

Subject: Future of Planning in London Part 1

Report to:	Planning and Regeneration Committee
Report of:	Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat
Date:	7 September 2022
Public Access:	This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The pandemic has played an important role in the national policy context and conversation about planning and the built environment. In London, the pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated existing inequalities – for example, in terms of the provision of affordable, well designed homes; access to health and social infrastructure; and availability and quality of green spaces.¹
- 1.2 This report sets out background information for a discussion with representatives from community and civic groups about the future of planning in London. The discussion will reflect on the impact of the pandemic on different communities of Londoners, and how approaches to planning can address inequalities and reflect the needs of diverse Londoners. Guests will be asked to reflect on how approaches to planning in London can build on the strength of civil society and enable all Londoners to be able to play an active role in planning. This discussion will help to identify priorities for the future review of the London Plan.
- 1.3 To set the context for this meeting, there will be a short presentation from the Greater London Authority (GLA) on the work of the London Recovery Board, including its report on *Building a Fairer City*, which is focused on structural inequalities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests and the subsequent discussion; and**

¹ London Recovery Board, '[Building a Fairer City: Vision Statements](#)'

- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2020 the London Recovery Board was set up to oversee the long-term recovery effort. It is chaired jointly by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Chair of London Councils, Councillor Georgia Gould. The Board's work is driven by nine mission areas, including A Green New Deal and High Streets for All, among other areas. In 2022 the London Recovery Board, chaired by the Mayor and the Chair of London Councils, published a report on *Building a Fairer City*, focused on structural inequalities across several sectors.
- 3.2 The current London Plan was adopted in March 2021, and is the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy for the next 20-25 years. The London Plan was drafted before the onset of COVID-19 and does not include mention of the pandemic.² In 2022, the GLA started to lay the groundwork for a future review of the London Plan through the Planning For London Programme, an internal GLA initiative. The Planning For London Programme was set up to allow the GLA to start gathering evidence, capturing the views of stakeholders, and identifying issues that a future London Plan review could consider.
- 3.3 The future review is not due to happen until the next Mayoral term (after May 2024), but as this review would take several years, the Planning For London Programme allows the GLA to begin initial preparations now.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to consider how we can ensure that London's planning system (including the future review of the London Plan):
- Addresses the inequalities that became even more apparent during the pandemic;
 - Represents those groups which are at higher risk of being disenfranchised from planning decisions and engagement in London;
 - Builds on the strength of civil society and enables all Londoners to be able to play an active role in planning; and
 - Incorporates Action 5 (*'To Implement the spirit of the socioeconomic duty of section one of the Equality Act'*) from the *Building a Fairer City* report.
- 4.2 The following guests have been confirmed to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion:
- Luke Bruce, Programme Director, Recovery, GLA;
 - Francesca Humi, Advocacy and Campaigns Officer, Kanlungan Filipino Consortium;
 - Yasmin Moalin, Youth Engagement Lead, Anti-Tribalism Movement;
 - Pat Turnbull, Regional Representative, London Tenants Federation;
 - Portia Msimang, Project Co-ordinator, Renters' Rights London;

² The implications of the pandemic have been addressed in some of the underpinning London Plan Guidance.

- Christine Goodall, Network Coordinator, HEAR Equality and Human Rights Network; and
- Additional guests to be confirmed.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

None

Contact Information

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