

LCSC Full Commission meeting minutes – 3 Dec 2025

Attendees:

Ashok Sinha (chair)
Alyssa Gilbert
Venus Galarza Mullins
Calum Handforth
Clover Hogan
Charlie Woods
Syed Ahmed
David Mooney
Jo Blackman
Jacob Heitland
Antonia Jennings

Tayshan Hayden-Smith
Martha Grekos

Secretariat:

Nusrat Yousuf
Megan Dalgarno
Jon Emmett

Guests:

Kate Hand (London Councils, for agenda item 1)

Apologies:

Ben Smith, Leonie Cooper, Brendan Curran, Maria Adebawale-Schwarte

Previous minutes: agreed.

1. London Councils update

Noted:

- There is an important opportunity to engage more deeply with London Councils than before, building momentum with the boroughs on sustainability issues.
- London Councils is delivering work on Warmer Homes London (home retrofits), London Heat Risk Plan, green growth pipeline and Climate Finance Taskforce (generating investment in a large-scale package of net zero measures), London Energy Mission, Flood Ready London (convening multi-stakeholder partnership).
- Opportunities for LCSC and London Councils to collaborate could include building public support for climate measures, especially in the context of 2026 local elections; advocating for climate ambition; convening on energy; research on climate adaptation; being a critical friend on green growth and investment.
- There is growing co-ownership and collaboration between local and regional government on strategies including growth and environment.
- London Environment Directors Network (LEDNET) is a route to get borough input to LCSC thinking, and operationalise any LCSC recommendations.
- London Councils has also had an important role in lobbying and engaging with UK government, e.g. building the case for area-based approaches to decarbonisation which are now being recognised by DESNZ.

2. Housing and planning

Noted:

- Potential work areas presented as per slides.

London Plan consultation input:

- There is very little time to do this – need to assess if this is feasible.
- Developers have been given a 2-year hiatus on regulations by MHCLG, including mandating dual-aspect and affordable homes quotas, as a temporary measure to kick-start building. This will create lower cost but poor-quality homes – and a risk that deregulation is permanent. The LCSC should follow up in 2027 to advocate reinstatement of higher standards.

Modular timber building:

- This construction method could reduce construction speeds by 50% in addition to reducing embodied emissions.
- Fire safety concerns must be managed carefully: there is a lack of community trust in decision-makers, even when well-intentioned. Building trust through communication with those groups is key to ensuring they don't feel excluded from decision-making again.
- Need to be careful about timber sourcing as FSC certification is unreliable.

Wild Belt:

- A mapping exercise of where housing could be built on poor quality greenbelt should be framed as an evidence base to support decision making, not as a formal planning designation to legally prohibit building. Add information to the existing London Nature Recovery Strategy mapping of nature and green space, designed in a way to be applied to house-building.

Social value:

- Support local community, economic and social benefits through high-quality housing standards.

Agreed:

- Work on London Plan input, modular timber construction, and the Wild Belt will all be taken forwards.
- Social value: clarify offline the focus of this element, and how it integrates with other parts of the programme.

3. Climate communications

Noted:

Proposals presented as per slides.

Mapping community groups:

- Proposal: highlight climate action underway to enable Londoners to get involved, potentially through a map of community groups.
 - Framing will centre on personal engagement with local projects among a diverse range of residents – which is a more powerful driver for most people than supporting climate action.

Challenges for the LCSC:

- There is a need to use comms to build trust and awareness of climate issues among ordinary Londoners, particularly during a ‘climate recession’.
- The majority of people want climate action, but underestimate the level of public support. How can we leverage this?
- Community climate groups, boroughs and the GLA haven’t adequately communicated the climate action they have delivered – the LCSC could advise them on how to do this better.

Troubleshooting project design and delivery:

- Clarify the audience we’re trying to reach and levers we’re trying to use. Should LCSC try to influence decision-makers, rather than engage Londoners directly.
- Does the LCSC have the in-house expertise, resources to maintain, and networks to build trust and input from the 1,000s of community groups across London? There is a lot of work in this space already, e.g. Round Our Way promotes climate action in working class communities and has segmented audiences in Wales.
- Existing media channels, (social media), social networks, and platforms like Google Maps could be more effective at promoting messages than creating a map.

Actions:

- **Subgroup:** Define the problem statement, hence identify the audience and levers we will use, in order to develop a revised work programme.
- **Secretariat:** develop a comms plan for the LCSC as a whole.

4. Sustainable Growth:

Noted:

Proposals presented as per slides.

- Financial models are the missing piece of the jigsaw: public funding isn’t enough, yet private finance deprioritises social value outcomes. How do we combine finance at scale with a just transition?
- Public procurement could help drive climate goals in the supply chain.
- Can unspent carbon offset funds be tapped (despite differing accounts of the amounts available and challenges in accessing it)?

- Borough land assets could be used to support nature and climate resilience.
- How to channel investment into green sectors, e.g. supporting green / circular economy businesses.
- Advocate for what green growth entails in practice, and challenge environmentally damaging growth.
- Avoid academic debates on definitions of green growth / circular economy etc.
- Engage with existing political focus / work – e.g. help the London Growth Mission understand how they can deliver green growth, e.g. through the London Infrastructure Framework.

Actions:

Subgroup: refine work programme and comms approach based on the input above.

5. March commission meeting speakers:

Potential speakers to invite to future LCSC meetings:

- Howard Dawber re: growth; Justine Simons re: culture.
- Sophie Howards, Wales Future Generations Commissioner
- Global input – e.g. from Brazil, C40
- Marianna Mazzucato re: mission-based approach
- Climate Outreach
- BusinessLDN

Actions:

- Invite Howard Dawber and one other (possibly Mariana Mazzucato / UCL colleague or Business LDN) to the January meeting
- Arrange meeting with Jules Pipe and the Housing & Planning subgroup and any other interested commissioners.
- Comms group: agree a time to invite Justine Simons in spring / summer 2026.

6. AOB:

Actions:

Secretariat: Arrange regular updates from commissioners who sit on relevant boards – e.g. Charlie on London Infrastructure Board, Ashok on London Growth Mission Board.