

Report Impact Review

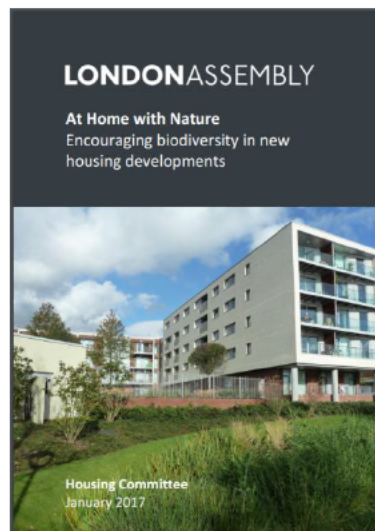
At Home with Nature: Encouraging biodiversity in new housing developments

Released 26 January 2017

Feedback

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Media coverage

- Shared widely on social media among stakeholders including London Wildlife Trust.
- Interview about the report on London Live News with rapporteur Leonie Cooper.
- The report had a high impact with stakeholders within the biodiversity and wildlife field, garnering several reports on specialist websites.
- A video of the launch was produced by The Londonist and shared on their Twitter feed, which has over one million followers.
- There was an article on the ITV News website about the report.



Mayoral response and recommendation implementation

- The Mayor's response to rapporteur Leonie Cooper's report was received on 28 April 2017.
- The response was very positive. The Mayor agreed, or partially agreed, to take up nine out of ten of the report's recommendations.
- The majority of the recommendations will feed into the London Plan and London Environment Strategy.
- See below for a full breakdown of the recommendations and the Mayor's response.

| | Recommendation | Mayoral response | Apr-17 |
|----|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | The Mayor should amend the London Plan to include the wording 'net gain' similar to the LLDC policy, to ensure biodiversity is enhanced and created, not just protected. | | The Mayor agrees to include 'net gain' in the London Plan. |
| 2 | The Mayor should ensure biodiversity is integrated within the masterplanning process, ensuring a whole area approach is taken in opportunity areas, housing zones and development corporations that are deficient in biodiversity and green space, or areas which are suffering with environmental issues (e.g. flooding, urban heat island effect, air pollution). | | Accepts recommendation and will build on this with the publication of the London Plan and London Environment Strategy |
| 3 | The Mayor should showcase new learning at the OPDC, highlighting how sites can be built in high densities while still increasing the levels of biodiversity. | | New OPDC Local Plan proposals 'require and encourage new thinking and new approaches to protecting and creating green infrastructure' |
| 4 | The Mayor should consider the possibility of implementing a green space factor in London, similar to that in place in Berlin and Malmö, and pilot this scheme in opportunity areas, housing zones and developments of strategic importance. | | A 'new urban greening factor' is proposed in the Mayor's Draft Environment Strategy |
| 5 | The Mayor needs to bridge the gap between the strategic vision of the London Plan and practice on the ground at borough level through the creation of a Biodiversity in Housing SPG. | | The Mayor said he wouldn't create a biodiversity specific SPG but his Draft Environment Strategy and London Plan will have a focus on improving biodiversity. |
| 6 | The Mayor should encourage planning departments to request a minimum baseline survey through Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), or others, to accompany all planning applications in order for planning departments to make an informed decision. | | Around 18% of planning applications should probably be supported by a biodiversity data search but far fewer actually commission such data searches. We are planning to include proposals, in my forthcoming London Environment Strategy, to work with London boroughs to raise awareness of this issue' |
| 7 | The Mayor should request that all developments share ecological data with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), after a development is completed. This would allow data gaps to be closed and effective monitoring through GiGL searches and updates. | | Accepts the benefits of sharing data with GiGL but cannot request it. The London Plan team will consider including an advisory note on sharing data with GiGL |
| 8 | The Mayor should provide resources (start-up funding/seed capital) to the 'Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning', which is working to simplify, streamline and improve the consideration of biodiversity in the planning process. | | The Mayor will review funding once the Partnership has been further developed to understand if increased funding is needed. |
| 9 | To raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity in housing the Mayor should sponsor an award category for biodiversity adaptations in housing developments through the BIG Biodiversity Challenge. | | Working with other stakeholders, we will consider options for increasing the profile of biodiversity in housing through appropriate promotion of best practice. |
| 10 | The Mayor should commission a source of best practice guidance, which includes different options for temporary and permanent measures, price and maintenance information and how these measures could be included in the service charge, for those items that will be maintained on site after the development is complete. | | The Mayor has proposed to work with relevant charities and developers in the future to produce relevant guidance and documentation. |