

Subject: Accessibility and Planning

Report to:	Planning and Regeneration Committee
Report of:	Executive Director of Assembly Secretariat
Date:	28 November 2023
Public Access:	This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background information for a discussion on the Greater London 'Planning for London Programme,' an internal initiative, in preparation for a forthcoming review of the London Plan 2021.¹ Between September and October 2022, the Planning and Regeneration Committee conducted an inquiry into the future of planning in London to contribute to this review and identify key priorities for shaping the city's future planning policies. This meeting presents an opportunity for the Committee to build on the findings of this work, and to explore how the planning system can improve accessibility for Londoners, with a specific focus on those with physical disabilities.²

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests and notes the subsequent discussion; and**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussion.**

¹ GLA, [What is the Planning For London Programme?](#)

² Disabilities, defined by the Equality Act 2010, includes anyone with a "limitation on a person's physical functioning, mobility, dexterity, or stamina" that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' adverse impact on an individual's ability to perform typical daily activities."

3. Background

- 3.1 The Mayor is responsible for the London Plan, the spatial development strategy for Greater London that sets out a development framework for the next 20-25 years. A new London Plan was published in March 2021 and runs from 2019 to 2041.³
- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework, which sets out Government guidance on planning policies in England, requires local plans to be reviewed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan.⁴ As the current London Plan was adopted in March 2021, this means that it should be reviewed no later than March 2026.
- 3.3 The Greater London Authority (GLA) has stated that the current plan provides an 'up-to-date policy framework for London' and as a result, will not be reviewed during this Mayoral term.⁵ Nonetheless, the GLA has acknowledged that it takes 'many years to review or develop a new London Plan.'⁶ To address this, in December 2021, the GLA began the process of engaging with Londoners and other stakeholders through a 'Planning for London Programme.' The aim of the programme is to gather evidence, capture the views of stakeholders and identify issues that a future London Plan review could consider. The Programme will not make 'definitive recommendations' on what the future London Plan should contain but its findings 'will help inform the development of a new or updated Plan after the end of this Mayoral term.'⁷
- 3.4 In September and October 2022, the Planning and Regeneration Committee conducted an investigation into the future of planning policies in London. The Committee heard from representatives from community groups on what London needs from the review of the London Plan in the next term, and how approaches to planning can be expanded to address inequalities and reflect the needs of diverse Londoners.⁸ The transcripts can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- 3.5 In January 2023, the Committee received written evidence from Jane Wilmot OBE, the Chair of Hammersmith and Fulham Disability Forum Planning Group (DFPG). The DFPG is a user-led group of Disabled and older Disabled residents with first hand experience of barriers faced by disabled people in housing, public buildings, and open spaces.⁹
- 3.6 Following the investigation, the Committee wrote to the Mayor in May 2023, urging him to establish a co-production group of disabled Londoners ahead of the review of the London Plan, to ensure inclusive design is embedded throughout.¹⁰ The Mayor has not yet responded to the Committee's letter.

³ GLA, [London Plan 2021](#)

⁴ Department for Communities & Local Government, [Factsheet: Local Plans](#)

⁵ GLA, [MD2992 Planning for London Programme – engagement ahead of a future London Plan](#), December 2022

⁶ GLA, [Planning For London Programme consultation](#)

⁷ GLA, [MD2992 Planning for London Programme – engagement ahead of a future London Plan](#), December 2022

⁸ Planning and Regeneration Committee, [The Future of Planning in London Report](#), January 2023

⁹ Planning and Regeneration Committee, [written evidence](#), January 2023 [Downloads as PDF]

¹⁰ Planning and Regeneration Committee, [Letter to the Mayor](#), May 2023

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The Committee may wish to consider:

- What the accessibility guidelines at the national regional level are and how they are applied in London.
- Whether the current London Plan sufficiently addresses the accessibility needs of all Londoners.
- The extent to which advocacy groups and campaigners influenced the London Plan 2021, and how will they be involved in shaping the next iteration.
- The GLA's response to the Planning and Regeneration Committee's recommendations set out in its May 2023 letter.
- Whether the current London Plan's planning framework supports independent living for disabled Londoners.

4.2 The following guests have been invited to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion:

- Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills;
- Laura Vicinanza, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Inclusion London; and
- Sharon Herbert, Head of Communications, Habinteg.

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

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