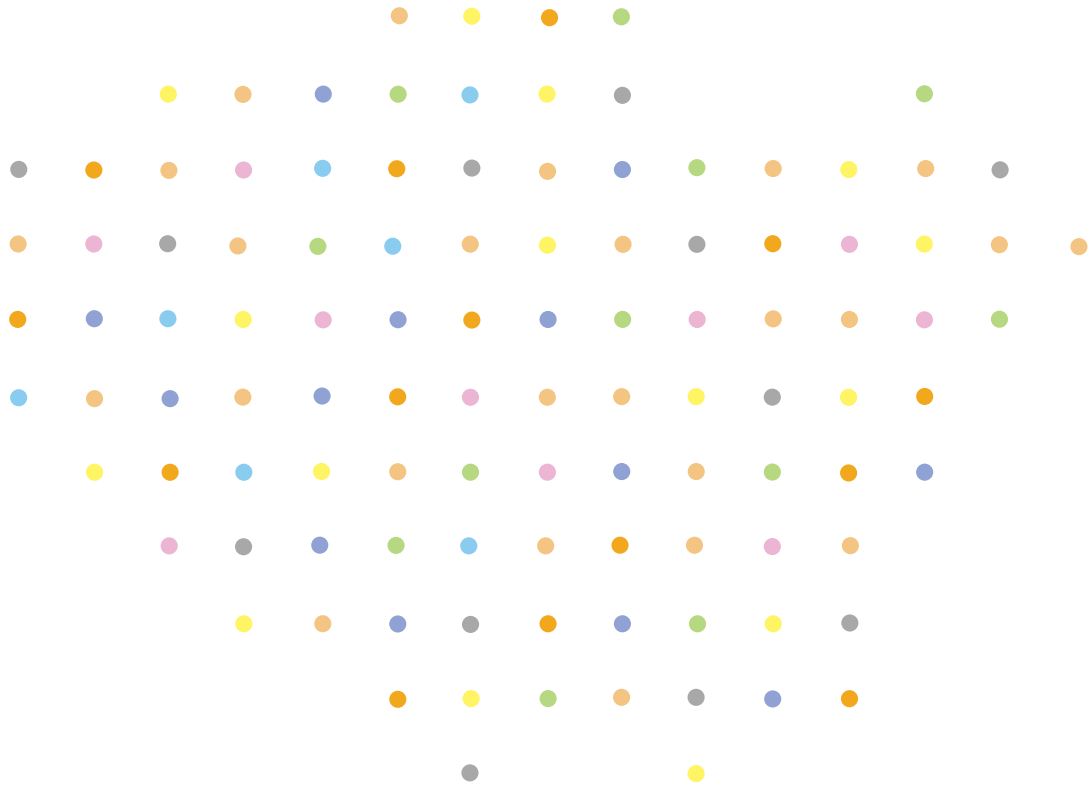


making space for londoners



MAYOR OF LONDON



copyright

Greater London Authority
July 2002

published by

Greater London Authority

City Hall

The Queen's Walk

London SE12AA

www.london.gov.uk

enquiries 020 7983 4100

minicom 020 7983 4458

ISBN 1 85261 382 3

Contents

Introduction	1
The value of public spaces	3
What will the GLA do?	7
The next steps	9
The ten pilot projects	11
Brixton Central Square	13
Coulsdon Town Centre	15
Exhibition Road	17
Gillett Street Square	19
Lewisham Town Centre	21
Lower Marsh	23
North Euston Road	25
Rainham Village Centre	27
Sloane Square	29
Thames Linear Park	31



Introduction

Creating and managing high quality public spaces is essential to delivering an urban renaissance in London. I have always enjoyed walking through London's streets, squares and parks, but am frequently appalled by the shabby and neglected state of some of our public spaces.

My draft London Plan gives us a framework for developing and improving our public realm, and both the London Development Agency and Transport for London already spend considerable amounts of money on projects promoting urban renaissance and a better streetscape for London. The challenge is to make the best possible use of this money and to show what a difference good design can make. Richard Rogers and his Architecture and Urbanism Unit will work alongside local partners to ensure that public space projects in London are as good as they can be.

These first ten pilot projects will show the way, but others will follow. I hope that we can secure more funding from Government to take such projects forward, and hope that Londoners will help to identify the key projects for future stages of this programme. By making better space, we can make a better city.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Livingstone". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London



The value of public spaces

Cities have always been places where people gather - to talk, to argue, to rest, to trade. Squares and streets, parks and other green spaces, foyers and public buildings form a city's public realm, the place where encounters - chance and planned - can occur.

London's parks and open spaces are among the greatest assets we have. At their best, they mark out London as one of the world's most civilised cities. But shoddy design and pared-back maintenance are letting too many of our spaces - from squares to streets, and from parks to less formal open ground - fall into neglect, even as London's economy (and the quality of much private development) has boomed. There have been positive examples - like works undertaken to improve Kensington High Street and Trafalgar Square - but we need to ensure that all of London can benefit from good public space.

Improving the quality of public space makes:

- > a **beautiful city**, where the spaces between buildings can inspire, excite and delight all its citizens
- > a **sustainable city**, where walking and cycling are pleasant, safe, and as easy as driving
- > a **prosperous city**, with business centres that can compete locally, nationally and internationally
- > a **connected city**, where diverse individual spaces and places are linked together
- > a **safer city**, where all are free from crime and fear of crime.



Rainham Marshes



Brixton



What will the GLA do?

Over the next five years, the Mayor aims to create or upgrade 100 public spaces in London. These projects will act as examples of the difference improved public space can make, and of the ways in which the highest quality designs can be secured without excessive expenditure. The programme also aims to increase Londoners' awareness of and identification with the whole city, by giving a public profile to spending on projects across the whole of Greater London.

Creating or upgrading public space does not require huge new resources. Across London, road improvements and regeneration schemes are already remodelling the public realm. This programme will ensure that the impact of these projects is positive. In future years, we aim to establish a fund specifically designed to support the costs of these projects (especially where they are not easily funded through existing regimes). For 2002/03 ten pilot projects have been chosen by the Mayor's Chief Advisor on Architecture and Urbanism, Richard Rogers, following discussions with London boroughs, Transport for London and the London Development Agency.

The Architecture and Urbanism Unit (A+UU) will advise clients and stakeholders on how to obtain the best possible quality of design for their public spaces through inclusive procurement and design processes. They will be assisted by a panel of experts (paid for, where appropriate, by the A+UU) who will review specifications and designs at crucial stages in the process, as well as advising on the A+UU's overall public realm strategy.



The next steps

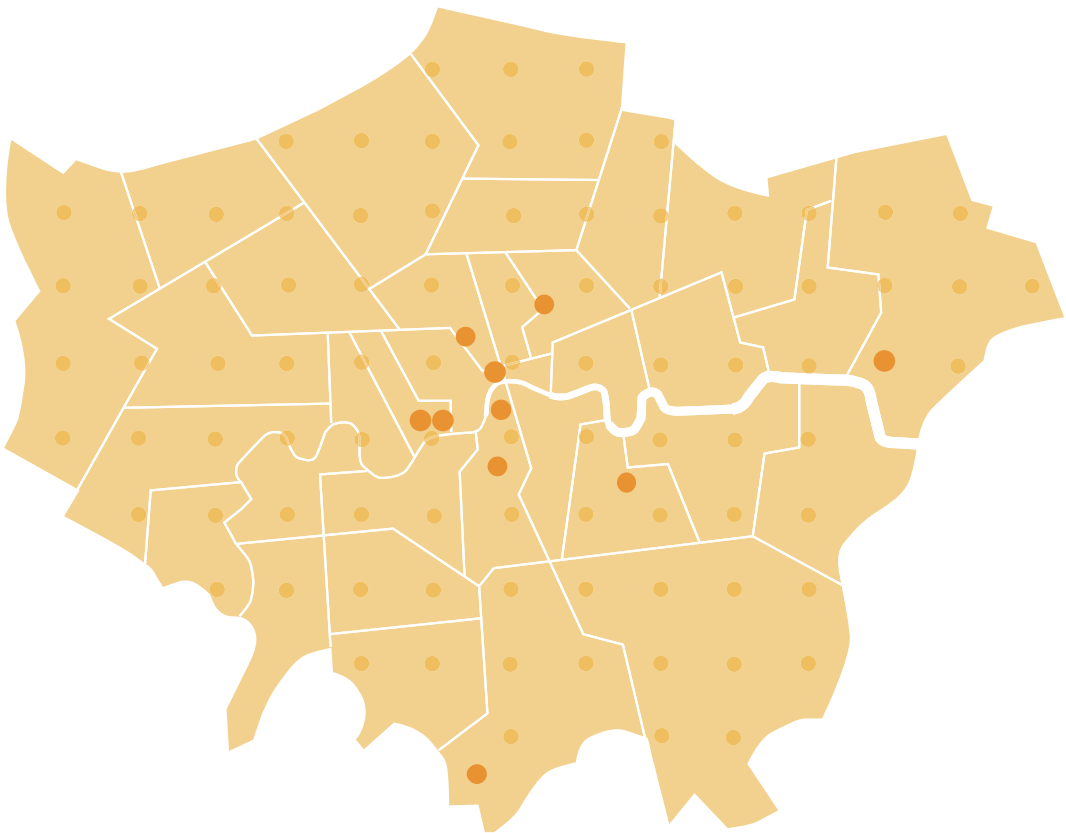
The projects identified here are only the first ten. The A+UU is keen to hear about opportunities for making a difference in future phases. During the whole life of the programme, we hope to have completed roughly the same number of projects in each London borough. We need suggestions from boroughs and community groups of spaces where we can make a useful contribution. In general these should be:

- > spaces where funding is already in place or identified
- > spaces which have a more than local importance
- > spaces which are close to public transport
- > spaces where results could be delivered within a few years
- > spaces where designs are unformed or at a very early stage.

For further information, please contact:

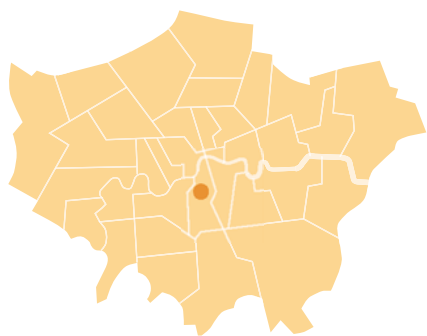
Architecture and Urbanism Unit
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Telephone 020 7983 6568
Email gale.valentine@london.gov.uk



The ten pilot projects are:

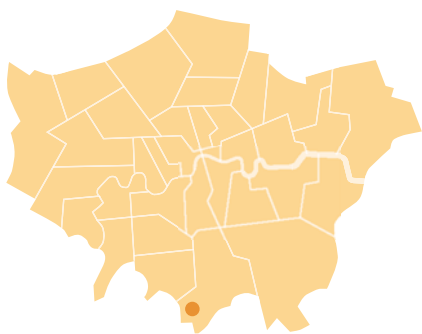
- > Brixton Central Square
- > Coulsdon Town Centre
- > Exhibition Road
- > Gillett Street Square
- > Lewisham Town Centre
- > Lower Marsh
- > North Euston Road
- > Rainham Village Centre
- > Sloane Square
- > Thames Linear Park





Brixton Central Square

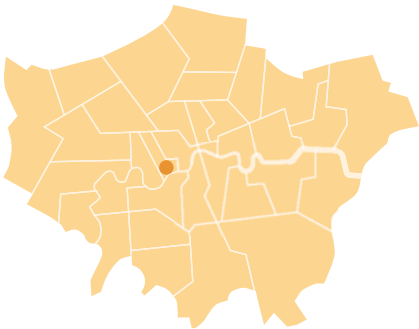
Tate Gardens and Windrush Square lie at the heart of Brixton, and at the heart of black Britain's history. A partnership including the London Borough of Lambeth and Brixton Area Forum aims to improve the quality of these two very different spaces, to create an integrated centre for one of London's most diverse, but most deprived, neighbourhoods. Following community consultation, the partnership aims to prepare briefs for an open design competition during the current year, and to begin work in 2003, subject to funding availability. The A+UU will help the local partners translate their aspirations into a brief and a design that reflects the importance of this space to London's communities.





Coulsdon Town Centre

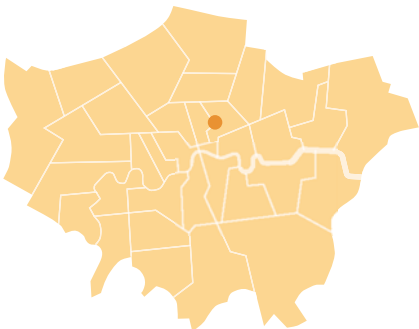
Coulsdon, on the edge of the green belt and south London, stands to benefit from the construction of a relief road beginning in 2003. This major new scheme should release pressure on Brighton Road, which is currently highly congested. Transport for London plans to use this opportunity to create new public spaces for Coulsdon's residents. The A+UU will work with Transport for London to prepare a design process and designs for public consultation during 2002/03.





Exhibition Road

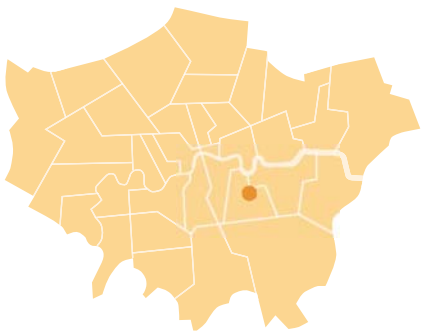
The institutions along Exhibition Road in South Kensington form one of the most important centres for education in the arts and sciences anywhere in the World, and are a major draw for citizens and visitors alike. The museums, colleges and societies that make up this cluster have formed a vision for Exhibition Road, focused on enhanced cooperation and links between the institutions, and between them and South Kensington tube station. The A+UU will work with these institutions and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to create a world-class public realm, with a particular focus on Exhibition Road.





Gillett Street Square

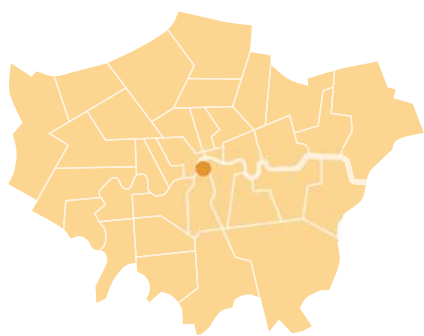
Gillett Street Square will be a new public space created out of a tarmaced car park close to Dalston's busy Kingsland High Street. A scheme for redeveloping the Square has been prepared by Hawkins Brown Architects on behalf of a partnership including private developers, Groundwork Hackney and Hackney Co-operative Developments, with funding from the LDA through Groundwork London's 'Vital Centres & Green Links programme'. The proposals include workspace, a public library and residential accommodation in a mixed-use development. The A+UU will act as design champion for the landscaping elements of the project, and advise on procurement and implementation of detailed design work.





Lewisham Town Centre

Lewisham Railway and Docklands Light Railway Station form a major interchange at the edge of an important South London town centre. At the moment, the interchange is separated from the town centre's shops by a busy roundabout, making access for pedestrians problematic. With funding from the London Development Agency (through Lewisham Urban Renaissance SRB), local partners are identifying ways of improving the transport interchange and its links to the town centre. The A+UU will work with Transport for London, the London Development Agency and the local partners to deliver a high quality design at this key strategic location.





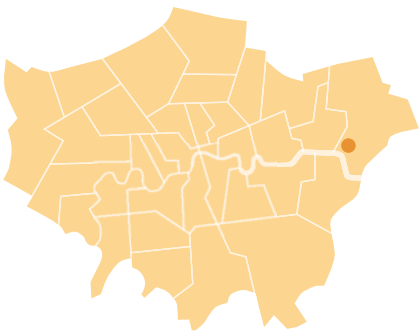
Lower Marsh

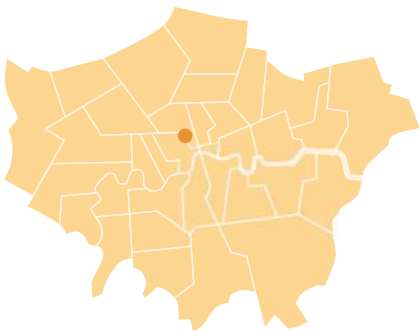
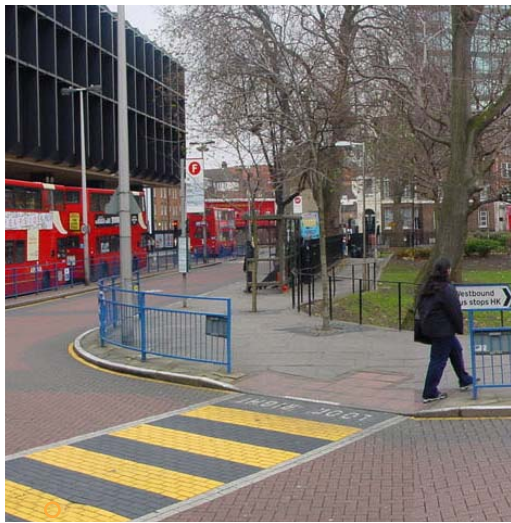
The intersection of Waterloo Road and The Cut has created a fragmented pattern of public space, leading to an unwelcoming environment between Waterloo Station and the facilities of these streets, which include bars, restaurants and two major theatres (the Old Vic and Young Vic). The LDA is funding environmental improvements in this area, as part of Central London Partnership's Circle Initiative, which aims to create forerunners for business improvement districts. The A+UU will work with the Circle Waterloo to identify ways of improving the permeability and quality of the space in this gateway area, with an initial focus on the public realm improvements proposed at the east end of Lower Marsh.



North Euston Road

With the arrival of the Channel Tunnel high speed rail link, the development of King's Cross rail lands and the introduction of congestion charging, this part of London will be a major focus for physical change over coming years. A+UU will work with London Borough of Camden on a design strategy for improving public spaces to the north of Euston Road, between King's Cross and Great Portland Street. This will set out a design approach and recommendations, which can be adopted over a number of years to improving the quality of public space along this important route.

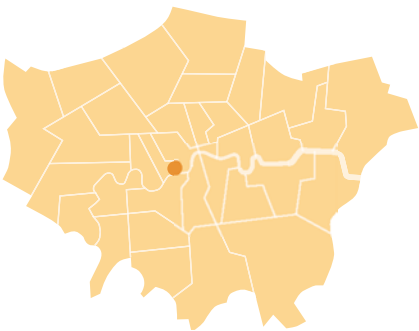






Rainham Village Centre

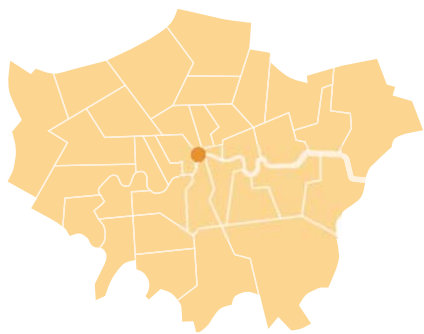
Rainham Village is a local centre at the eastern end of London Riverside, a major development area stretching from Barking Creek on the north side of the Thames. It sits to the north of one of London's last wild spaces, Rainham Marsh, which is likely to become a more significant leisure attraction following the London Borough of Havering's agreement with the Mayor's decision to safeguard it as a site of special scientific interest. The A+UU will work with the borough and other partners to clarify the relationship between the village, the marsh and the local station, which is likely to become a more busy transport interchange.





Sloane Square

Located at the head of one of London's busiest shopping streets, and overlooked by the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square is a typical wasted space, cut off from pedestrian circulation by traffic on all sides. A+UU will work with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to improve the quality of the square in order to attract more public uses, and to examine ways in which the square can be better linked to surrounding areas.





Thames Linear Park

The stretch of riverside on the north bank of the Thames between Westminster and Blackfriars Bridge could offer a beautiful south-facing park to Londoners. At the moment, however, the areas of open ground are isolated from each other disconnected from the Royal Parks. What design ideas could begin to link these parks together to improve public enjoyment of our greatest natural asset - The Thames?

Mayor of London

making space for londoners

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen’s Walk
London SE1 2AA
www.london.gov.uk
enquiries 020 7983 4100
minicom 020 7983 4458