

A Sustainable Development Framework for London

Vision for London

London has retained its position as one of the World's great cities over many centuries because of the quantity, quality and diversity of its people, businesses, infrastructure and natural resources. However, the downside of this pre-eminence has been the associated social division, pollution and increasingly wasteful use of resources.

Our vision for the 'World Class' London of the future is a place where all Londoners and visitors feel the greatest possible sense of physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being. Our thinking and decision-making will be long-term, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This means ensuring that the ways in which we live, work and play will not interfere with nature's inherent ability to sustain life.

We will achieve this by taking responsibility for the regional and global impacts of city life. With our commitment to inclusion and cooperation, we will build upon and celebrate London's diversity, in all its forms. Resources will be used efficiently and fairly and the natural and built environment protected. Our reward will be a prosperous, vibrant and healthy city, one in which we all make the most of opportunities for fulfillment.

All of us have a part to play in achieving this vision. Each step will be supported by clear objectives and targets and will be sustained by learning from success.

Using the Framework

This Framework has been developed by the London Sustainable Development Commission, appointed by the Mayor in May 2002 to advise on sustainability issues in the capital.

It is the first Sustainable Development Framework for London. It sets out a Vision for the capital and a set of objectives to guide decision-making. The Framework should be used to:

- provide the context for policy development and decision-making;
- undertake sustainability appraisals of projects, plans and strategies;
- monitor progress towards a more sustainable city.

Getting results

Progress

11. We will make consistent economic progress – not necessarily always growth – to enable wider economic, social and environmental objectives to be pursued both in London and beyond. Business transactions in London will be conducted to high ethical standards.

Innovation

12. All the different parts of our economy will consistently invest in new technologies, new solutions, new plans and new ideas that contribute to achieving social, economic and environmental objectives simultaneously.

Esteem

13. All forms of work will be recognised and valued. Paid employment will be plentiful.

Access

14. We will be healthy and fulfilled – through living in good housing, with wide opportunities to develop as individuals and communities, through access to services, good quality food, green space and cultural, sporting and leisure activities.

Taking

responsibility

Responsibility

7. As citizens of a world city, we will take responsibility for our actions on the rest of the UK and beyond, and for our world leadership role which contributes to global sustainability.

Capability

2. All of us – individuals, households, businesses, government, voluntary groups – will have the knowledge, motivation and support to make longer-term decisions that will make London a more sustainable city.

Creativity

3. We will seek new and creative ways to spend our time and money that prevent us from being stuck in a rut. We will ensure that these decisions are made from a long-term perspective.

Ownership

4. We will build and sustain a powerful sense of responsibility for our city, with civic pride and a commitment to the common good.

Managing

resources

Environment

9. We will protect and improve the natural environment, its biodiversity, its open spaces and its green infrastructure to protect the wider regional, national and global environments with which London has a close relationship.

Resources

10. We will limit and deal with our consumption of material resources prudently, efficiently and responsibly, using and recycling our residual waste.

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will be aware of the impact of our actions beyond, and will take a responsible approach to the planet's sustainability.

Businesses, local and regional organisations will have the information, resources and support to help us to take both short and long-term actions that make us and our city more sustainable.

There are ways to overcome the constraints of short-termism and to make better decisions. We will be informed by a long-term perspective.

A sense of ownership and active participation as the norm.

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Protect the city's natural ecosystems, its built environment. We will help strengthen local and international trade and investment links.

Reduce pollution, and use energy and resources more efficiently and effectively, including re-use.

Overall objective

We will achieve environmental, social and economic development simultaneously; the improvement of one will not be to the detriment of another. Where trade offs between competing objectives are unavoidable, these will be transparent and minimised.

Developing respect

Fulfilment

5. Our city will have a culture of fairness and respect for people and the environment. The right of all London's citizens and communities to pursue fulfilment will be assured, so long as this does not infringe on the rights of others.

Diversity

6. We will celebrate the unique ethnic and cultural diversity of London's citizens as London's key strength. We will be a society free from inequality and discrimination, striving for greater equality of opportunity for all, actively opposing and challenging racism. We will consider unacceptable all forms of discrimination and prejudice as a result of a person's race, gender, disability, age, sexuality, faith, HIV status, or place of residence.

Safety

7. Our city will be a place where everyone feels at ease and is able to enjoy life. All who work, live and play in the city will be able to pursue their objectives in peace, free from the threat of crime, violence or intrusion.

Vibrancy

8. Our communities will be dynamic, stable, adaptable, innovative, progressive – creating a city in which conflicts will be resolved as part of a transparent and participatory process.

The Future

We encourage everyone with a stake in achieving a more sustainable London to sign up to the Framework and use it routinely in order to improve the way we live and work.

However, this Framework is the start of an on-going process aimed at positioning sustainable development at the heart of policy development and decision-making in London.

The Commission has published a booklet to accompany the Framework which aims to be a practical guide to sustainability, to help people interpret the Framework and contribute more effectively to the achievement of sustainable development in London. In addition, the Commission has identified quality of Life indicators for London – and will report annually on a set of 20 headline indicators. These reports can be found on: www.london.gov.uk/londonissues/sustainability.jsp

The London Sustainable Development Commission

The Commission comprises representatives from key sectors and organisations in London, broadly covering economic, social, environmental and governance interests. The Government Office for London act as observers. More information about the Commission, including its terms of reference can be found on the above web pages.

How to contact the Commission:

The GLA provides the Commission Secretariat, which can be contacted at the address below:

London Sustainable Development Commission (Secretariat),
Post Point 18, 4th Floor, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

Tel. 020 7983 4304, or email
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Footnote: this *Vision* and set of objectives is intended for all Londoners as well as those working or visiting London (i.e., the collective 'we' refers to those living or working in, or visiting the capital).