

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA160625-7996

Date: 14 October 2025

Dear Len,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 5 June 2025 – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 5 June 2025. My reply to motions 3.2 and 3.4 is below, and I am sorry for the delay.

Motion 3.2 – Biodiversity Net Gain and New Developments

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is a mandatory, national requirement for new development. Its requirements are set nationally and implemented via Local Planning Authorities, so there is a limited role for me.

National metrics set by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) must be used to calculate losses and gains of biodiversity. Substantial communications and guidance at a national level have been provided by the Government and industry bodies to key decision-makers such as developers, planners, and ecologists.

In advance of mandatory BNG going live nationally in February 2024, I supported a targeted workshop on BNG for London borough officers, delivered by London Wildlife Trust. This provided an opportunity to strengthen officers' understanding of how to implement BNG and insight on areas of support. My Planning team has also presented at various relevant forums to raise awareness and confidence in the delivery of BNG.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for London, which is under development, has a direct link with BNG. Defra's statutory BNG metric includes an incentive for developers to deliver their BNG requirements in a way that contributes to the priorities set out in the LNRS. Through LNRS events, engagement and communications, my officers are already promoting this message and encouraging the use of BNG as a delivery mechanism for the implementation of LNRS priorities.

Since I introduced the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) through my London Plan, others have followed London's lead – including Natural England, who have used my UGF London Plan Guidance (LPG) as the basis of their national UGF guidance.

To support the implementation of UGF, and in anticipation of mandatory BNG, my officers produced a guide to Urban Greening for BNG in 2021.

MAYOR OF LONDON

My 'Towards a new London Plan' consultation set out that the next London Plan will have a role in recognising the area-wide priorities and opportunities identified in the LNRS (and the emerging London Green Infrastructure Framework). This consultation also asked for feedback on how the UGF has been implemented so far and invited stakeholder views on whether the policy could be improved in any way that would support implementation of both BNG and UGF in the future. Any changes will be appropriately publicised to ensure there is awareness of them.

Based on engagement that has already been undertaken and my commitment to ensuring that relevant stakeholders continue to be kept aware of BNG and UGF requirements and their link with other relevant plans and policies, I think that a separate campaign to publicise BNG and UGF in increasing London's accessible nature is not necessary.

Motion 3.4 – The Nighttime Economy and Public Toilet Provision

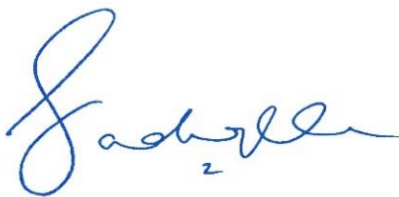
I am committed to supporting a safe, accessible and thriving night-time economy across our capital. London's night workers, visitors and communities deserve public spaces that are welcoming and inclusive, and this includes access to clean, safe toilet facilities.

I strongly support improving access to public toilets, which are a vital part of London's social infrastructure. I am supporting the delivery of 331 WCs across 53 sites via my Good Growth Fund since 2017. Additionally, in January 2024, I announced Transport for London's (TfL) biggest ever dedicated investment in toilet provision of £3m per year over five years. There are currently toilets available at 145 TfL sites, with an additional 40 toilets within stations on the network that are not managed by TfL.

I recognise the important role London boroughs have in improving public toilet provision around nightlife hotspots. My London Plan contains policy that supports boroughs to secure toilet access and requires large public developments and areas of public realm to provide new public toilet provision.

I will continue to work with the boroughs, the British Toilet Association, and others to champion inclusive public spaces.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London