

Attendance

LSDC	Secretariat and GLA
<p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashok Sinha – Chair (AS) • Karen Lawrence - Deputy Chair (KL) • Syed Ahmed (SA) • James Cameron (JC) • David Elliott (DE) • Julie Hirigoyen (JHi) • Malini Mehra (MM) • Prof Richard Templer (RT) • Dr Paul Toyne (PT) • Charlie Wood (ChW) <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Adebawale-Schwarte (MA) • Cllr Claudia Webbe (CIW) • Dimitri Zenghelis (DZ) • Nick Mabey (NM) • Nicky Gavron (NG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nusrat Yousuf (NY) • Jude Hassall (JHa) • Jon Emmett (JE)

1. Welcome and introductions

Welcome from Chair, and thanks to JHi and UKGBC for hosting.

Apologies noted above.

2. Matters arising from previous Full Commission meeting

- Sam Heaths memorial – Potential tree planting and memorial on the website.
- All other matters arising to be dealt with via the papers.

3. Workstream updates:

Comms updates:

Blue Sky Blogs:

- Aim to deliver first one by end of Oct 2019.

Young Londoners report launch:

- The LSDC's 'Young Londoners' Priorities for a Sustainable City' report was launched yesterday. Two press releases were distributed: one to the Evening Standard and mainstream press. Another to the environmental trade press. The report will also be circulated to a mailing list including boroughs and other stakeholders.

- There is an opportunity to generate dialogue given current media debate around Greta Thunberg's speech to the UN. Provides context / foundation for young Londoners' views.
- Need to update Newham on report launch to continue positive relationship.
- 25 boroughs have now declared climate emergencies. Many have started evidence gathering sessions. SA has been working with Newham and Waltham Forest, and to an extent with Haringey and Barking & Dagenham, to coordinate messaging among boroughs.
- London Youth Assembly – how can we work with them to energise discourse?

All other workstream updates to be dealt with via papers.

Actions:

- Commissioners are requested to circulate the YL report to their networks and promote.
- Blog to be drafted which will be hosted on LSDC site (albeit not part of Blue Sky Blog series).
- SDGs article written for the UNA for the blog to be revised.
- LSDC Chair to write to Rokhsana Fiaz re: ongoing dialogue with Newham.

4. Developing an SDGs framework for London

- Workstream progress was presented as per slides. This included background research; national and international context (including the UN Voluntary National Review process); tender currently open for consultants to support delivery; timeline for programme completion.
- A large amount of data has been gathered from a range of existing studies - this should be compiled to draw conclusions to support LSDC's approach.
- Engagement is underway (and will continue) with external organisations to learn about good practice and explore opportunities for collaboration: London Councils; the London boroughs ; the German government; the Scottish Government (re: their energy efficiency strategy and SDG framework, which is starting to shaping companies' reporting frameworks); Centre for London.
- The work programme must address the extent to which metrics should be localised to London's specific context, as opposed to enabling comparisons between London and other cities and establish the comparative political benefits of these approaches.
- There is a need to make the political case for the value of the SDGs, engaging with the boroughs and the London Assembly. There is a need to create political momentum which could include a high-profile speaker making the case to boroughs that this is a burning issue.
- One outcome of this project could be a recommendation for a London Assembly committee on the SDGs, which would monitor performance against the metrics developed during the project, and create accountability on the Mayor's statutory duty on sustainable development.

Actions:

- Complete the tender exercise and progress the workstream with the consultants and SDG subgroup.
- Send German academic report on SDGs.
- Commissioners to forward information on Google's approach to mapping the SDGs

- Follow up engagement with the organisations noted above.

5. Green Finance workstream

- A detailed report was produced identifying short and long-term solutions to the low-carbon economy.
 - Short-term: use carbon offsets from the planning system to fund teams to get pipeline of projects off the ground.
 - Long term: launch a London Future Finance Facility, similar to the Green Investment Bank.
- The outcomes / benefits of these proposals are: to develop skills in boroughs; create delivery-ready project pipelines that the boroughs can fund; build capacity within the GLA, including re-aligning existing decarbonisation programmes; and strengthen relationships between the GLA and the boroughs.
- These proposals were discussed in a meeting between Commissioners, the Secretariat, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and the Mayor's Chief of Staff, David Bellamy. Meeting outcomes:
 - The proposals were received positively by the GLA, and the Mayor is keen to pursue this, provided the approach is credible, works, and will deliver results.
 - It was agreed that a green finance taskforce will be set up in order to conduct further work that can't be investigated in detail by LSDC. This will be a 1-year piece of work to be delivered by Dec 2020 (i.e. in run-up to COP 26). However, it may be possible to expedite this, depending on the capacity of the taskforce once it has been established.
- Next steps:
 - The LSDC agreed to draft a note to Shirley Rodrigues and David Bellamy on their proposed scheduling to convene the taskforce.
 - Agree terms of reference for the taskforce and London Future Finance Facility.
- Commissioners have spoken with the Green Finance Institute and have gained support to convene a joint working group to determine what the London Future Finance Facility would look like.
- The Environment Agency's Future Funding team led work to support local authorities' flood management, through funding and upskilling provides a lot of learning from that process to share with the LSDC.
- Impact Partners business worked on how to finance decarbonisation of the city of Boston, and there are lessons to be drawn.
- Pension funds have put up £50bn driven by climate targets. We now need to make it relevant for businesses.
- The Chair thanked NM, SA, DZ and NY for their work in the success of this workstream.

Actions:

- Commissioners: continue liaising with GLA to develop terms of reference for the taskforce and Finance Facility, and provide any support needed for the GLA to convene the taskforce.

- Commissioners: draft a note to Shirley Rodrigues and David Bellamy on their proposed scheduling to convene the taskforce.
- Arrange follow-up conversation with Impact Partners.

6. Horizon scanning

- A range of themes were addressed, in summary:
 - Carbon removal from air and carbon chemistry in building materials.
 - Post-growth society: new ways of living; just transition; AI will change the nature of work, leisure, relationships, etc.
 - Political literacy
 - Litigation
- Scientific context: 1 trillion tonnes of CO₂ needs to be removed from the atmosphere this century to keep within 1.5°C of warming. If we achieve that, CO₂ dissolved in oceans will evaporate. So, extraction must continue for several hundred years. Not just at source (which is easier), but out of the global atmosphere. Even if extraction takes place, significant mitigation is still required. The Grantham Institute estimates that would require a quarter of global energy supply. 10–15 years is needed to get tech to scale.
- Policy context: Net zero involves carbon reduction hierarchy: avoidance, efficiency, offsetting, removal / CCS. The GLA has convened developers to review good practice and capture data – proposals are currently awaiting review by the Mayor. However, the London Plan could go further in terms of ensuring delivery of the Mayor’s 2050 zero carbon commitment and 1.5°C warming targets. There is a mismatch between scientific carbon requirements and policy commitments. On a national / global level, regression of pollution management regulation is also not inconceivable. Local authorities’ declarations of Climate Emergency have not always been supported by analysis of how they will be delivered; Client Earth have threatened legal action against 100 local authorities that have made declarations which are not supported by delivery plans.
- Built environment: London has a target for net zero carbon in the built environment. A World Green Building Council report was launched yesterday, calling for all new buildings to have 40% less embodied carbon and zero carbon in operation by 2030. Embodied carbon in materials is underreported. It accounts for 11% of global carbon emissions, of which 8% is concrete.
 - However, industry action has been positive: a framework has been published for what strong leadership would look like in key sectors – architecture, engineering, etc. Additionally, hundreds of UKGBC members joined the recent climate strike.
 - Challenges remain: the UK imports 80% of our timber, and we don’t have the land or appetite to grow enough timber to supply the building market. Otherwise it would be possible to build more from timber. Compliance-led industry prevents new materials from entering market, especially from small businesses. Volcanic ash is used as a Portland cement replacement. Fly-ash and slag are also used – but are derived from declining industries (coal mining etc). Profit margins are small at the top of the construction industry; only the key materials suppliers at the bottom make significant profits. BSI committees with vested interests control what products can be sold, and are slow moving.

- Education: Levels of concern and interest on climate change are not matched by levels of understanding. Some Commissioners have worked to give politicians and journalists greater literacy on climate. The climate strikes etc. are a big opportunity for raising awareness and education. The London Plan energised several stakeholders, who had not previously heard of it. The 'Global Calculator' is an online tool which estimates individuals' personal carbon footprints, and where people can act as individuals.
- Technology and finance: 'Geoengineering' is an umbrella term that covers a range of tech proposals – ranging from crucial measures such as carbon removal, to highly problematic and unpredictable approaches with non-linear impacts on the climate, such as deploying airborne particles to create solar shading. Although 'nature'-based measures, e.g. reforestation, will play a key role in climate mitigation, industrial processes (e.g. for carbon capture) are also likely to be necessary, given the industrial nature and scale of fossil fuel extraction.
- Finance is needed for technological development. However, there is currently no commercial market for such tech, despite the scientific need, since there is no direct or immediate financial return from, e.g. CCS. Long-term investors might see the value – e.g. to pre-empt global climate mitigation policies requiring CCS delivery. However, it is not clear who would pay for this. One possibility would be the steel, cement, aviation and agriculture sectors, which will find it much harder to decarbonise than energy-consuming sectors, as (except aviation) those sectors don't simply consume fossil fuels, but rely on chemical processes that inherently release greenhouse gases.
- Socio-economic impacts: social trends happen very quickly. We must ensure a just transition to zero carbon. It is crucial to sustain jobs – and communities - in new economies. E.g. offshore wind has created pride and community among post-mining communities. Artificial Intelligence and the dematerialisation of the economy will change the nature of work and raise questions over how we adapt to a post-work economy to ensure communities have productive, interesting and fulfilling lives.

Actions

- Build on this discussion during the next Exec meeting, to help inform the Commission's agenda for 2020/21 and beyond.
- All Commissioners, including those not present today, are welcome to contribute to the Horizon Scanning discussion offline before the next Exec meeting (12th November 2019).
- Consider proposing that the GLA should analyse whether the London Plan's proposed developments (and associated CO₂e) are consistent with keeping global warming within 1.5°C.

7. AOB

LSDC meeting minutes should reflect agreed outcomes, rather than names of specific contributors.