

Stephen Knight AM
Chair, Environment Committee
London Assembly

Our ref:

Date: 16 February 2015

Dear Stephen

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to your scrutiny committee. As requested, please find below the calculation methodology developed by Arup as part of the work we contracted them to undertake to support the development of the draft London Infrastructure Plan 2050. The methodology is based on current open space standards (area per capita) and what would be needed assuming the predicted increase in population – see text below from the Arup report.

Excerpt from [The cost of London's long-term Infrastructure](#) (GLA, July 2014), Chapter 8, pp123-130.

Open space requirements

Current supply of this space is divided according to inner and outer London, as below.

- **Inner London:**^[1] green space supply stands at 17.81 square metres per capita.
- **Outer London:**^[2] green space supply stands at 45.68 square metres per capita.

Given a fixed supply of land and increasing population, Arup and the GLA have assumed that London will be required to use existing green open spaces more efficiently, or create more novel green spaces such as green roofs. Utilising the central scenario of population growth^[3] for London by 2050, we have calculated that the ratio of supply to potential usage of open space by London's population will decrease by over a quarter relative to current availability, based upon current London Plan requirements. This decrease however is a result of the rising population in the city.

- **Inner London:** supply of green space will decline some 26% to 13.14 square metres per capita.
- **Outer London:** supply of green space will decline some 28% to 32.80 square metres per capita.

In all, we have concluded that London will require 90 million square metres (9,000 ha as 1ha = 10,000 square metres) of additional green space up to 2050 in order to maintain the status quo in relation to access to green spaceⁱ.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Kind regards

Alex Nickson
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Environment Team



^[1] The statutory Inner London boroughs are: Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster and constitutes approx. 319km² = 319000000m² = 31,900ha. *Based on the Office of National statistics Census information 2011.*

^[2] The statutory Outer London boroughs are: Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Waltham Forest and constitutes approx. 1,253km² = 1253000000m² = 123,300ha. *Based on the Office of National statistics Census information 2011.*

^[3] Growth of population provided by the GLA

ⁱ To ensure the status quo, London would require approximately 108 million square metres of green space before 2050. Arup does not conclude that this amount of land is likely to be required. We believe that residential development will continue to support the provision of green space, reducing the need to develop recreation space. We have assumed that, through the provision of new housing, up to 18 million square metres of green space could be provided.