verges of roads, footpaths, cycleways and railways is realised wherever possible.</p> <p>Proposal 23: The Mayor will provide expert advice and training to London borough councils, and others as appropriate, on the management of strategically important wildlife sites and important species and the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat. He will work with partners to disseminate information on best practice in managing wildlife habitats in urban areas.</p> <p>Proposal 27: The Mayor will work with the London Parks and Green Spaces Forum, the London Biodiversity Partnership, London borough councils, the Royal Parks Agency and others to facilitate information exchange on best practice in enhancing the biodiversity value and promoting sustainable management in parks and green spaces in London.</p> <p>Proposal 22: The Mayor expects boroughs, in consultation with English</p>	<p>Churchyards Habitat Action Plan. This is being progressed by the Diocese of London's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>The report London: garden city? was published in 2011 to provide an evidence base for London Plan policy on gardens. Information and advice on this issue is provided by a number of partners e.g. London Wildlife Trust's Gardening for a Living London.</p> <p>London Underground have produced LU Biodiversity Action Plan. Transport for London's Surface Transport division have a comprehensive Tree Strategy and Landscape Management Plan.</p> <p>A series of workshops and seminars have been delivered with the former London Biodiversity Partnership and Greening London Briefings continue under the auspices of the All London Green Grid partnership</p> <p>The London Parks and Green Spaces Forum, London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum, and the London Invasive Species Initiative continue to provide mechanisms to share and exchange best practice.</p> <p>141 Local Nature Reserves have been declared across London. Declaration is</p>	<p>Delivered. Ongoing action primarily by nature conservation NGOs, including a planned pollinator project supported by the GLA.</p> <p>Delivered. Ongoing action – new arrangements in place to ensure better co-ordination between GLA Environment Team and TfL. NB Highways Agency and Network Rail governed by national policy and protocols.</p> <p>Ongoing action – working with partners and stakeholders as required. Better co-ordination with LBBF required.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery. GLA officers continue to work with the relevant bodies.</p> <p>Ongoing action - by Boroughs as required.</p>
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<p>Nature, to declare suitable sites as Local Nature Reserves, and to manage these sites to benefit biodiversity and people's access to nature.</p>	<p>a Borough responsibility in consultation with Natural England (formerly English Nature).</p>	
<p>Greening the Built Environment</p>		
<p>Proposal 33: The Mayor will liaise with others to research and disseminate good practice for designing or adapting buildings to enhance and maintain biodiversity. He will follow this aim when considering development proposals referred to him.</p> <p>Proposal 34: The Mayor will work with the London Development Agency, the London borough councils, the business sector and others to encourage the inclusion of greening initiatives in new developments, and proposes that these should be addressed from the outset in developing such schemes.</p> <p>Proposal 36: The Mayor will encourage research into measuring the success of greening initiatives.</p>	<p>Promoted through London Plan policy 5.10 <i>Urban Greening</i>. Information on Urban Greening, including the benefits for biodiversity, are included in the Sustainable Design and Construction SPG. The GLA has supported and funded the work of Trees and Design Action Group.</p> <p>A number of best practice and guidance documents have been produced including: Design for Biodiversity published in 2004; Living Roofs and Walls published in 2008; The Canopy published in 2011; and Delivering Vertical Greening published in 2012. The GLA is working with businesses in central London to promote green roofs and walls through the Greening the BIDs initiative.</p> <p>The GLA is supporting green roof research at Barking Riverside and Transport for London Ruislip London Underground depot. Through the TURAS initiative, research into green roofs and other green infrastructure is informing the design of the development at Barking Riverside</p>	<p>Delivered, plus ongoing activity including, for example, support for updates to Green Roof Code and promotion of Trees in the Hard Landscape.</p> <p>Policy and guidance delivered. Ongoing activity via planning process.</p> <p>Delivered. Ongoing activity to measure success including further development of green roof map and research into efficacy of London Plan policy.</p>
<p>Access to Nature and Public Engagement</p>		
<p>Proposal 37: The Mayor will work in partnership with other interested organisations, such as the NHS and park managers, to maximise the health</p>	<p>Improving Londoner's Access to Nature was published in 2008 and Better Environment, Better Health guides for London Boroughs were</p>	<p>Delivered in part. Further work required to identify specific management regimes that maximise health benefits.</p>

<p>benefits of green spaces.</p> <p>Proposal 38: The Mayor will seek to increase the relevance of biodiversity to the daily life of Londoners by drawing on visitor surveys, opinion polls and social, medical and psychological research to inform the way the Strategy is promoted and implemented.</p> <p>Proposal 39: The Mayor will work in partnership with Learning Through Landscapes and other partners to increase the biodiversity value of school grounds.</p> <p>Proposal 44: The Mayor's Culture Strategy will recognise the enjoyment of wildlife and landscape as a cultural experience. The Mayor will include elements of biodiversity interest, where appropriate, in his cultural events.</p> <p>Proposal 45: The Mayor will produce and disseminate information on London's biodiversity, including a popular guide to exploring London's wildlife.</p>	<p>published in 2013. Healthy living is a key objective of the All London Green Grid.</p> <p>No specific action undertaken.</p> <p>No specific action undertaken with Learning through Landscapes but delivered through activity under Proposal 21.</p> <p>The Mayor's Culture Strategy includes reference to cultural value of landscape and wildlife. Ecology and biodiversity conservation messages incorporated in London 2012 activities.</p> <p>Formerly delivered through WildWeb – a stand-alone micro-site. Discontinued as delivered by others such as London Wildlife Trust, RSPB and others.</p>	<p>No activity planned.</p> <p>See Proposal 21</p> <p>Policy intent delivered, but further work not a priority, unless <i>ad hoc</i> opportunities arise.</p> <p>Delivered, but discontinued. Improved, public-facing information will be incorporated in planned new GLA web-site.</p>
<p>Partnership Working</p>		
<p>Proposal 49: The Mayor will continue to be an active member of the London Biodiversity Partnership and will assist where possible in supporting its functions.</p> <p>Proposal 50: The Mayor will take the lead on the production and implementation of some action plans, and will contribute to other action plans as appropriate.</p> <p>Proposal 51: The Mayor will work with members of the London Biodiversity</p>	<p>The GLA was a founding partner of London Biodiversity Partnership and chaired the partnership for 5 years. Instrumental in securing £1.5 million SITA funding for BAP delivery in London.</p> <p>GLA officers initiated and lead plans for woodland, heathland, parks and cemeteries.</p> <p>The Partnership had a governance structure comprised of a Steering</p>	<p>Proposal no longer relevant following demise of London Biodiversity Partnership. Ongoing delivery through All London Green Grid and LBBF.</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>See above.</p>

<p>Partnership and others to establish a stakeholder forum to facilitate the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Proposal 52: The Mayor will encourage and support all London borough councils in the establishment of local biodiversity partnerships and the production, implementation and monitoring of borough Biodiversity Action Plans as an integrated element of the delivery and implementation of Community Strategies.</p> <p>Proposal 53: The Mayor will press the Government for legislation to place a statutory duty on local authorities to produce and implement local Biodiversity Action Plans through local partnerships.</p> <p>Proposal 54: The Mayor will foster working links and exchanges with international bodies and organisations in other major cities, to give a lead in urban greening and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Proposal 56: The Mayor will encourage the formation of a partnership for excellence in global biodiversity conservation, harnessing the skills and expertise of London's centres of excellence.</p> <p>Proposal 68: The Mayor will work with key partners in the London Biodiversity Partnership to develop a funding strategy for the London Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Group, various Working Groups and Action Plan delivery groups.</p> <p>The majority of Boroughs produced Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and established relevant local partnerships. Natural England established an on-line monitoring protocol – Biodiversity Action Reporting System.</p> <p>A duty to have regard to biodiversity was introduced in Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. This includes the requirement to have appropriate locally determined plans, policies and partnerships in place.</p> <p>GLA officers engage with various international bodies and partners with regards to a wide range of green infrastructure, urban greening and biodiversity matters in order to keep abreast of international exemplars and best practice.</p> <p>No specific action or progression. However, London's reputation as a centre of excellence is maintained by ZSL, Natural History Museum and Kew, and showcase projects such as the London Wetland Centre and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.</p> <p>A funding strategy was prepared for the partnership in 2005 which helped lever in funding from sources such as Heritage Lottery Fund and SITA</p>	<p>Ongoing activity is a Borough responsibility. Many Boroughs still have BAPs and support local partnerships that help deliver local conservation priorities.</p> <p>Delivered.</p> <p>Ongoing activity as and when appropriate, where there are clear benefits to accelerating delivery in London through collaborative partnerships. In particular GLA works with partners such as Groundwork to maximise opportunities for funding and support through EU initiatives.</p> <p>No specific activity planned other than promoting London institutions when appropriate.</p> <p>There are no plans to produce another stand-alone funding strategy but GLA officers continue to support partners in developing funding bids as and</p>
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	Landfill Trust.	when appropriate.
Tourism and Business		
<p>Proposal 55: The Mayor will support enterprising new flagship projects for urban nature conservation and people's enjoyment of the natural world, which may further London's reputation as a World City.</p> <p>Proposal 57: The Mayor will work with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CBI, London First and other organisations to strengthen the role which business can play in conserving London's biodiversity, including the development of company Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Proposal 58: The Mayor will work with the London Tourist Board and others to raise the profile of London's major natural attractions.</p>	<p>The Mayor has supported and endorsed, and provided funding for major projects such as the London Wetland Centre, Wildspace at Rainham Marshes, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the forthcoming Walthamstow Wetlands.</p> <p>The Mayor and GLA worked with London Biodiversity Partnership to promote biodiversity to key businesses, including Thames Water which has produced its own company Biodiversity Action Plan. Initiated the Greening the BIDs project which has worked with business improvement districts in Central London to undertake green infrastructure audits to identify opportunities for urban greening including habitat creation.</p> <p>No specific action. Incorporated into general promotion of London's parks and green spaces through London's Great Outdoors.</p>	<p>Ongoing activity as and when projects come forward.</p> <p>Ongoing activity to develop the Greening the BIDs initiative beyond central London and integrate with similar initiatives being developed by Crown Estate and others.</p> <p>Ongoing activity across the GLA under the umbrella of London's Great Outdoors.</p>
Research & Policy Development		
<p>Proposal 60: The Mayor will keep links between biodiversity and other aspects of the environment under review and take them into account in implementing this Strategy.</p> <p>Proposal 61: The Mayor will consider biodiversity effects as part of an overall appraisal of the impacts of climate change in London.</p>	<p>Undertaken as part of generic intelligence gathering undertaken by officers to inform policy and projects. Biodiversity objectives were incorporated into Mayor's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and Water Strategy</p> <p>Biodiversity and green infrastructure issues are addressed in Mayor's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. With the London Climate Change partnership, published Creating</p>	<p>Ongoing activity. Synergies between the Mayor's environment strategies are pursued when projects and programmes are developed.</p> <p>Delivered.</p>

<p>Proposal 62: The Mayor will consider, with the London Development Agency, the development of a strategy for ethical trade, to discourage trading activity that damages biodiversity beyond London's borders, including such issues as the use of peat, limestone and wood products from unsustainable sources.</p> <p>Proposal 63: The procurement policies of the GLA group should pay due regard to biodiversity conservation. The Mayor will encourage sustainable procurement of materials used in construction and development.</p> <p>Proposal 64: The Mayor will work with the Metropolitan Police Authority, HM Customs and others, to develop an effective programme to prevent the illegal trade in endangered species and species products within London.</p> <p>Proposal 65: The Mayor will work with local authorities and leading conservation organisations in London to seek to establish a strategic programme of funding for site acquisition and long-term management, to conserve strategically important land for biodiversity and for the enjoyment of nature by people.</p> <p>Proposal 66: The Mayor will support appropriate funding bids from the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, environmental education centres and environmental outreach programmes in London to maintain and extend the provision of city farms, community and cultural gardens and environmental education facilities in London, particularly in areas of greatest need.</p>	<p>Natural Resilience in 2009.</p> <p>Delivered via the GLA responsible procurement policy Operation Charm established by the Metropolitan Police to tackle trade in endangered species.</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>No specific action. Delivery is through supporting partnership action as when required e.g. major campaign to secure Rainham Marshes secured funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Thurrock Development Corporation and others.</p> <p>No specific action on this specific proposal, but the intent has been delivered through initiatives such as Capital Growth and Pocket Parks.</p>	<p>Delivered.</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>Operation Charm continues to operate as a partnership between the Metropolitan Police and various wildlife conservation partners.</p> <p>NB The specific proposal is not within the remit of the GLA.</p> <p>Support will be considered and provided on a case by case basis as and when necessary.</p>
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<p>Proposal 67: The Mayor will investigate the problems in accessing funding for biodiversity work in London, and will explore with funding agencies the possibilities for making grant schemes more attractive to potential applicants, more appropriate to the special conditions in London, and applicable to a wider range of work, especially in relation to the London and borough Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Proposal 69: The GLA group should ensure that the budgets for major infrastructure and development projects include provision for the necessary environmental appraisal (including a biodiversity assessment where appropriate) and for retention, enhancement, creation (where appropriate) and long-term management of wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>The GLA and partners have had continual dialogue with key funding agencies including Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund, Bridge House Trust, SITA Trust, etc. to press the case for funding for biodiversity projects in London. Consequently most key funding agencies have and will fund biodiversity projects. HLF, for example have funded 236 projects in London.</p> <p>Standard environmental impact procedures are applied to all major projects, and ecological considerations are considered through masterplanning and project design & development. Where appropriate delivery is secured through planning conditions and obligations e.g. Olympic Park Biodiversity Action Plan. Ecology and nature conservation are addressed in key design guidance, including, for example, Housing Design Guidance and TfL's Streetscape guidance.</p>	<p>Ongoing activity. Continual dialogue with various funding agencies to press the case for investment in parks, green space and nature conservation projects.</p> <p>Ongoing activity as part of standard operating procedures for project design and delivery.</p>
<p>Monitoring Progress</p>		
<p>Proposal 70: The Mayor will measure the success of this Strategy primarily against two targets, to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that there is no net loss of important wildlife habitat, • that the Areas of Deficiency in accessible wildlife sites are reduced. <p>Proposal 71: The Mayor will compile State of the Environment Indicators, which will include headline indicators on bird populations (and other appropriate groups where possible), quantity of wildlife habitats, access to natural green spaces and the quality of that access.</p>	<p>Data for these two targets (and other indicators) is collected and published in State of Environment reports. See proposal 71 below.</p> <p>Biodiversity indicators have been included in all State of Environment reports published to date including the most recent London's Environment Revealed published in 2011 and updated in 2013.</p>	<p>Ongoing activity as and when State of Environment reports published.</p> <p>Ongoing activity as and when State of Environment reports published.</p>

<p>Proposal 72: The Mayor will develop, with other partners, methods for monitoring the progress of actions contained in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and the biodiversity action plans adopted by individual London borough partnerships, in order that such data can be readily combined to provide information for London as a whole.</p>	<p>A national system has been established – Biodiversity Action Reporting System. Action plan leads, and others as appropriate, populate this database. London data can be accessed and combined with data and information held by Greenspace Information for Greater London.</p>	<p>Although a reporting system is in place there are limited resources to update and populate the system. There few if any action plan leads in London able to compile and submit data.</p>
<p>Miscellaneous</p>		
<p>Proposal 15: The Mayor will support legislation to ban all hunting with dogs.</p>	<p>The Government enacted the Hunting Act in 2004 which imposed a national ban on hunting with dogs.</p>	<p>Governed by national legislation.</p>
<p>Proposal 32: The Mayor will oppose commercial or experimental release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the environment in London.</p>	<p>There have been no experimental or commercial releases of GMOs in London.</p>	<p>Governed by national legislation.</p>
<p>Proposal 42: The Mayor will continue his scheme to provide a free visit to London Zoo for all children in London schools. He will work with Government, London’s education authorities, city farms and other environmental education initiatives to facilitate other opportunities for environmental education, especially at the local level.</p>	<p>The London Zoo school visits programme was in place until March 2011 but ceased due to budgetary constraints.</p>	<p>No further activity.</p>
<p>Proposal 64: The Mayor will work with the Metropolitan Police Authority, HM Customs and others, to develop an effective programme to prevent the illegal trade in endangered species and species products within London.</p>	<p>Operation Charm was established.</p>	<p>Ongoing activity by Metropolitan Police and partners.</p>

NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK – CHANGES SINCE 2002

There have been a number of changes to legislation and policy relating to wildlife and the natural environment since the publication of the Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. These include:

- Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations Act, 2010
- Making space for nature, a review of England's wildlife sites, 2010
- Natural Environment White Paper, 2011
- Biodiversity 2020; England Biodiversity Strategy, 2011
- National Planning Policy Framework, 2012

The majority of these changes, and emerging policy agendas, were articulated in the first White Paper on the natural environment in 20 years.

Natural Environment White Paper - 2011

Since the publication of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy in 2002 the Government has published the first White Paper on the natural environment for over 20 years. *The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature* was published in June 2011.

The purpose of the White Paper was to add value to the existing policy framework developed by successive Governments, which had established the protected area network, the protection of key species through the planning system and established a regulatory framework that aimed to remedy the worst impacts of environmental pollution.

A core objective of *The Natural Choice* was to encourage society to properly value the economic and social benefits of a healthy natural environment while continuing to recognise nature's intrinsic value. Consequently, the White Paper promotes the adoption of policy and practice that:

- identifies how better to describe and protect the services and resources that the natural environment provides
- promotes the notion that conservation works best when the natural environment is understood as a system rather than a series of protected spaces
- strength the connections between people and nature

The Natural Choice was and is, in many ways a step change in Government thinking about nature conservation and the protection and management of the natural environment. It places the concepts of landscape ecology, green infrastructure, ecosystem services and natural capital at the heart of policy development. It strengthens the argument that nature conservation and the protection of the natural environment should be considered in the context of wider environmental and social concerns, such as climate change and inequalities. And it recognises that there is a growing disconnect between people (particularly in towns and cities) and the natural world.

To achieve these ambitions the White Paper sets out key reforms against four key themes:

- protecting and improving the natural environment
- growing a green economy
- reconnecting people and nature
- international and EU leadership

Although the reforms and proposals set out in *The Natural Choice* have set a new direction for national policy on biodiversity and the natural environment much of it had been presaged in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. This is because, in part, in developing a policy framework for London that was fit for purpose it had already been necessary for nature conservation objectives to reflect wider economic and social concerns in order to be relevant in the urban environment and resonant to an urban population.

Table 3 below sets out how the relevant proposals in *The Natural Choice* map across to the policies and initiatives established by Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.

Table 3

<i>Natural Choice</i> proposals	Relationship to Biodiversity Strategy
Protecting and improving the natural environment	
<p>Building on the National Ecosystem Assessment, the Government will support a further phase of ground-breaking research. It will investigate the mix of future actions most likely to secure the most benefits for nature and for people from our ecosystems. It will also develop practical tools to assist decision-makers in applying the lessons of the NEA.</p> <p>We will encourage and support Local Nature Partnerships where local areas wish to establish them. These partnerships will work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment. They will aim to improve the multiple benefits we receive from good management of the land.</p> <p>We will enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), based on a local</p>	<p>The All London Green Grid provides a framework for a more holistic and integrated approach to planning, designing and managing London's green space network in order to deliver multiple benefits, including biodiversity conservation and ecological resilience. Building on this policy framework, the recent established Green Infrastructure Task Force will prepare a report to identify how to secure the most benefits for nature and for people from London's green infrastructure.</p> <p>The partnership delivering the All London Green Grid is recognised by Defra as the Local Nature Partnership for London.</p> <p>At a national level twelve NIAs were formally identified by Government following the publication of <i>The Natural Choice</i>. One of these – the Greater Thames Marshes – includes the Rainham Marshes</p>

<p>assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale.</p> <p>Working within the framework of the National Policy Statements and the Government’s planning reforms, local authorities will be able to use local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas, including identifying them in their local plans where they choose, while not deterring sustainable development.</p> <p>We will establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting and will test this in a number of pilot areas.</p> <p>We will work with civil society to update and improve the consistency of the national landscape character area profiles and integrate information on the ecosystem goods and services that they provide. Each profile will identify the environmental potential of landscape areas, to inform national policies such as agri-environment schemes and help local communities and planners to make informed decisions about land use.</p>	<p>and Crayford Marshes in east London. Locally identified NIAs have also been promoted by <i>The Natural Choice</i>. In London the All London Green Grid Area Frameworks provide the basis for these local NIAs eg the Wandle Valley Regional Park</p> <p>Delivered through the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance. All London Green Grid Area frameworks, plus the London Living Landscapes concept developed by London Wildlife Trust, provide a basis on which to develop locally-determined Nature Improvement Areas</p> <p>London Wildlife Trust are preparing a proposal for a Biodiversity Off-setting Strategy for London. This may inform future iterations of the London Plan.</p> <p>Delivered by All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance , All London Green Grid Area Frameworks and guidance such as London’s Natural Signatures</p>
<p>Growing a Green Economy</p>	
<p>The Government will establish an independent Natural Capital Committee reporting to the Economic Affairs Cabinet Committee which is chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Committee will advise the Government on the state of English natural capital. To support the initial work of the Natural Capital Committee, the Government will take forward a scoping study in 2011 for a natural capital asset check.</p>	<p>The recently established Green Infrastructure Task Force will develop the work of the Natural Capital Committee and apply its principles and frameworks in a London context. A London pilot of the Natural Capital Accounting Framework is underway.</p>
<p>Reconnecting people and nature</p>	
<p>Local Nature Partnerships and the Health and Wellbeing Boards should actively seek to engage each</p>	<p>Better Environment, Better Health guides have been produced for London boroughs. Improving the</p>

other in their work. Forthcoming guidance will make clear that the wider determinants of health, including the natural environment, will be a crucial consideration in developing joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies.

The Government will establish a Green Infrastructure Partnership to support the development of green infrastructure in England. This will consider how green infrastructure can be enhanced to strengthen ecological networks and improve communities' health, quality of life and resilience to climate change.

collaboration between the All London Green Grid partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards will inform the work of the [Green Infrastructure Task Force](#).

The GLA and partners in London are playing an active role in the [Green Infrastructure Partnership](#) and the chair of the partnership sits on the [Green Infrastructure Task Force](#).

National Planning Policy Framework - 2012

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a key part of the government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible. The framework acts as guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications.

The NPPF replaces previous guidance such as Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

The recent process required to prepare and publish [Further Alterations to the London Plan](#)* have confirmed that London Plan policies are consistent with the NPPF. Consequently the national policy changes instigated by the NPPF do not result in any significant changes to the policies in the London Plan on biodiversity, green infrastructure, trees & woodlands, etc. and no significant impact on the policies and proposals in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy.

*NB the 'Further Alterations' did not amend policies on biodiversity, etc.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

This review of progress confirms that the core framework, comprising the existing Biodiversity Strategy and associated London Plan policies, provides a sound basis for the continued conservation of London's biodiversity. Nevertheless, the likelihood of continued constraints on public sector budgets and the predicted increase in London's population (and consequent development pressure) will require concerted action in delivering particular aspects of the policy framework, particularly where these align with the direction of travel set by the Government White Paper.

PROPOSED FUTURE PRIORITIES

Outline actions. Detail of activity to be provided following further consultation.

Protection and management of the SINC network

- produce updated guidance on role and function of SINC. [NB with LBBF and LWT].
- support LWT with development and dissemination of London Biodiversity Offsetting strategy. [NB this work is being led by LWT].
- work with LBBF to develop training for Borough planners based on updated guidance on SINC and proposals from Biodiversity Offsetting Strategy.
- update list of priority habitats and species to align with [England Biodiversity Strategy 2020](#).
- continue to convene LWSB to provide advisory service to Boroughs regarding identification and management of SINC.

Biodiversity conservation in the wider landscape

- support LWT and others to better integrate [Living Landscapes](#) (and the concept of landscape-scale conservation) into the framework and delivery provided by the All London Green Grid.
- support partnership developing 'Making a B-Line for London' – an initiative to promote pollinator conservation in London.
- delivery of the [London Invasive Species Initiative](#). [NB primarily by Boroughs and other land managers, and Environment Agency].

Green infrastructure and Ecosystem Services

- Ensure green infrastructure (and thereby biodiversity as a key component of green infrastructure) is recognised as a critical element of a sustainable economy in the [London Infrastructure Plan](#) and through the work of the [Green Infrastructure Task Force](#). [NB See Appendix 2 for the Terms of Reference of the Task Force and the context within which it operates].
- Publish and disseminate a London [i-Tree Eco](#) assessment to promote the ecological services and economic benefit provided by London's urban forest. [NB work led by Forestry Commission].
- Undertake a [Natural Capital Accounting](#) pilot project to support the work of the [Natural Capital Committee](#) and to inform the work of the Green Infrastructure Task Force.

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1

Biodiversity and Natural Environment policies in the London Plan

Policy 2.18

Green infrastructure: the network of open and green spaces

Strategic

A. The Mayor will work with all relevant strategic partners to protect, promote, expand and manage the extent and quality of, and access to, London's network of green infrastructure. This multifunctional network will secure benefits including, but not limited to: biodiversity; natural and historic landscapes; culture; building a sense of place; the economy; sport; recreation; local food production; mitigating and adapting to climate change; water management; and the social benefits that promote individual and community health and well-being.

B. The Mayor will pursue the delivery of green infrastructure by working in partnership with all relevant bodies, including across London's boundaries, as with the Green Arc Partnerships and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. The Mayor will publish supplementary guidance on the All London Green Grid to apply the principles of the East London Green Grid to green infrastructure across London.

C. In areas of deficiency for regional and metropolitan parks, opportunities for the creation of green infrastructure to meet this deficiency should be identified and their implementation should be supported, such as in the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

Planning decisions

D. Enhancements to London's green infrastructure should be sought from development and where a proposal falls within a regional or metropolitan park deficiency area (broadly corresponding to the areas identified as "regional park opportunities" on Map 2.8), it should contribute to addressing this need.

E. Development proposals should:

- a) incorporate appropriate elements of green infrastructure that are integrated into the wider network
- b) encourage the linkage of green infrastructure, including the Blue Ribbon Network, to the wider public realm to improve accessibility for all and develop new links, utilising green chains, street trees, and other components of urban greening (Policy 5.10).

LDF preparation

F. Boroughs should:

- a) follow the guidance in PPG 17 and undertake audits of all forms of green and open space and assessments of need. These should be both qualitative and quantitative, and have regard to the cross-borough nature and use of many of these open spaces
- b) produce open space strategies that cover all forms of open space and the interrelationship between these spaces. These should identify priorities for addressing deficiencies and should set out positive measures for the management of green and open space. These strategies and their action plans need to be kept under review. Delivery of local biodiversity action plans should be linked to open space strategies.

- c) ensure that in and through DPD policies, green infrastructure needs are planned and managed to realise the current and potential value of open space to communities and to support delivery of the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits
- d) In London's urban fringe support, through appropriate initiatives, the Green Arc vision of creating and protecting an extensive and valued recreational landscape of well connected and accessible countryside around London for both people and for wildlife.

Policy 5.10

Urban greening

Strategic

- A. The Mayor will promote and support urban greening, such as new planting in the public realm (including streets, squares and plazas) and multifunctional green infrastructure, to contribute to the adaptation to, and reduction of, the effects of climate change.
- B. The Mayor seeks to increase the amount of surface area greened in the Central Activities Zone by at least five per cent by 2030, and a further five per cent by 2050.

Planning decisions

- C. Development proposals should integrate green infrastructure from the beginning of the design process to contribute to urban greening, including the public realm. Elements that can contribute to this include: tree planting, green roofs and walls, and soft landscaping. Major development proposals within the Central Activities Zone should demonstrate how green infrastructure has been incorporated.

LDF preparation

- D. Boroughs should identify areas where urban greening and green infrastructure can make a particular contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change, such as the urban heat island.

Policy 5.11

Green roofs and development site environs

Planning decisions

- A. Major development proposals should be designed to include roof, wall and site planting, especially green roofs and walls where feasible, to deliver as many of the following objectives as possible:
 - a) adaptation to climate change (ie aiding cooling)
 - b) sustainable urban drainage
 - c) mitigation of climate change (ie aiding energy efficiency)
 - d) enhancement of biodiversity
 - e) accessible roof space
 - f) improvements to appearance and resilience of the building
 - g) growing food.

LDF preparation

B. Within LDFs boroughs may wish to develop more detailed policies and proposals to support the development of green roofs and the greening of development sites.

Boroughs should also promote the use of green roofs in smaller developments, renovations and extensions where feasible.

Policy 5.13

Sustainable drainage

Planning decisions

A. Development should utilise sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) unless there are practical reasons for not doing so, and should aim to achieve greenfield run-off rates and ensure that surface water run-off is managed as close to its source as possible in line with the following drainage hierarchy:

1. store rainwater for later use
2. use infiltration techniques, such as porous surfaces in non-clay areas
3. attenuate rainwater in ponds or open water features for gradual release
4. attenuate rainwater by storing in tanks or sealed water features for gradual release
5. discharge rainwater direct to a watercourse
6. discharge rainwater to a surface water sewer/drain
7. discharge rainwater to the combined sewer.

Drainage should be designed and implemented in ways that deliver other policy objectives of this Plan, including water use efficiency and quality, biodiversity, amenity and recreation.

LDF preparation

B. Within LDFs boroughs should, in line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, utilise Surface Water Management Plans to identify areas where there are particular surface water management issues and develop actions and policy approaches aimed at reducing these risks.

Policy 7.1

Building London's neighbourhoods and communities

Strategic

A In their neighbourhoods, people should have a good quality environment in an active and supportive local community with the best possible access to services, infrastructure and public transport to wider London. Their neighbourhoods should also provide a character that is easy to understand and relate to.

Planning decisions

C Development should enable people to live healthy, active lives; should maximize the opportunity for community diversity, inclusion and cohesion; and should contribute to people's sense of place, safety and security. Places of work and leisure, streets, neighbourhoods, parks

and open spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the community at all stages of people's lives, and should meet the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods.

Policy 7.19

Biodiversity and access to nature

Strategic

A. The Mayor will work with all relevant partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, enhancement, creation, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. This means planning for nature from the beginning of the development process and taking opportunities for positive gains for nature through the layout, design and materials of development proposals and appropriate biodiversity action plans.

B. Any proposals promoted or brought forward by the London Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site of nature conservation importance (to include special areas of conservation (SACs), special protection areas (SPAs), Ramsar, proposed and candidate sites) either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Whilst all development proposals must address this policy, it is of particular importance when considering the following policies within the London Plan: 1.1, 2.1-2.17, 3.1, 3.3, 5.14, 5.15, 5.17, 5.20, 6.3, 7.14, 7.15, 7.25, and 7.26. Whilst all opportunity and intensification areas must address the policy in general, specific locations requiring consideration are referenced in Annex 1.

Planning decisions

C. Development proposals should:

- a) wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity
- b) prioritise assisting in achieving targets in biodiversity action plans (BAPs) set out in Table 7.3 and/or improve access to nature in areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites
- c) not adversely affect the integrity of European sites, and be resisted where they have significant adverse impact on European or nationally designated sites or on the population or conservation status of a protected species, or a priority species or habitat identified in a UK, London or appropriate regional BAP or borough BAP.

D. On Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation development proposals should:

- a) give the highest protection to sites with existing or proposed international designations (SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites) and national designations²⁵ (SSSIs, NNRs) in line with the relevant EU and UK guidance and regulations
- b) give strong protection to sites of metropolitan importance for nature conservation (SMIs). These are sites jointly identified by the Mayor and boroughs as having strategic nature conservation importance
- c) give sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation the level of protection commensurate with their importance.

E. When considering proposals that would affect directly, indirectly or cumulatively a site of recognised nature conservation interest, the following hierarchy will apply:

1. avoid adverse impact to the biodiversity interest
2. minimize impact and seek mitigation

3. only in exceptional cases where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the biodiversity impacts, seek appropriate compensation.

LDF preparation

F. In their LDFs, boroughs should:

- a) use the procedures in the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy to identify and secure the appropriate management of sites of borough and local importance for nature conservation in consultation with the London Wildlife Sites Board.
- b) identify areas deficient in accessible wildlife sites and seek opportunities to address them
- c) include policies and proposals for the protection of protected/priority species and habitats and the enhancement of their populations and their extent via appropriate BAP targets
- d) ensure sites of European or National Nature Conservation Importance are clearly identified.
- e) identify and protect and enhance corridors of movement, such as green corridors, that are of strategic importance in enabling species to colonise, re-colonise and move between sites.

Policy 7.21

Trees and woodlands

Strategic

A. Trees and woodlands should be protected, maintained, and enhanced, following the guidance of the London Tree and Woodland Framework (or any successor strategy). In collaboration with the Forestry Commission the Mayor will produce supplementary guidance on tree strategies to guide each borough's production of a tree strategy covering the audit, protection, planting and management of trees and woodland. This should be linked to the borough's open space strategy.

Planning decisions

B. Existing trees of value should be retained and any loss as the result of development should be replaced following the principle of 'right place, right tree'. Wherever appropriate, the planting of additional trees should be included in new developments, particularly large-canopied species.

LDF preparation

- C. Boroughs should follow the advice of PPS 9 to protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site.
- D. Boroughs should develop appropriate policies to implement their borough tree strategy.

Policy 7.28

Restoration of the Blue Ribbon Network

Planning decisions

- A. Development proposals should restore and enhance the Blue Ribbon Network by:
 - a) taking opportunities to open culverts and naturalise river channels
 - b) increasing habitat value; development which reduces biodiversity should be

refused

- c) preventing development and structures into the water space unless it serves a water related purpose (see paragraph 7.84)
- d) protecting the value of the foreshore of the Thames and tidal rivers
- e) resisting the impounding of rivers
- f) protecting the open character of the Blue Ribbon Network.

LDF preparation

B. Within LDFs boroughs should identify any parts of the Blue Ribbon Network where particular biodiversity improvements will be sought, having reference to the London River Restoration Action Plan.

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APPENDIX 2

Terms of Reference and context setting for the Green Infrastructure Task Force

Green Infrastructure Task Force Terms of Reference

These terms of reference set out the purpose, role, ways of working, management and membership of the Green Infrastructure Task Force.

Context

London is projected to reach over 11 million inhabitants by mid-century, a 37 per cent increase from 2011; and the demand for infrastructure is going to increase significantly. This, coupled with other pressures, such as the predicted impacts of climate change and the need for the city to remain competitive in an increasingly global economy, requires London to plan for and invest in a wide range of infrastructure to ensure the cities long-term resilience and economic viability. The London Infrastructure Plan has been prepared to assess the broad magnitude of these infrastructure needs (in transport, utilities and green infrastructure), its costs and how to pay for it, where it might be needed and how to deliver it better.

One of the actions in the London Infrastructure Plan is to establish a Green Infrastructure Task Force to advise on the future planning, design and management of London's green infrastructure to deliver a range of different benefits, and the options for governance and funding. This document sets out the Terms of Reference for the Green Infrastructure Task Force.

Purpose of the Green Infrastructure Task Force

The Task Force has been established to bring together a wide range of interests and expertise to identify how to encourage a more strategic and long-term approach to investment in and delivery of green infrastructure, which is defined as

A network of green spaces - and features such as street trees and green roofs - that is planned, designed and managed to deliver a range of benefits, including: recreation and amenity, healthy living, mitigating flooding, improving air quality, cooling the urban environment, encouraging walking and cycling, and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience.

It will prepare a report advising the Mayor on the strategic issues which need to be addressed in relation to the design, management and operation of London's green infrastructure.

It will look into how green infrastructure might be delivered more efficiently and also into potential new funding sources including, for example, from budgets where investment in green infrastructure would result in revenue cost reductions over time.

It will sign-post the short and medium-term projects, which will support the report's findings with practical examples.

To do this the Task Force will address the following issues to inform a final report:

- Is the existing resource properly understood in terms of the functions and benefits it already provides and are we communicating effectively about the additional services it could provide?
- What new institutional frameworks, governance arrangements or investment vehicles are needed to instigate a shift from an approach based on the provision of amenity and recreation to one which can help deliver the full range of green infrastructure benefits and services?
- What is the vision for London's green infrastructure in 2030 and beyond?

Roles and Ways of Working

The Task Force is expected to:

1. Review evidence, provide feedback and act as a sounding board for the preparation of interim and final reports.
2. Share ideas and information to assist the achievement of project objectives.
3. Provide a link to their own organisation and wider networks to test and seek feedback on emerging ideas and proposals.
4. Promote the work of the group in a positive manner, acting as champions.
5. Attend Task Force meetings to ensure consistency of representation.

Notwithstanding the above, Task Force members are expected to:

1. Provide expert opinion and advice in a personal capacity which is informed by their professional associations but not dictated by them.
2. Endeavour to achieve a group consensus on the advice and recommendations to be included in the Task Force report.
3. Be mindful of the current concerns regarding the funding of parks and green spaces, but not to let these constrain innovative thinking about longer-term changes to institutional or governance arrangements that might be necessary.

Membership of the Task Force

The Task Force will comprise up to 15 individuals to ensure a reasonable spread of opinion and expertise whilst keeping the group at a manageable size. Members may provide substitutes, but should be mindful that participation on the Task Force is not linked directly to organisational representation and therefore substitutes should represent opinion and expertise not organisational positions.

Members of the Task Force are set out in Annex 1.

The Task Force will be chaired by Matthew Pencharz - Senior Advisor, Energy and Environment to the Mayor of London.

Management of the Task Force and Deliverables

- The Greater London Authority will provide a Secretariat to the Task Force and a venue for Task Force meetings.
- Additional organisational support will be provided by the London Parks and Green Spaces Forum.
- An interim report will be prepared by July 2015.
- A final report will be prepared in Autumn 2015.

Meetings

- Meetings will be bi-monthly between November 2014 and September 2015 with the first meeting on Friday 21st November from 10 – 12. Meeting will last a maximum of 3 hours.
- A consultative conference is proposed for July 2015 to coincide with the publication of an Interim report. Participation in this conference is encouraged.
- Virtual or sub-group meetings will be established as a when necessary.

ANNEX 1

Green Infrastructure Task Force membership

Matthew Pencharz - Senior Advisor Environment & Energy to the Mayor of London

Cllr Julian Bell - Chair, Transport & Environment Committee, London Councils

Mark Camley - Director of Park Operations, London Legacy Development Corporation

Sue Ireland – Director of Open Spaces, City of London

Nick Barter - Deputy Director, Defra (Manager of the Natural Capital Committee)

Colin Buttery - Director of Parks and Deputy Chief Executive, The Royal Parks

Nic Durston - London Operations Director, National Trust

Katherine Drayson - Environment & Energy Research Fellow, Policy Exchange

Kyle Robins - Wastewater Infrastructure Strategy Manager, Thames Water

Dan Hill - Executive Director Futures & Best Practice, Future Cities Catapult

David Rowe - Head of Borough Projects and Programmes, Transport for London

Julia Thrift - Head of Projects, TCPA

Jessica Gibbons - Head of Place-shaping, London Borough of Camden

Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive, Lea Valley Regional Park Authority

Yvonne Doyle - Regional Director (London), Public Health England

Imran Choudhury - Director of Public Health, LB Hounslow

Charlotte Wood – London Team Manager, Environment Agency

Tony Leach - Director, London Parks and Green Spaces Forum

Meredith Whitten - PhD researcher, LSE

Task Force Secretariat

Peter Massini - Principal Policy Officer (Green Infrastructure), GLA

Green Infrastructure Task Force

Context

Green infrastructure is a term which has become widely used in recent years, albeit it is a term that is not always articulated well or applied consistently. It is also a concept that has been interpreted in various ways and, consequently, is not always fully understood.

The origins of the term lie in the US where it is usually ascribed to projects which incorporate trees, rain gardens, swales, green roofs etc. into the built environment to manage storm-water run-off. In the UK the term has been used by Natural England (the Government agency for the natural environment) and others to describe all green space, including gardens, parks, farmland, forest and natural habitats. The US definition is too narrow in scope, focusing on one function, whilst the Natural England definition is too broad, focusing on form rather than function.

For the purposes of the work of the Green Infrastructure Task Force, the concept of green infrastructure should be understood and promoted as:

A network of green spaces - and features such as street trees and green roofs - that is planned, designed and managed to deliver a range of benefits, including: recreation and amenity, healthy living, mitigating flooding, improving air quality, cooling the urban environment, encouraging walking and cycling, and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience.

This definition will help us to focus our attention on how we can encourage and support a transition from the current model of a resource managed primarily for amenity, heritage and recreation that provides other incidental benefits, to a new model of a suite of assets managed in a more integrated way to deliver a wider range of planned benefits.

The **Green Infrastructure Task Force** has been established as a commitment made in the London Infrastructure Plan (LIP) 2050. The LIP sets out what changes we need to make to London's infrastructure to accommodate the needs of a rapidly growing city that will be the powerhouse of the UK economy for the foreseeable future. Importantly the LIP recognises that better planning and co-ordination of, and investment in, London's green infrastructure is going to be increasingly important in the decades ahead. This is not only in order to maintain London as a liveable city, but because green infrastructure can complement existing grey infrastructure, and can provide multiple functions and services that can be delivered more efficiently and more sustainably.

The Green Infrastructure Task Force has a remit similar to that given to the [Roads Task Force](#). The Roads Task Force was established by the Mayor to put forward a long-term strategy for

London's roads, to identify some of the barriers which have hindered a more holistic and long-term view as to the functions of roads and streets, and to propose a strategic framework

that would encourage better co-ordination, planning design and management to ensure better and more effective investment in the future. A similar approach is required with respect to London's green infrastructure. The Green Infrastructure Task Force will begin this process and identify some of the early wins for green infrastructure in London. It will seek to accelerate delivery through demonstrating the case for investment.

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