

## DELIVERING A GREENER, MORE CLIMATE-RESILIENT LONDON – DELIVERY PLAN

### Introduction

The GLA has defined a number of London-level, long-term outcomes which reflect Londoners' aspirations for the city and towards which the GLA, in partnership with others, is working. The Mayoral mandate for this programme makes it clear that the core London-level outcomes to which this programme should contribute are:

- Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital
- London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change.

The London level outcomes will be measured by:

Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The percentage of Londoners who agree/strongly agree/completely agree that they 'feel part of nature'</li><li>• The percentage of residential addresses that fall within an Area of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (AoDPOS), 'local/small pocket' definition</li><li>• The total area designated a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC) in hectares (ha)</li></ul>
London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The number of excess deaths during periods of heat</li><li>• The number of days in emergency measures (Drought level 3 and above)</li><li>• The number of properties flooded in London per year</li></ul>

The mandate also makes it clear that this programme should make a substantive contribution to a wider set of London-level outcomes: 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.

### Setting out the scale of the challenge

While green and blue spaces make up 52 per cent of London's surface area, too many communities still lack access to high-quality green spaces. Our waterways and rivers remain polluted, limiting their ability to support biodiversity and provide much-needed spaces for recreation and wellbeing.

At the same time, London's climate is changing, bringing more frequent and severe extreme weather events. Floods, droughts, heatwaves, and fires have cost the city millions of pounds in recent years and harmed the health of many Londoners – particularly those in the most vulnerable communities.

The Mayor's response to these challenges faces a number of barriers. First, the increasing pace and scale of climate change makes adaptation both more pressing but also more complex.

Second, the scale of investment required – for example to turn the dial on the quality of water in our rivers – is beyond the scope of the GLA’s funding and formal powers. Similarly, the Mayor’s limited direct powers over some areas of work mean we cannot achieve change alone.

In order to adapt to the increasingly acute and complex impacts of climate change, the GLA will need to drive urgent tangible change on the ground, including by providing the necessary policy frameworks to coordinate and target interventions from partners. Using the Mayor’s platform to leverage funding beyond the GLA’s contribution and convene action from other partners will be critical to success. Finally, involving all Londoners in restoring nature and adapting to climate change – especially those most affected by environmental inequalities – is vital for social justice. London has a significant opportunity to harness the potential of its green and blue spaces to create a fairer, greener city for everyone.

### **Delivering the outcomes through a Greener and More Climate-Resilient London**

Having systematically evaluated the causes of nature loss and the impacts of climate change, the GLA has identified the actions which are needed to achieve the Mayor’s objective of a greener, more resilient city where all Londoners are equally protected from the impact of climate change and able to access nature.

This delivery plan sets out an approach which builds on the progress achieved under the current London Environment Strategy. Our approach is centred around three key elements:

- **Policy frameworks** such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the London Green Infrastructure Framework will allow us and our partners to target finite resources where they will have the most impact. For example, the Green Roots Fund will use these frameworks to prioritise investment in neighbourhoods with the greatest need. This will ensure the Mayor’s investment is having maximum impact.
- The Mayor’s **convening** role will be key to building momentum – bringing stakeholders and decision-makers together, fostering partnerships, and unlocking opportunities for cross-sector investment. This is particularly important in areas like London’s waterways, where large-scale investment is needed but the GLA’s direct powers are limited. To deliver impact, the GLA will work in partnership with London boroughs, agencies, utilities providers, government, and community groups to achieve the objectives of this programme.
- Our **investment** approach will strike a balance between delivering major, city-wide improvements through strategic projects – such as large-scale Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) – and empowering communities to lead change in their own neighbourhoods through the Green Roots Fund. Both funding streams will commit at least one third of their budgets to projects focused on cleaner, healthier waterways, with the rest supporting climate adaptation, urban greening, and tree planting. To make every pound go further, we’ll also work to attract additional funding from private, philanthropic and national partners – helping to scale up the programme and ensure it delivers for Londoners now and in the future.

We believe these three elements are the right ones because they align with the GLA's role as a strategic authority. They overcome the challenges set out in the previous section by providing strategic focus to target activities more effectively, bringing decision-makers together, and leveraging more money into the London system.

## **GLA delivery plan**

This delivery plan aims to make London greener and resilient to the impacts of climate change, ensuring that all Londoners have access to the benefits of nature and climate adaptation. It has two key strands:

1. **Accelerating delivery.** This strand focuses on the GLA's direct investment and the investment and activity it can secure from delivery partners to produce tangible outcomes in access to nature and reduce impacts of climate change, particularly for some of our most vulnerable communities.
2. **Providing leadership.** This strand is about the GLA's strategic role in setting policy and evidence frameworks and convening partners to drive meaningful, city-wide change towards a greener, more climate-resilient London.

### **1. Accelerating delivery projects:**

- 1.1. *Delivering clean and healthy waterways.* This ambitious area of work will seek to achieve measurable improvements in four key aspects of London's waterways: water quality, biodiversity, access and inclusion. It will focus on identifying up to ten priority sites for quick wins and ongoing targeted interventions led by the GLA and partner agencies. These interventions will include both nature-based solutions and innovative technologies to clean waterways. As well as the core budget for this project set out below, one third of the budgets for the Green Roots Fund and strategic projects will be dedicated to waterways related projects.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the Mayor has convened partners and published the Clean and Healthy Rivers Plan
- b) the GLA has overseen improvements at the ten priority sites and beyond using GLA investment and funding from other partners.

Expected delivery:

- a) first working group meetings by Q1 2025-26
- b) ten priority sites identified by Q2 2025-26
- c) plan published by Q4 2025-26
- d) delivery underway at all ten sites by Q4 2027-28.

- 1.2 *Supporting local projects through the Green Roots Programme.* Green Roots will be a transformative programme, empowering Londoners to shape the future of their neighbourhoods by providing grants to enhance biodiversity, improve public health, and strengthen the city's resilience to climate change. Operating as an open grant, Green Roots will provide accessible funding to support up to 90 projects over three years, with six-monthly funding rounds and grants of up to £500,000. With a strong focus on equity, Green Roots will prioritise investment in areas where it's needed most. The programme will also serve as a catalyst for wider change, seeking to unlock additional funding from public and private partners.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) at least £12 million has been invested in up to 90 local projects which provide Londoners with increased access to green space, improved waterways, better quality nature and better protection from the impacts of climate change
- b) the GLA has overseen and monitored delivery by grant recipients.

Expected delivery:

- a) fund open for applications in Q1 2025-26
- b) first funding allocations announced in Q3 2025-26 and every six months thereafter.

- 1.3 *Increasing London's tree canopy through partnership action.* This initiative focuses on convening and collaboration with delivery partners to increase London's tree canopy. We will oversee partners' delivery of the actions set out in the London Urban Forest Plan (LUFP). This will enable the GLA to increase and maintain tree cover across London's urban landscapes, ensuring trees are planted where they are needed most to improve climate resilience, air quality, social equity, public health and biodiversity. Actions under the LUFP led by the GLA include developing a methodology to better model and assess progress towards the target in the London Environment Strategy, and research into tree resilience in urban environments.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the tree canopy has increased through improved management of existing trees, as well as planting of new high-quality and diverse tree species, working towards the Environment Strategy target of a ten per cent increase in London's tree canopy by 2050
- b) actions agreed under the London Urban Forest Action Plan have been delivered.

Expected delivery:

- a) research complete and recommendations in place for climate resilient tree management and planting by Q4 2025-26
- b) tree canopy cover modelling developed by Q3 2026-27
- c) completion of all LUFP actions by Q4 2029-30.

- 1.4 *Investing in strategic projects focused on climate adaptation and greening.* In addition to the local initiatives funded by Green Roots, this project will deliver approximately half a dozen larger, transformational initiatives that target significant investment (expected to be £500,000 or more for each project) in areas of greatest need to address the most pressing greening and climate resilience challenges in the city. These projects will span both large-scale, cross-boundary initiatives: for example, taking forward a new large-scale rewilding site or opening public access to a waterway; and the intensive scaling of smaller interventions: such as, SuDS or tree management and planting. Unlike the competitive application process for Green Roots, the GLA will use its role as London's strategic authority to target interventions using its key policy frameworks (for example the Clean and Healthy Waterways Plan, the London Surface Water Strategy and the London Green Infrastructure Framework), providing direct funding and convening delivery partners to achieve progress on a small number of long-term, strategic projects.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) strategic, transformational green infrastructure and resilience projects across London have been identified and set up in partnership, with funding identified and a delivery plan in place within this mayoral term.

Expected delivery:

- a) Mayoral Decision setting out detailed approach by Q2 2025-26
- b) all projects identified by Q4 2025-26 with delivery throughout mayoral term.

## **2. Providing leadership projects:**

- 2.1. *Convening partnership action on climate resilience.* As the strategic authority for a city facing escalating impacts of climate change, the GLA's role in adaptation is to convene partners to drive change. Through the implementation of the London Climate Resilience Review, the GLA and London Councils will lead this work jointly with the benefit of EU funding under the Pathways2Resilience programme. Two particular areas of focus for the GLA's work on adaptation will be extreme heat and flood risk. Following the publication of the London Surface Water Strategy, the GLA will deliver leaflets to basement flats to raise awareness and help households prepare for flood risk. Through Pathways2Resilience, the GLA will publish a Heat Risk Plan and undertake proof-of-concept pilots to identify scalable ways to retrofit buildings to reduce the threat to Londoners from extreme heat.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the GLA, London boroughs and other key partners have implemented policy changes and delivery on the ground – including increasing SuDS coverage and publishing a Heat Risk Plan – which improve London's climate resilience, particularly in managing flood and heat risk.

Expected delivery:

- a) Pathways2Resilience, including publication of Heat Risk Plan, to complete by Q4 2025-26
- b) pilots for retrofit resilience delivered by Q4 2026-27.

- 2.2 *Ensuring London's planning policies maintain environmental protections while supporting housing delivery and economic growth.* The London Plan is the primary tool to ensure housing delivery and economic growth are creating liveable, healthy, climate-resilient and nature-rich communities. This project includes required work to support the day-to-day implementation of the current London Plan policies, as well as developing the new London Plan. The new national requirement on planning authorities to secure enough sites to deliver London's housing target, including reviewing release of Green Belt (including 'grey belt') will require environmental expertise to support the GLA to develop policies and practices that enables the housing development London needs while protecting and improving biodiversity and nature recovery. This project also includes technical support for delivering the current London Plan and input into policies of the next London Plan.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) the new London Plan successfully balances the urgent need for housing growth with green space and nature recovery, investing in better quality greening for liveable development
- b) planning decisions are informed by high quality advice on how to support nature recovery while also meeting London's need for new housing.

Expected delivery:

- a) London Plan green infrastructure evidence development complete Q3 2025-26
- b) new draft London Plan in consultation early 2026.

- 2.3 *Providing delivery partners with the tools and information to take effective action.* The London Green Infrastructure Framework and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, both underway and due to complete in 2025-26, will enable more targeted investments through Green Roots and Strategic Projects by identifying geographic areas of need. As the strategic authority for London, we will provide leadership to our partners by making these maps and frameworks publicly available and use them to support an engagement plan to help coordinate and better target their activities.

We will know this project has succeeded when:

- a) partners are actively supporting the Mayor's vision around greening, resilience and equity by using the published London Green Infrastructure Framework (LGIF) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to bring forward projects where they are needed most.

Expected delivery:

a) LGIF and LNRS published by Q4 2025-26.

**Delivery plan consolidated resources:**

Revenue			
	Budget (£'000)		
Project	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
<b>Accelerating delivery subtotal</b>	<b>5,303</b>	<b>9,034</b>	<b>7,674</b>
Delivering clean and healthy waterways	200	200	0
Supporting local projects through the Green Roots Programme	2,765	5,765	4,775
Increasing London's tree canopy through partnership action	100	150	150
Investing in strategic projects focused on climate adaptation and greening	2,238	2,919	2,749
<b>Providing leadership subtotal</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>95</b>
Convening partnership action on climate resilience	525	300	50
Ensuring London's planning policies maintain environmental protections while supporting housing delivery & economic growth	200	25	25
Providing delivery partners with the tools and information to take effective action	360	120	20
Staff costs funded through programme budget	794	794	794
<b>Annual total</b>	<b>7,182</b>	<b>10,273</b>	<b>8,563</b>

## Contribution to the GLA's cross-cutting priorities

This programme will primarily contribute to delivering the following GLA cross-cutting priorities:

- **A resilient city** – Delivering the Mayor's Greener and More Climate-Resilient London programme will mean ensuring London is a green and healthy place that enables Londoners to be more resilient and less exposed to climate shocks. Through the implementation of the London Climate Resilience Review, it will mean working to ensure London is more resilient to extreme weather, especially in areas where our housing and infrastructure are likely to be hardest hit by extreme heat and flooding.
- **Health in all Policies** – delivery of this programme will work to improve physical and mental health through improved access to green and blue places. It will also help to minimise the health impacts of climate change through effective adaptation, including to keep London's homes, health settings and public spaces safe in extreme heat
- **Addressing structural inequalities** – this programme will tackle the disproportionate impacts of climate change on disadvantaged, and underrepresented groups, and ensure green and blue places are accessible to and benefit all Londoners. Delivery of this programme will mean prioritising Londoners who benefit the least from green and blue places and who are most exposed to climate harm and least able to cope with climate impacts
- **Net Zero** – delivery of this programme will maximise the sequestration benefits of green infrastructure and integrate greening and climate resilience in net zero programmes.

## Monitoring delivery

The London-level outcomes – Londoners can enjoy green and wild space across the capital, and London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change – will be monitored using the following indicators, reported annually in the Mayor's State of London report:

London level outcome statement	Indicators	Source	Frequency	Lag	Availability
Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital	% of Londoners who agree/strongly agree/completely agree that they 'feel part of nature'	People and Nature Survey, Natural England	Annual	16 months	Publicly available
	% of residential addresses that fall within an Area of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (AoDPOS), 'local/small/pocket' definition	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL)	Annual	TBC	The GLA will commission GiGL to provide
	Total area designated a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC), in hectares (ha)	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL)	Annual	Updated with LA Local Plans	The GLA will commission GiGL to provide
London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change.	Excess deaths during periods of heat	Heat mortality monitoring report, UKHSA	Annual	<12 months	Publicly available
	Number of days in emergency measures (Drought level 3 and above)	Annual reports of London's water companies	Annual	Not clear	GLA officers will collate
	Number of properties flooded in London per year	Not yet available	Not yet available	N/A	GLA officers exploring options to secure data

This delivery plan lays out the projects we will deliver across this programme to make a positive difference to the London-level outcomes: Londoners can enjoy green and wild space across the capital, and London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change. This following table collates the key programme outputs by the two strands. We will track delivery of these to be sure that our work to contribute to the London-level outcome is on track:

<b>1</b>	<b>Accelerating delivery</b>
1.1	<p><i>Project: Delivering clean and healthy waterways</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Mayor has convened partners and published the Clean and Healthy Rivers Plan</li> <li>b) the GLA has overseen improvements at the ten priority sites and beyond using GLA investment and funding from other partners.</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) first working group meetings by Q1 2025-26</li> <li>b) ten priority sites identified by Q2 2025-26</li> <li>c) plan published by Q4 2025-26</li> <li>d) delivery underway at all ten sites by Q4 2027-28.</li> </ul>
1.2	<p><i>Project: Supporting local projects through the Green Roots Programme</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) at least £12 million has been invested in up to 90 local projects which provide Londoners with increased access to green space, improved waterways, better quality nature and better protection from the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>b) the GLA has overseen and monitored delivery by grant recipients</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) fund open for applications in Q1 2025-26</li> <li>b) first funding allocations announced in Q3 2025-26 and every six months thereafter.</li> </ul>
1.3	<p><i>Project: Increasing London's tree canopy through partnership action</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the tree canopy has increased through improved management of existing trees, as well as planting of new high-quality and diverse tree species, working towards the Environment Strategy target of a ten per cent increase in London's tree canopy by 2050.</li> <li>b) actions agreed under the London Urban Forest Action Plan have been delivered</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) research complete and recommendations in place for climate resilient tree management and planting by Q4 2025-26</li> <li>b) tree canopy cover modelling developed by Q3 2026-27</li> <li>c) completion of all LUFPA actions by Q4 2029-30.</li> </ul>

1.4	<p><i>Project: Investing in strategic projects focused on climate adaptation and greening</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) strategic, transformational green infrastructure and resilience projects across London have been identified and set up in partnership, with funding identified and a delivery plan in place within this mayoral term.</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Mayoral Decision setting out detailed approach by Q2 2025-26</li> <li>b) all projects identified by Q4 2025-26 with delivery throughout mayoral term.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Providing leadership</b>
2.1	<p><i>Project: Convening partnership action on climate resilience</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the GLA, London boroughs and other key partners have implemented policy changes and delivery on the ground – including increasing SuDS coverage and publishing a Heat Risk Plan - which improve London’s climate resilience, particularly in managing flood and heat risk.</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Pathways2Resilience, including publication of Heat Risk Plan, to complete by Q4 2025-26</li> <li>b) pilots for retrofit resilience delivered by Q4 2026-27.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p><i>Project: Ensuring London’s planning policies maintain environmental protections while supporting housing delivery and economic growth</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the new London Plan successfully balances the urgent need for housing growth with green space and nature recovery, investing in better quality greening for liveable development</li> <li>b) planning decisions are informed by high quality advice on how to support nature recovery while also meeting London’s need for new housing.</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) London Plan green infrastructure evidence development complete Q3 2025-26</li> <li>b) new draft London Plan in consultation early 2026.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p><i>Project: Providing delivery partners with the tools and information to take effective action</i></p> <p>Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) partners are actively supporting the Mayor’s vision around greening, resilience and equity by using the published London Green Infrastructure Framework (LGIF) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to bring forward projects where they are needed most.</li> </ul> <p>Expected delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) LGIF and LNRS published by Q4 2025-26.</li> </ul>

In delivering these programme outputs we will also be contributing to the wider set of London-level outcomes: 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.