

Mayoral Mandate

Delivering a Greener, More Climate-Resilient London

Introduction

As Mayor of London, I am determined to make our city more resilient to the impacts of climate change, to expand access to green places and to help nature to flourish.

In too many cities, nature is in retreat. I have worked hard to make London an exception. We need to build on the progress we have made – driving forward London's rewilding revolution, cleaning up our waterways and ensuring that the benefits of our green places and nature are available to all Londoners, regardless of background.

Alongside this, I am committed to ensuring that London adapts effectively to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, which are felt disproportionately by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Londoners. The GLA also has a key role in responding to the recommendations of the independent London Climate Resilience Review, which has identified the need for urgent, city-wide action. The GLA, however, has few direct levers and must work through others to enable the level of change needed.

This mandate commissions my City Hall team to define how best the GLA and the GLA Group, working in partnership with others, can achieve this.

I expect this mandate to be read alongside the mandates for *Making Best Use of Land* and *Upgrading London's Infrastructure*. I expect the delivery plans for both programmes to be developed in tandem to ensure that wider benefits from local supply chains can be maximised.

Other important interactions should be with: *Improving London's Housing Stock* and *Reducing Non-Residential Emissions* (ensuring London's buildings are resilient to climate change); *Reducing Inequalities* (tackling the disproportionate impacts of climate change and improving access to green space for disadvantaged groups); and *Supporting Londoners to Benefit from Growth* (addressing skills gaps in these areas and ensuring opportunities are available to all). I expect to see these connections come through the delivery plan for this programme.

Strategic objectives

The GLA has defined a number of London-level, long-term outcomes which reflect Londoners' aspirations for the city and to which the GLA, in partnership with others, is working towards. The core outcomes to which this programme should contribute are: Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital; and London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change.

Alongside this, the wider London-level outcomes to which I expect this programme to make a substantive contribution are: Londoners live in neighbourhoods that are well-planned and designed; London is a world-leading global city; and Londoners live in a city that supports their mental and physical health.

Programme approaches and priorities

The delivery plan for this programme should focus on two key areas of activity:

Providing leadership: The delivery plan should set out how the GLA will implement the recommendations of the London Climate Resilience Review where we have the direct power to do so, and how we will influence others to implement the other recommendations.

The GLA should convene work with partner organisations to plant more trees and clean up London's waterways so that they are swimmable and more accessible within 10 years. We should also: support the new London Plan and local plans in setting direction in relation to climate resilience and green infrastructure; and lead by example through the GLA Group's own estate management and operations.

Accelerating delivery: There is a significant gap between the scale of these challenges and the powers and funding currently available to address them. As such, new and innovative mechanisms will need to be developed and rolled out. We should aim to rapidly accelerate London's ability to deliver at the pace demanded by the climate science. This may include: new approaches to funding and financing (for example, through biodiversity net gain offsetting and other market mechanisms); and innovative ways to enable partners to sustain green places and improve resilience in the long-term.

While the GLA does not have a direct delivery role in this area, we should support and enable partners to deliver through investment and by helping to build capacity. We should also aim to: empower Londoners to make their neighbourhoods healthier and more nature-rich and climate-resilient; and build the capacity and capability of partners, boroughs and local communities.

Contribution to cross-cutting priorities

The programme should identify where it can make a substantive, positive contribution to the areas identified as cross-cutting priorities for the GLA. I expect that the key areas of focus for this programme will be around:

- A resilient city – embedding climate resilience in work across the GLA Group, and promoting climate resilience across London partners
- Health in all policies – improving physical and mental health through improved access to green and blue places and minimising the health impacts of climate change through effective adaptation
- Addressing structural inequalities – tackling the disproportionate impacts of climate change on disadvantaged groups, and ensuring green and blue places are accessible to and benefit all Londoners
- Net-zero – maximising the benefits of green infrastructure and integrating greening and climate resilience in net-zero programmes.

Resources

In 2024-25, this programme will draw upon a revenue budget (excluding core GLA staffing costs) of c. £11m, although a significant proportion of this is already allocated as grant funding to third-party projects across a range of ongoing programmes. In the following two years the indicative budget falls slightly to c. £9.6m. In addition, the programme has currently secured c. £1.5m in external funding (predominantly from central government) to support work related to London's local nature recovery strategy, biodiversity net gain and tree planting. The delivery plan should set out how these funds can be used to support the delivery of this mandate.

Recognising the significant current fiscal challenges both in London and at a national level, I expect the delivery plan to be developed in this context, and to demonstrate what can be achieved within the current level of funding (which includes the extra £12 million I have made available for this area across three years from 2024-25). The delivery plan should set out how resources might be most effectively redeployed as flexibility emerges over the course of this term, and any interventions aimed at securing additional external funding.

Should significant further funds be allocated to this programme (whether from GLA resources or other external sources), the delivery plan should be updated to reflect this.

Senior Responsible Owner

I expect the Assistant Director, Environment and Energy, to be the Senior Responsible Owner of this programme, with my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy to provide ongoing oversight and political direction, along with other colleagues from my office, on my behalf.

Next steps

I expect the Mayoral Delivery Board to recommend a delivery plan for this programme to me in line with our governance and oversight arrangements.

January 2025