

## **Planning**

The Mayor's London Plan sets out an integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital over the next 20-25 years. The Mayor has undertaken a full review of the London Plan with the intention of publishing, by the end of 2011, a new plan that will cover the period to 2031. A draft of the replacement Plan was issued for public consultation in October 2009. One of the objectives of the draft plan is that London should be a city that meets the challenges of economic and population growth in ways that ensure a sustainable, good and improving quality of life for all Londoners, helps tackle the huge issue of inequality among Londoners, including inequality in health outcomes, and helps to achieve a more inclusive society.

Many people are disabled by poorly designed, built and managed environments, and through the provision of solutions to access needs that create segregation rather than inclusion. Inclusive design, a process that sets out to integrate the diverse needs of all Londoners into development proposals, can help to achieve a balance between all user needs and other demands on an environment. The principles of inclusive design have informed the London Plan policies along with other processes and mechanisms the GLA uses to influence planning decisions in London.

### **What we have done**

The London Plan covers all aspects of spatial development in the capital, and also addresses development of social infrastructure. This covers services such as health provision, policing and safety, early years, education, places of worship, social care, and cultural, leisure and sport facilities. The new replacement draft plan contains policies to protect and enhance social infrastructure and facilities that remove barriers for disabled and older people. A number of policies address the design of new buildings in London and incorporate standards which help to achieve the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion. A new policy to promote Lifetime Neighbourhoods has been included in the draft replacement London Plan, neighbourhoods where access to public transport, basic amenities, local shops, places to meet and relax, and green and open spaces are within easy reach of homes, and where facilities such as public toilets and seating are consciously planned into proposals at the outset.

The Mayor's planning team have published advice and guidance to help developers implement these inclusive design standards. We have also recently published:

- research on accessible visitor accommodation in London (see <http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/accessible-hotels-london>)
- 'Proposed Draft Best Practice Guidance on accessible hotel accommodation' (see <http://www.london.gov.uk/strategy-policy/accessible-london-achieving-inclusive-environment>).
- The London Plan includes policies to protect natural space and address deficiencies in local public open space. Best practice guidance on the preparation on the open space strategies helps boroughs develop policies on the creation, enhancement and management of open space.

The Mayor's planning team are working together with disability organisations in a number of ways:

- the London Plan Review Access Advisory Group helped the GLA to review the London Plan policies on accessibility, and examined how well inclusive

design principles were embedded into the housing, transport, visitor infrastructure and other policies of the draft replacement London Plan,

- the London Access Forum ( a network of local access groups) meet with the GLA Planning Decisions Unit monthly, and help to provide comments on whether strategic planning applications meet the highest standards of access and inclusion (see <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayoral-planning-decision/mayor%E2%80%99s-planning-decisions>)
- Inclusion London held a consultation event with disabled and Deaf people in December 2009 to consider the London Plan policies
- the GLA attends the Stratford City Consultative Access Group which has six local disabled people on the Group who have helped to advise on the accessibility of the new shopping and housing development in Stratford.

### **What we plan to do**

The Mayor is committed to ensuring that boroughs provide facilities and services and social infrastructure that meets the needs of local communities and groups. He will continue to encourage London's developers designers and planners to promote the highest standards of accessibility and inclusive design. The draft London Plan will be subject to an examination in public in the summer and autumn of 2010, and it is envisaged that the new plan will be published by the end of 2011. It will be backed by a detailed implementation plan, including measures to ensure that:

- policies of access and inclusion are applied to new developments generally, and in specific ways to housing, hotels, town centres, shopping, neighbourhoods, public spaces and tourism
- all new housing is built to Lifetime Homes Standard, ten per cent of new housing is designed to wheelchair accessible standards, or easily adaptable for residents who are wheelchair users; account is taken of the changing age structure of London's population and in particular the varied needs of older Londoners (see housing section)
- in their neighbourhoods people have the best possible access to services, infrastructure and public transport and that, places and spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the community
- planning decisions ensures that all facilities are accessible to all sections of the community (including disabled and older people); this includes improved access to goods and services for older and disabled Londoners in town centres through the promotion of Shopmobility schemes and other positive action measures.
- planning decisions ensures a higher quality pedestrian and street environment, including the principles of shared space , such as simplified streetscape, decluttering and access for all taking account of the specific needs of visually impaired and other disabled people
- public spaces are safe, secure, accessible, easy to maintain, and incorporate the highest quality landscaping, planting, furniture and surfaces.
- accessible tourism is promoted by setting a target of 10 per cent of new hotel bedrooms to be wheelchair accessible
- Under the Mayor's priority parks scheme, funds are being allocated to improve the quality and safety of ten parks, chosen by Londoners themselves. This includes:
  - a fully accessible footpath circuit at Kensington & Chelsea's project at Little Wormwood Scrubs
  - a natural play area for children with facilities suitable for disabled children at Redbridge's Fairlop Waters Country Park

- access improvements to a terraced rose garden at Greenwich's Avery Hill Park
  - accessible toilets at Brent Lodge Park in Ealing
- the planning team continue working with disabled people through regular meetings with the London Access Forum.

For further information on the London Plan visit <http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/strategy/whats-in-plan.jsp>