

LCSC meeting minutes

16 July 2026

Attendees: Ashok Sinha (chair), Antonia Jennings, Ben Smith, Brendan Curran, Charlie Wood, Clover Hogan, Calum Handforth, David Mooney, Jo Blackman, Syed Ahmed, Tayshan Hayden-Smith

Secretariat: Megan Dalgarno

Apologies: Julia Lamb, Leonie Cooper, Venus Mullin

Chair's welcome

- Chair thanked David Mooney for offering Camley Street Natural Park as the meeting venue

Minutes from last meeting

- All agreed minutes

Update on commissioners and secretariat

- Jacob Heitland, Martha Grekos and Maria Adebawale-Schwarte have all stepped down from LCSC for various reasons
- London Environment Directors Network will provide new representative to replace Jacob on commission
- Megan will be handing over secretariat work to Jude Hassall and colleagues in new Climate Partnerships team in GLA, and will finish working on LCSC secretariat in September. Chair expressed thanks for her work over the last three years.

Update from London Councils

- Briefing note on London Council's climate programme shared with minutes. Programme priorities are:
 - Area-based retrofit
 - Standing up resilience delivery
 - Supporting investment and delivery models for climate infrastructure
 - Communicating climate interventions: a framework for effective engagement
- Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) new chair is Cllr Paul Osborn (Leader of LB Harrow)
- Jo has been reappointed as LCSC representative from London Councils

Update from Environment Agency

Discussion:

- Potential for LCSC to be involved in recommending devolution asks for London
- Idea was raised for London to replicate the Greater Manchester green Summit, with potential for LCSC to be involved

- Increased focus on data centres in London – opportunities for LCSC to help influence planning and highlight environmental impacts
 - [C40 Cities white paper](#) on data centre useful
 - London Plan now references planning policy for data centres – encouraging specific locations in outer London close to relevant infrastructure
 - Alyssa highlighted ongoing work at Imperial College London
- Both Centre for London and the London Assembly Transport Committee are looking at sustainability impacts of autonomous vehicles in London
 - Both the Oslo and Los Angeles models were raised as good methods focused on social needs
- Commissioners encouraged to share general interests and information on any London-related topics at any time

Actions:

- **Megan** to share GLA [Heat Ready London](#) plan
- **Calum** to share available work on data centres for information
- **Alyssa** to link Calum with Imperial data centre contacts
- **Antonia** to share Centre for London's work on autonomous vehicles for information

London Plan – approach to summer consultation

- Suggested approach is for LCSC sustainable housing and planning subgroup to lead response with interested commissioners joining and contributing. The response will focus on the subgroup's workstreams: timber construction and greenbelt development (with social impacts of both included)
- In addition to the subgroup (Ben, David, Leonie and Venus), Tayshan volunteered to input on social aspects and Charlie volunteered an Environment Agency colleague to contribute to LCSC response.
- A meeting with London Plan colleagues is being organised and commissioners are expected to write the consultation response during August/September. Consultation deadline is 15 October 2026.
- London Plan consultation can be [found here](#)

Action:

- **Commissioners** involved in consultation response to read relevant London Plan draft policies

Subgroup updates

Climate communications:

- LCAW event update shared in meeting papers
- It was highlighted that the Mayor of London and Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor for Business, are working on making empty high street shops accessible to communities – this physical space is often lacked by community groups when trying to engage local people.
 - Calum has experience of this through work at Southwark Council

- Potential idea to support this initiative and trial in a Borough
- It was suggested that the LCAW event recommendations should be first tested on GLA officers in relevant teams before sending on to Mete Coban. Report should highlight why the issues are relevant to London and why it is important Mete takes action to get maximum impact.
 - Could engage Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice
- Chair's recommended approach to report: fewer in-depth recommendations or more light-touch recommendations, in order to keep report shorter in length. Further research likely needed to justify and support recommendations.

Sustainable Housing and Planning:

- Update shared in meeting papers
- Promoting timber construction:
 - Tayshan to be engaged in stakeholder conversations and engagement with Grenfell communities
 - UK and international examples of timber building would support work
 - Should be clear emphasis on how timber construction is cheaper and faster
- Greenbelt development:
 - Consider the Future Building Standard
 - Should consider role of AI in potential mapping
 - Could emphasis link to cooling and climate adaptation – link in with GLA colleagues

Sustainable Growth:

- Update shared in meeting papers
- Investment in green infrastructure would link well with the sustainable housing and planning subgroup's work on greenbelt development
- Jo shared that London Councils are developing a digital platform to showcase infrastructure project pipelines
- Must ensure that decarbonisation is championed through all subgroup outputs and stakeholder conversations
- Procurement could be main focus area – ensuring procurement conditions are sustainable to avoid the costs of doing it wrong or retrofitting sustainability

Action:

- **Jo** to share London Council's infrastructure project pipeline with subgroup