

AGENDA

Meeting Environment Committee

Date Thursday 20 September 2018

Time 2.00 pm

Place Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

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Members of the Committee

Caroline Russell AM (Chair)

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair)

Tony Arbour AM

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

Shaun Bailey AM

David Kurten AM

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

A meeting of the Committee has been called by the Chair of the Committee to deal with the business listed below.

Ed Williams, Executive Director of Secretariat
Wednesday 12 September 2018

Further Information

If you have questions, would like further information about the meeting or require special facilities please contact: Clare Bryant, Committee Officer; telephone: 020 7983 4616; email: clare.bryant@london.gov.uk; minicom: 020 7983 4458

For media enquiries please contact Giles Broadbent, Telephone 020 7983 4067; Email: giles.broadbent@london.gov.uk. If you have any questions about individual items please contact the author whose details are at the end of the report.

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Certificate Number: FS 80233

**Agenda
Environment Committee
Thursday 20 September 2018**

1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements

To receive any apologies for absence and any announcements from the Chair.

2 Declarations of Interests (Pages 1 - 4)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Clare Bryant, clare.bryant@london.gov.uk, 020 7983 4616

The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Note the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, as disclosable pecuniary interests;**
- (b) Note the declaration by any Member(s) of any disclosable pecuniary interests in specific items listed on the agenda and the necessary action taken by the Member(s) regarding withdrawal following such declaration(s); and**
- (c) Note the declaration by any Member(s) of any other interests deemed to be relevant (including any interests arising from gifts and hospitality received which are not at the time of the meeting reflected on the Authority's register of gifts and hospitality, and noting also the advice from the GLA's Monitoring Officer set out at Agenda Item 2) and to note any necessary action taken by the Member(s) following such declaration(s).**

3 Minutes (Pages 5 - 42)

The Committee is recommended to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 June 2018 to be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The appendix to the minutes set out on pages 9 to 42 is attached for Members and officers only but is available from the following area of the Greater London Authority's website:

www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/environment

4 Summary List of Actions (Pages 43 - 46)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Clare Bryant, clare.bryant@london.gov.uk, 020 7983 4616

The Committee is recommended to note the completed and outstanding actions arising from its previous meetings.

5 Action Taken under Delegated Authority (Pages 47 - 86)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Clare Bryant, clare.bryant@london.gov.uk, 020 7983 4616

The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Note the recent action taken by the Chair under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, namely to agree:**
 - (i) The Committee's report, *Single-use plastic: unflushables*, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report;**
 - (ii) The scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming, as attached at Appendix 2 to the report;**
 - (iii) The summary of the Committee's visit to Forty Hall, Enfield, as attached at Appendix 3; and**
 - (iv) The Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Food Strategy, as attached at Appendix 4 to the report; and**
 - (v) The Committee's response to the consultation on the proposed Riverside Energy Park in Belvedere, as attached at Appendix 5 to the report.**
- (b) Note the report attached at Appendix 1, the scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming, attached at Appendix 2, the summary of its site visit attached at Appendix 3, and the responses to consultations attached at Appendices 4 and 5 to the report.**

The appendices to the report set out on pages 53 to 86 are attached for Members and officers only but are available from the following area of the Greater London Authority's website:

www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/environment

6 Response to the Committee's Report, Wasting London's Future (Pages 87 - 98)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Clare Bryant, clare.bryant@london.gov.uk, 020 7983 4616

The Committee is recommended to note the response from the Mayor to its report, *Wasting London's Future*, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, together with the review of the impact of the report attached at Appendix 2.

7 Embodied Carbon in Buildings (Pages 99 - 102)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Ian Williamson, scrutiny@london.gov.uk; 020 7983 6541

The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Note the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on life cycle carbon emissions from buildings, and note the subsequent discussion, and**
- (b) Delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.**

8 Environment Committee Work Programme (Pages 103 - 110)

Report of the Executive Director of Secretariat

Contact: Ian Williamson, scrutiny@london.gov.uk; 020 7983 6541

The Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Consider how it will take forward the Assembly's opposition to the expansion of Heathrow airport and note the letter sent to all London Members of Parliament in June 2018, urging them to vote against expansion in the House of Commons on the grounds of noise and air pollution attached at Appendix 1;**
- (b) Agree to use its October 2018 meeting to discuss the environmental impacts of aviation, focusing on the issues of carbon emissions from aviation (in particular from the additional flights implied by Heathrow expansion) and of local impacts of London City Airport operations, principally noise and air pollution, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report;**
- (c) Agree to use its November and the December 2018 meeting slots to discuss cold and damp homes, as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report; and**
- (d) Note its previously agreed work programme for the 2018/19 Assembly year, as set out in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.3 and 4.6 to 4.10 of the report.**

9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 11 October 2018 at 10.00am in the Chamber, City Hall.

10 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent

Subject: Declarations of Interests

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details of offices held by Assembly Members for noting as disclosable pecuniary interests and requires additional relevant declarations relating to disclosable pecuniary interests, and gifts and hospitality to be made.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table below, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests¹;**
- 2.2 **That the declaration by any Member(s) of any disclosable pecuniary interests in specific items listed on the agenda and the necessary action taken by the Member(s) regarding withdrawal following such declaration(s) be noted; and**
- 2.3 **That the declaration by any Member(s) of any other interests deemed to be relevant (including any interests arising from gifts and hospitality received which are not at the time of the meeting reflected on the Authority's register of gifts and hospitality, and noting also the advice from the GLA's Monitoring Officer set out at below) and any necessary action taken by the Member(s) following such declaration(s) be noted.**

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Relevant offices held by Assembly Members are listed in the table overleaf:

¹ The Monitoring Officer advises that: Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct will only preclude a Member from participating in any matter to be considered or being considered at, for example, a meeting of the Assembly, where the Member has a direct Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in that particular matter. The effect of this is that the 'matter to be considered, or being considered' must be about the Member's interest. So, by way of example, if an Assembly Member is also a councillor of London Borough X, that Assembly Member will be precluded from participating in an Assembly meeting where the Assembly is to consider a matter about the Member's role / employment as a councillor of London Borough X; the Member will not be precluded from participating in a meeting where the Assembly is to consider a matter about an activity or decision of London Borough X.

| Member | Interest |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tony Arbour AM | |
| Jennette Arnold OBE AM | European Committee of the Regions |
| Gareth Bacon AM | Member, LB Bexley |
| Shaun Bailey AM | |
| Sian Berry AM | Member, LB Camden |
| Andrew Boff AM | Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe) |
| Leonie Cooper AM | Member, LB Wandsworth |
| Tom Copley AM | Member, LB Lewisham |
| Unmesh Desai AM | |
| Tony Devenish AM | Member, City of Westminster |
| Andrew Dismore AM | |
| Len Duvall AM | |
| Florence Eshalomi AM | |
| Nicky Gavron AM | |
| Susan Hall AM | Member, LB Harrow |
| David Kurten AM | |
| Joanne McCartney AM | Deputy Mayor |
| Steve O'Connell AM | Member, LB Croydon |
| Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM | |
| Keith Prince AM | Alternate Member, European Committee of the Regions |
| Caroline Russell AM | Member, LB Islington |
| Dr Onkar Sahota AM | |
| Navin Shah AM | |
| Fiona Twycross AM | Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience; Chair of the London Local Resilience Forum |
| Peter Whittle AM | |

[Note: LB - London Borough]

3.2 Paragraph 10 of the GLA's Code of Conduct, which reflects the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011, provides that:

- where an Assembly Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered or being considered or at
 - (i) a meeting of the Assembly and any of its committees or sub-committees; or
 - (ii) any formal meeting held by the Mayor in connection with the exercise of the Authority's functions
- they must disclose that interest to the meeting (or, if it is a sensitive interest, disclose the fact that they have a sensitive interest to the meeting); and
- must not (i) participate, or participate any further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; or (ii) participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting

UNLESS

- they have obtained a dispensation from the GLA's Monitoring Officer (in accordance with section 2 of the Procedure for registration and declarations of interests, gifts and hospitality – Appendix 5 to the Code).

3.3 Failure to comply with the above requirements, without reasonable excuse, is a criminal offence; as is knowingly or recklessly providing information about your interests that is false or misleading.

- 3.4 In addition, the Monitoring Officer has advised Assembly Members to continue to apply the test that was previously applied to help determine whether a pecuniary / prejudicial interest was arising - namely, that Members rely on a reasonable estimation of whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, could, with justification, regard the matter as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.
- 3.5 Members should then exercise their judgement as to whether or not, in view of their interests and the interests of others close to them, they should participate in any given discussions and/or decisions business of within and by the GLA. It remains the responsibility of individual Members to make further declarations about their actual or apparent interests at formal meetings noting also that a Member's failure to disclose relevant interest(s) has become a potential criminal offence.
- 3.6 Members are also required, where considering a matter which relates to or is likely to affect a person from whom they have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25 within the previous three years or from the date of election to the London Assembly, whichever is the later, to disclose the existence and nature of that interest at any meeting of the Authority which they attend at which that business is considered.
- 3.7 The obligation to declare any gift or hospitality at a meeting is discharged, subject to the proviso set out below, by registering gifts and hospitality received on the Authority's on-line database. The on-line database may be viewed here:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gifts-and-hospitality>.
- 3.8 If any gift or hospitality received by a Member is not set out on the on-line database at the time of the meeting, and under consideration is a matter which relates to or is likely to affect a person from whom a Member has received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25, Members are asked to disclose these at the meeting, either at the declarations of interest agenda item or when the interest becomes apparent.
- 3.9 It is for Members to decide, in light of the particular circumstances, whether their receipt of a gift or hospitality, could, on a reasonable estimation of a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, with justification, be regarded as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest. Where receipt of a gift or hospitality could be so regarded, the Member must exercise their judgement as to whether or not, they should participate in any given discussions and/or decisions business of within and by the GLA.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are as set out in the body of this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Clare Bryant, Committee Officer

Telephone: 020 7983 4616

E-mail: clare.bryant@london.gov.uk

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MINUTES

Meeting: Environment Committee
Date: Thursday 14 June 2018
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/london-assembly/environment

Present:

Caroline Russell AM (Chair)
Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair)
Tony Arbour AM
Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Dr Onkar Sahota AM

1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Shaun Bailey AM and David Kurten AM.

2 Declarations of Interests (Item 2)

2.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

2.2 Resolved:

That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.

3 Minutes (Item 3)

3.1 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

4.2 Resolved:

That the completed and outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the Committee be noted.

5 Action Taken under Delegated Authority (Item 5)

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

5.2 Resolved:

That the recent action taken by the Chair under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the Committee's report *Electric Vehicles in London* be noted.

6 Draft Food Strategy (Item 6)

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions on Mayor of London's draft Food Strategy to the following invited guests:

- Claire Pritchard, Chair, London Food Board;
- Mark Ainsbury, Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority;
- Anna Taylor OBE, Executive Director, The Food Foundation; and
- Sarah Williams, Programme Director, Sustain.

6.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.

- 6.3 During the course of the discussion, Members requested the following additional information:
- Further information on the model of the economic benefits of eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables from the Executive Director, The Food Foundation; and
 - A list of urban growing environments and the organisations response to the Environment Strategy from the Programme Director, Sustain.

6.4 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the report and discussion be noted.**
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions.**

7 Environment Committee Work Programme (Item 7)

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

7.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the scope and terms of reference for its work on the environmental impact of food growing in London's green belt.**
- (b) That the work programme for the 2018/19 Assembly year, as set out in paragraph 4.2 to 4.13 be noted.**
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to write to the Natural Environment Research Council in support of their bid to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, as set out in paragraph 4.14 of the report.**

8 Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)

8.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 12 July 2018 at 2.00pm in the Chamber, City Hall.

9 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 9)

9.1 There were no items of business that the Chair considered to be urgent.

10 Close of Meeting

10.1 The meeting ended at 11.55am.

Chair

Date

Contact Officer: Clare Bryant, Committee Officer; telephone: 020 7983 4616;
Email: clare.bryant@london.gov.uk; minicom: 020 7983 4458

London Assembly Environment Committee – 14 June 2018

Transcript of Item 6 – Draft Food Strategy

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): That brings us to today's main discussion item on the Mayor of London's Draft Food Strategy, and can I now welcome our guests? We have Claire Pritchard who is the Chair of the London Food Board (LFB). Welcome.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Thank you.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): We have Mark Ainsbury who is the Principal Policy Officer here at the Greater London Authority (GLA). Welcome.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Thanks.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): We have Anna Taylor who is the Executive Director of the Food Foundation, and we have Sarah Williams who is the Programme Director at Sustain. Welcome to all of you.

We are going to start by looking at the aims and approaches of the Strategy, and I am going to start with you, Claire, with a fairly open question: why has the Mayor produced a food strategy and what does he hope to achieve with it?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, thank you very much. The aim of the Strategy is to try to ensure that we capture the cross-cutting impact of food across London. There have been a lot of strategies coming out - like the Health Inequalities Strategy - and we have embedded food as much as we can in all of the other strategies but, because of its cross-cutting theme, we thought it was important that we have a strategy focused on food.

When you are talking about supporting a small business or maximising the opportunity for urban food production there are a wide range of themes, so you have to have a strategy that captures all of those and maximises the opportunities to develop this work and address these. Because the Mayor's manifesto looked at food poverty, food insecurity and the high levels of childhood obesity, we knew that we needed a strategy that would look at all of those very significant issues and challenges that London is faced with at the moment.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Thank you. Very broadly speaking, how do you think that the Strategy document actually furthers these aims?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The idea of separating it into the different areas - food at home and looking at household food insecurity, shopping and the food environment, and things like the obesogenic environment, improving the food environment, maternity early years - separating it into the different areas gives us a clearer idea of the Mayor's responsibility, what local authorities can do, the role of businesses, the role of communities and the role of individuals. Putting it into those different sections makes that very accessible. It makes quite clear the work that needs to be done.

It also helps with that cross-cutting message: that food is a massive part of our economy. It is also having a massive impact on our environment and a horrendous impact on our health. It also provides us with loads of opportunity, so if it is £17 billion for the London economy it is a massive opportunity. The way it has been divided into the six areas - and I have to say that being part of the consultation process of developing the Strategy - when you are starting to talk about food it is very hard to know how to develop a strategy. We had some very interesting conversations about how to describe this. Is it the theme? Is it the setting? The idea of describing it by the setting and then the different roles that people can play makes it much more accessible.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Do you think there is an overarching or most important target? Is there one or two things that cut across all those different areas that the Strategy covers?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Household food insecurity is incredibly significant. It is important and we need to address that urgently. The increasing dependence on food banks is terrifying and it does not look as though it is going to slow down. We need to look at that. Childhood obesity - up to 40% at age 11 - is terrifying. It is impacting on our communities, our individuals, the cost for health and the long-term sustainability of London. That is very significant. I still think the growth of small businesses, so the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprise in London - there are some significant things - as well as the environmental impact of food, and 30% of our emissions and issues are around plastic. There are key themes within each setting. I would not want to say it is one thing. They all contribute to each other.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Which we see through it being in so many of the other strategies.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Exactly, yes.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): One of the aims of the overarching philosophy - if one was to distil it into a sentence or two - is that we want all Londoners, irrespective of their circumstances and irrespective of where they live, to be able to enjoy access to good food, healthy food, and food as a mechanism to help us celebrate the diversity of this city and the riches that it offers. There are problems and challenges. There are also massive opportunities and a great chance for us to bring all Londoners together to celebrate each other's different cuisines, so that is the thing about everyone being able to have access to good diets.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): I am very happy for Londoners to enjoy good food, but Claire also mentioned things, like childhood obesity and that sort of issue. One of the things for me is having some firm targets so that I can measure - which is something we quite regularly come back to on this Committee - what action has been taken.

There is one primary school in my constituency where there is not a single obese child. That has been achieved by having very good school lunches and controlling what children are allowed to bring to school in their lunch boxes and not having anything to drink on the school premises other than water. In conjunction with that, they also go swimming a lot. Where are the targets that are going to deliver, not just enjoyment but also tackle childhood obesity? We are going to ask you some more questions about the how, but where are the targets is the important thing for me?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The first London food strategy we wrote 14 years ago did have loads of targets - I do not know if you have ever read it - and I was involved in writing it. This Strategy is about engagement, principles and identifying the key players but there will be an implementation plan and there will be targets, and that will be the role of the LFB, the GLA and all the partners that commit to engaging

in this Strategy to help us achieve. It will be an outcome of a final strategy that we will have targets in different areas.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): I suppose, with the targets, it is a question of being able to tell what kind of a difference you are making.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Absolutely. We think it is important that we understand where we are starting and where we want to get to. We do believe it is important that we have an action plan for the LFB. The GLA Food unit has its work programme. We will also have targets within that, but it is also targets around engagement. We know we are not going to be solely responsible for targets around reducing childhood obesity. I work in that in my day job. I look at those figures all the time and we look at those targets all the time, but we want to be a part of it. We do want to set ourselves goals and we do want to measure the impact of our work.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): When you have a strategy that is cutting across so many different policy areas - from the economy to health, to transport, to the environment - how do you find an overall priority? Obviously, this Strategy is trying to put food at the centre and acknowledging how cross-cutting it is, but how do you get to an overall priority when you have so many different areas that it is cutting across?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): In terms of an overall priority, I want to reiterate what Mark said. The idea that every Londoner has access to an affordable, healthy diet is our overall priority; every single Londoner. That has to be our overall priority. What sits under that are all of the issues that are covered in the themes. It is where you shop, how much you earn. Are you earning enough? Is it the London Living Wage? What is the retail strategy like? What is the retail offer and all the other support? Do you have the skills? Are you living in accommodation without cooking equipment? If we want to achieve our key aim of everyone accessing a healthy, affordable diet, that is underpinned by quite a lot of complex issues.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): In the structure and the prioritisation that you see in the draft of the Strategy, the LFB was re-recruited at the start of 2017. We started writing this on 10 March, at their first meeting in 2017. It has taken 14 or 15 months with the LFB, with its satellite working groups and with its broad groups of stakeholders, to break it down into the six chapters that you see, but also to talk about which of those areas are within the Mayor's gift to effect change and where we can work with partners, what you have seen in the structure. Therefore, that prioritisation has already involved a large de facto ongoing consultation with the main players across the city.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): I would like to add that one of those subgroups is the boroughs subgroup, which I have chaired since 2009. Typically, 25 London boroughs come to it and they are normally public health. I have worked closely with public health in London boroughs for about 16 years. It will say it has come to the conclusion that, "If we want to address providing everyone with a healthy, affordable diet, these are the things we have to address". We have to address all of this. That is: breastfeeding, what is on sale and what is being advertised, how much you earn and are you using your benefits? Is everyone maximising the use of their Healthy Start Vouchers? We have to be cross-cutting because what we have understood, just on the issue of obesity, is it is a complex cross-cutting issue and we have to respond in that way.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Also, if I may add to that, between Sunday and last night I was in Stockholm at a global food policy conference with countries from around the world and, because we have been out to consultation for around five weeks, they have seen it in

cities around the world. They were coming up to me saying, “How did you get to this? How can we replicate you in our city?” Therefore, Toronto, New York City, cities in South America and around Europe, are applauding the simplicity and clarity of what we have in here, acknowledging that it is good to have targets. It is also good to have the flexibility because, as you know, priorities change and emerge all the time and we have to be fleet of foot on this to respond. That is built into our theme as well. This has helped us to be seen literally as world leading in this discipline. Therefore, yes, it has been very well received.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): That is presumably because what you have managed to do is get that mission focus on food across all those different areas?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes, but also the feedback I was getting - for example, from New York City - is they can see that we are meaningfully consulting with Londoners, and we will take Londoners’ comments on board in the debate that we are currently having in the eight weeks’ consultation to inform the final Strategy. That is about the inclusivity or the democracy of our approach.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Talking about the democracy of your approach, there are calls in each section for personal action, so what you can do as a Londoner. How do you think that is going to reach out to the community groups, the different organisations in London who might be able to make a difference? I am talking to one of the tenant and residents’ associations about a fun day they are organizing in September. They are planning a free food café made with surplus foods that they are planning to get from local suppliers, but it is: how will the community learn about what is in here and understand what you are asking Londoners to do?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): This has had a lot of response, and you have seen that there has already been a lot of coverage but the most valuable thing, and the challenge, is to get this out to the whole population, if we can. I do not know if you are aware of a programme called Sustainable Food Cities, but I am involved in it. It is very much one of the things that we considered when we looked at the structure of this Strategy. Sustainable Food Cities, which has been developed by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain, has also looked at: what can a city do to do the best it can to ensure that every person can access a healthy, sustainable, affordable diet?

A lot of cities like London have formed these partnerships and the conclusion that those cities are coming to is: we need the whole population to get behind this because, if we are going to change the food for the whole population, it needs to engage as many people as possible. That is about how we brand, how we talk about it, how we engage our local authorities and how they participate with their communities. That is why the different settings help in identifying the opportunity for the different settings and allowing them to incorporate this and use it as an opportunity for engagement.

I have not been at any of the consultations but, in Lewisham today and Greenwich on Monday, the Sustainable Food Cities Partnership is holding consultation events. It is the first time that I have seen consultation events with large attendance of local communities and local residents, based on a GLA strategy.

Sustainable Food Cities already exists. It is very much based on the principle of whole population engagement. They are using that opportunity to say, “Right, how does this support our strategy?” It is a real challenge and it is about branding and communication routes, but the fact is that we have said, “Well, here are five different sectors. Help us communicate. Help us talk to people”.

Also, the role of the London boroughs, which are challenged in terms of budgets and are thinking that, “We need to empower and encourage people through positive communications around food”. We see this as a real opportunity but, yes, it is a challenge.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Is it possible that I can add something on that? The whole idea of sustainable food, sometimes people find that quite complicated. You go into the supermarket; do you buy British tomatoes or do you buy Fairtrade products or do you buy local? Trying to navigate that minefield for people is very complicated, so Sustain has produced guidelines on what sustainable food is and ten tips on how you look for it. That is our most read publication. We have hundreds of thousands of people visit our website, so it shows that the public are looking for that sort of guidance. There is a real potential that, if you can make it quite simple for people as to what they can do to help, and you can broadcast that from where you sit, in terms of the reach of the Mayor, that message will get to people, because people want it, people search for it, people are hungry to know what they can do to make the sustainability story easy.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Yes, although the many Londoners who are literally hungry are looking for the tomatoes that are cheapest, if they are looking for tomatoes at all.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Of course, yes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): London has big food challenges.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): I have been working in public health and looking at obesity and food poverty for 16 years in Greenwich. I have been on the street on market stalls and I do a surplus feast in December using surplus food. Last December [2017] we made 700 meals. That is where we have conversations about Sustainable Food Cities. We can have those conversations because you can join it up, but I think this Strategy will need to get out onto the streets. It will have to get to those events. I would like to see opportunities with the City of Culture and all of the work that was done under the City of Culture, because loads of those bids had an amazing public consultation, social media and good public events.

One of the key themes that came out through loads of those applications was food. If you talk about the boroughs and you talk about culture, people identify food. I want to build on that and use that as a positive opportunity to talk to people about the fact that we do have an amazing, multicultural city and our food culture is our multicultural amazing cuisine. It is easy sometimes for other cities to connect their food culture because it is around agriculture or local food production - and we do have a lot of that - but what we have is an incredible cuisine in amazing neighbourhoods. I spend a lot of time in Woolwich. I know more about Jollof and I have had 30 different types of Jollof. I would like to have a Jollof festival. I want to celebrate that. We need to take it to those communities and we want to talk about that. That is what we need to be doing through every opportunity that we can. It is the biggest challenge but the biggest opportunity.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: I am sitting here thinking, “Why are people buying unhealthy food?” They have known for so many years what healthy food is and 40% of our children are still obese, and then you have the cultural food. Cultural food does not necessarily mean all healthy food, right? Who defines healthy food and where have we gone wrong so far? Why are people not buying healthy food?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): For 16 years I have been delivering cookery classes to help people understand healthy food. My personal experience is that people do understand what a healthy diet is - a lot of people do - but if you work two jobs and you are getting a bus home at 8 o'clock at night, and you are picking your children up, or you are feeding them on a bus and when you get home there is no shop. I could

take you to parts of London where you have -- even at the top of Woolwich it is a mile down to a supermarket. If you have lots of young children or you do not have transport or you do not have good cooking facilities or you are immobile, you can know the messages but you do not have the access.

I have to say that I have worked in public health for 16 years and I did a degree in hotel and catering. When I have done a 12-hour day I come home, I cannot think, and I will still order a takeaway; I mean because I cannot think and I am too tired.

Harry Rutter [Senior Clinical Research Fellow at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at University of Oxford] gave the best presentation ever--

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Claire, how is this Strategy going to change that behaviour that you so want to do?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, we have to look at things like retail environments: do people have good access to affordable food? If you go to the areas of highest deprivation in London, you can pay three times as much for a healthy basket of food as you would if you had access to a supermarket. That is a difficult and complex thing to deal with.

These are independent retailers working long hours so, as communities, how can we help them think about their supply chains? How can we give them support? The average independent retailer in the United Kingdom (UK) loses £5,000 a year through theft. How can we develop community relationships, which they did in a place in Birmingham, which help people feel more secure? How do we support them with supply chains so that they can access more affordable fruit and veg, so their fruit and veg can be sold at the same price as supermarkets? How can we get those messages out?

I do work with a lot of cultural food events but we do procurement guidance that says, "If you are doing an event in this park, you have to meet the Department of Health and Eatwell guidance for your menu". It is embedded within our food business training. We have to join those messages up but we also need to address the big barriers. We have people in London that are living on less than the London Living Wage. We have people with babies in houses where they do not even have fridges, so when we are --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Chair, I will come back to these themes when I come to my question but we need to go a bit deeper into this. I am not convinced at the moment that this Strategy addresses what you want to do, but we will explore it more deeply later on.

Tony Arbour AM: Entirely relating to what Onkar is saying, a question on healthy food. Sometimes foods are healthy and sometimes they are unhealthy. I am sure you remember the time when we had healthy food.

The overall Strategy suggests that a particular food is unhealthy by suggesting we should reduce our consumption of meat. I was very struck by what Mark said about how this affects all of the GLA's Strategy. If you look at our economic strategy, it is based on having a thriving and buoyant London economy. Have you done any work on the importance of the meat economy to London?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I should start by saying we are not advocating banning or restricting the consumption of meat. From memory, the context in which we talk about it in the Strategy is partly for the environmental impact of the way meat --

Tony Arbour AM: No, forgive me; the question I am asking relates to how this Strategy affects other strategies and have you modelled it? For example, a very easy and quick piece of research, the beef industry generates 440,000 jobs in England and creates £2.8 billion expenditure. Your phrase in the overall strategy, and I am simply looking at the summary as an important thing “Consider reducing your consumption of meat”.

Now then, surely, if one is reducing one’s consumption of meat, that is going to substantially affect these figures that I have just read out and will have a substantial effect on the London economy, so I am asking you: have you looked at how your Food Strategy impacts on the GLA’s other strategies?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): We have worked tirelessly to embed the food element into the other strategies. In the Economic Development Strategy you refer to, that it is often around skills, jobs, incubation of businesses and all that, purely economic indicators. We have not modelled the meat industry in the way that you describe, no, but we are not seeking to ban or restrict or to put any businesses under the cosh, so to speak.

Tony Arbour AM: I am sorry, what does the phrase “Consider reducing your consumption of meat” mean then?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Can I respond?

Tony Arbour AM: No, please, I am asking Mark because this is a GLA strategy. He is the man who has worked on it. Anybody looking at this would think, “The GLA thinks there is something wrong with meat”.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Let Claire --

Tony Arbour AM: This is for Mark.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That would be a wrong inference for people to take. We are talking about it from environmental and health grounds, so if people eat meat one day less a week, for example, then it opens them up to a broader diet and different kinds of foods. We are not seeking to damage the economic prospects of any meat producers, no.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): All public health strategies are suggesting a reduction in meat and dairy. If you look at the Eatwell Plate and the proportion, at the moment we eat more than we should in terms of our health but, also, in terms of the environmental impact; however, also economically. I am a food business specialist and there are a lot of --

Tony Arbour AM: I have had my specific question about the conflict between your strategy and the other strategies. I am not sure it has been resolved but, anyway, thank you, Chair.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): We are going to pick this up in a moment. I am going to bring in Assembly Member Cooper on the environmental impacts of London’s food consumption, but I first want to give Anna and Sarah a chance to say very briefly anything you want to say particularly about the strategy overall.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): For us working as Sustain we use food as a lever for change, as a lens through which we want to achieve change across social, environmental and health arenas. The challenges that are being raised here are part of the complexity and some of the stuff we are trying to unpick.

I would say that the Mayor has a great opportunity to put his weight and his voice behind this and to show some leadership here and to support a lot of the organisations we work with as well. For the third sector that are out there trying to deliver the stuff that you are talking about, having a strategy that shines a spotlight on what we are doing is incredibly valuable. The boroughs that we met with yesterday, for example, were talking about the proposed ban on advertising junk food. For them, those sorts of things enable them to do their job and to deliver the things that we are talking about here. All of this creates the framework for change at that borough and at that third sector level and we are incredibly appreciative of having this document.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): There are a number of questions at the heart of which were accountability, impact and prioritisation within the Strategy and important questions about what is actually contributing to these bad outcomes that we are all concerned about with childhood obesity, food poverty and so forth.

What is good about what we have here is that we have this overall goal and these sections, which are creating a framework for the Mayor's specific actions with boroughs, combined with a wider set of stakeholders, to take action. The action plan which is going to follow, which Claire alluded to, and the metrics which go in that for tracking progress are going to be really important. What is important about these metrics is, if you set a target around childhood obesity, it is important for accountability purposes, but multiple actors are going to contribute to that. We cannot say that the Mayor single-handedly is going to under his jurisdiction be able to achieve that. Having those metrics which cut across everybody's action in this action plan is where the teeth, if you like, of the Strategy come in.

The point that was made around the complexity of this challenge - and Claire described it really well from the perspective of an average person who might be struggling on a low income, for example - is why this Strategy is so broad. There are no magic bullets here. We have to be really pulling on multiple levers at once and using the breadth of this Strategy to do that.

I just want to briefly pick up on the comment about meat because, while we all should be eating a little bit less meat both environmentally and certainly processed meat from a health perspective, there are opportunities from eating less meat for eating more of other things which are really good for us. The horticulture industry in Britain has a tremendous opportunity if we are eating more fruit and vegetables. We have done a lot of modelling on that potential if we were to actually eat what we should be eating on fruit and veg and the economic benefits are potentially huge. It is not a zero-sum game here. We can look at how there might be some impacts on the meat industry, but where are the other opportunities for the economy in London? With the urban growing environment, there is huge potential.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Anna, would you be able to share that? You were talking about some modelling you have done on the economic benefits.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): Sure. Yes, absolutely.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): That would be really useful for the Committee.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Just a quick example. We used phrases like the 'urban growing environment'. I live in Hackney. Just give me a couple of urban environments in Hackney. Where would I go?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Do you know Growing Communities?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Where are the allotments? Where are the spaces?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Springfield Gardens; Allens.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: You are on a 10-year waiting list for Springfield.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): No, there is a community garden in Springfield.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It is full at the moment.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Anyone can be involved in it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: All right. You can go and get stuff and --

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes. They have a box scheme. They have a farmers' market. They grow --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: That is the urban environment that you are talking about?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): All over London --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No. Can I just follow up on something that the lady has said? You have talked about an 'urban environment'. I just wanted a few quick examples to actually unpick that phrase.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): There is community growing and also, in the business community, there is the growth of urban horticulture. That is probably the best way to describe it. For example, we have Growing Underground in Clapham where they are growing herbs underground. There are those kinds of initiatives which are quite low in terms of carbon use but also create shorter supply chains to businesses in the City and the growers, and are creating jobs and economic growth. That is right from community to commercial and everything in between.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): We have about five larger farms on the peri-urban fringe of London: Sutton, Dagenham, Forty Hall Farm in Enfield, OrganicLea up in Walthamstow. There are large-scale and then there are much smaller-scale ones more in the city. I can give you a list of gardens in Hackney that are growing. I can give you a list of 100.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Excellent. Let us have it. I am going to move us on to bring Leonie in to look at the environmental impacts.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We are looking at the draft Strategy here, which acknowledges that there are various elements of the Environment Strategy and other existing policies that talk about reducing the environmental impacts of our food consumption. I just wondered if you could outline briefly, Claire, probably, what new measures are proposed in the draft Strategy to make London's food more sustainable.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): There are proposals about reducing food waste and also, hopefully, there is going to be a commitment to have very ambitious targets about reducing food waste. I have to remind myself of all the targets.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Are there any kind of figures on that? We are at 30% food waste or something horrific like that.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The idea is to sign up to -- remind me of the title.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): The Courtauld Commitment to reduce food waste by 20% by 2025.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): That is in the Strategy. Also, I believe it is OK to say about the more ambitious strategy now, is it not? We are hoping to sign up to the Champions 12.3 for a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): That is a 20% reduction by 2025, in line with Courtauld, and then 50% by 2030?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): That is the Champions 12.3 sustainable development goal.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): These are very large figures. One of the things that we were just talking about there was about people who are unable to access cheap, wholesome food, perhaps because they are working long hours and are not earning very much money. Would you be tying that together when dealing with some of the food waste? We do still have this problem with supermarkets and sell-by or use-by dates. There are a number of London projects that are now starting to recycle that food to projects where they cook it or projects where they redistribute it. I was aware when Sure Start was first being set up that there were a lot of co-ops to distribute free fruit. That ran with the Sure Start projects. Is that something that we are going to see again?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The idea of surplus going to people in poverty is not a sustainable answer. We need to change the way manufacturing and distribution is done. The biggest waste product in the UK is bread and it is great to say that we can use this bread and distribute it to people in need of food, but it is not really a sustainable answer. A sustainable answer is to change to the production method, a sustainable answer for people in poverty is to increase the amount of money they have and improve their access to a sustainable, healthy diet. A long-term solution to people in poverty is not to give them food surplus. However, I work --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We are in the real world. We have had austerity with no pay rise and they may be going up by 1% now. Let us be real. Let us talk about how we can deal with people in poverty.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, absolutely. We have FareShare, which sits on the LFB, and a number of us have very close relationships with FareShare. In my day job, I host a FareShare distribution hub. In my day job, I drive bread all around the borough that comes from bakery. Also, I do meals two or three times a year using surplus. We know that there is an emergency need now to use that food and to provide food for people who are in poverty, and using surplus is an intelligent thing to do at the moment. It is certainly not a long-term, sustainable, ideal solution but, at the moment, we have to be pragmatic. There are FareShare hubs and FareShare pantries that are being now developed with housing associations.

Without making too much commitment - we are still waiting for the consultation to come back from the Strategy - the LFB is convening meetings with all of the social housing providers asking how they can support

this Strategy, particularly around household food insecurity. They have resources; they can talk to the people who live in their housing; they can support those people. They are really interested because they absolutely need to ensure that they protect their rental income. They are looking at intelligent ways to support people who are on low incomes. The examples of pantries that I have been involved with are large social housing providers and registered social landlords. You are absolutely right. We have to be pragmatic about solutions at this --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): That is dealing with the poverty side and we are going to come back to some further questions about food poverty shortly. In terms of making London's food more sustainable, I am actually going to reverse Tony's question. It is not sustainable with the amount of meat that people eat. While the industry might be worth £2.8 billion, the cost to the health service is £120 billion from our incredibly unhealthy food lifestyles. What messaging are we going to do that is going to be stronger? I am not saying that people cannot eat any meat at all, but there are the food miles that are involved in the production of many foods, not just meat but other foods as well. One of the Mayor's big targets is to make London a zero-carbon city by 2050. How is the Food Strategy going to help the Mayor achieve that?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The message around a healthy diet and the Eatwell Plate and the Department of Health messaging is really supportive of a more sustainable diet.

The thing that we need to do with the Mayor's Strategy is to look at the work the boroughs are doing around this and all of the programmes that come under the boroughs, and all of the procurement opportunities. The procurement opportunities are not just school meals. You talked about school meals and the impact school meals can have. The thing is that now schools are autonomous and so how do we engage all schools around their procurement to ensure we support them to provide the food that we would hope they would provide to those children? We have voluntary standards within early-years settings - Eat Better, Start Better - and we have the Healthy Early Years group that can support us with that.

With procurement at a local authority level, if we can encourage the local authorities when they procure their early-years providers to ensure that within that contract they ask the provider to meet with the standards or use the procurement capacity we have --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): That would include, for example, food miles and how far the food travels before the children eat it, and that is what you are talking about?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, things based on the Eatwell Plate with seasonal vegetables because we also know that seasonal vegetables are the cheapest. It is cross-cutting. A sustainable diet is also potentially a more affordable diet and healthier. If you base your diet on vegetables and seasonal veg and plant-based foods, then it is likely to be more sustainable, healthier and - if it is in season - cheaper. We need to embed it within procurement opportunities and events.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Will we be setting targets for that? Are there going to be people at the GLA - can I just bring this on to Mark - who are going to be working with those schools? I know we have made it much more complicated by taking schools out of local authority control and perhaps the Secretary of State for Education, who now seems to control everything, is the person we need to be talking to about this. They are doing individual procurement now because they are all academies and whatever else. Is that something realistically we are going to be able to do? Sorry, I wanted to ask Mark.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes. The Healthy Early Years team sits in the Health team. They are working with individual schools. Yes, that is true. We also have the GLA Group responsible for procurement commitment, which we are revisiting and ramping up in parallel with the timeline of this Strategy. The GLA serves 7 million meals a year and so we are building into that.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We would put food miles into our procurement in the GLA family?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes. To be precise, food miles is not necessarily the best indicator. It is more complex.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Or something equivalent, then.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes, quite a different indicator or different terminology, maybe. We know that London's food system is responsible for 30% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions. Most of that impact, by the way, is from outside London with the way we suck food in and then spit it out. We are working on that with the Environment team. We know that the C40 World Cities Food Working Group is working on global indicators and seeking to --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We would be looking to grow local to reduce those miles?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Growing locally is one of the potential things that we would support more of, yes.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): No, I just want to try to bring in some of the others as well, Claire. Thank you. Can I just ask? This might be for Sarah. It is the issue that Claire and Mark have alluded to, which is about transporting the food around. Another one of the impacts we started looking at is the waste. One of the things that we are often told - and certainly we have been told here - is that we need to put everything into multiple layers of plastic and into black plastic containers, and all the rest of it, because it would go off immediately if it is not covered in huge amounts of plastic. Is there anything that the Strategy can do to set targets and goals and timescales on packaging?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): It feels like we always come back and say that it is complicated, but that is the reality of it. The supermarkets have made food systems in a way very simple but in a way very complicated. What is really exciting about the Strategy and how it ties in is the retail element of that. How do we create a diverse local retail system that can much more easily provide everyday shopping, which is what people look for, and street markets and that sort of thing? We work quite closely with sustainable food enterprises like the box scheme and Growing Communities. There are a number of those being replicated and now there are also food assemblies. They are completely aware of all of that stuff and so they do not sell anything with packaging. They link up with farmers. Growing in the City is complicated because of housing and it is very difficult to earn a living as a farmer if you have to rent a house in London, but we are working with the farmers who are nearer to London and building in those supply chains.

The most important thing is creating a market. That is, again, where procurement comes in. If procurement contracts can guarantee farmers a market, then there is much more opportunity to create localised food systems. Does that answer your question?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Do you mind if I just say two things that might be value for you to know?

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): If that would be helpful, yes.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We have the Healthy Schools London programme, which has a standard on it, and so that really covers procurement.

The other thing that is a really important piece of work that has been done - led by Sustain and supported by the LFB over a long time - is Procurement Across London (PAL). PAL was based on Good Food on the Public Plate, and it was started when we had a Government Office for London. It was bringing together the local authorities and the way they bought and linking them with big local producers. PAL now is worth millions of pounds and is led by the London Borough of Havering. The boroughs can sign up to it and then they can buy through it from British producers. It was one of the best pieces of work. Well done to Sustain for initiating it and the GLA for supporting it. It means that if you do not stay with the borough contract and you opt out, you can still buy through this incredibly brilliant buying group, and that is really important. Allowing schools to become more independent and autonomous means they still get the benefit because in lots of cases schools have lost all the benefit of joint purchasing. PAL provides that and it is one of the best pieces of procurement work. It is a really brilliant opportunity and we need to make more of it.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Thank you very much. That is really helpful. I am going to bring in Tony Arbour now to look at food security and climate change.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, indeed. Essentially, these questions are to you, Mark. This relates to assessing London's food security. Who are the partners who are going to be involved in making this assessment and how will existing knowledge be used?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Food security or food insecurity - its flipside, I guess - is on a lot of different levels. The Mayor undertook to assess household food insecurity in London, for example, because we know that a lot of Londoners are struggling. We are currently partnering with the GLA Intelligence team, which is about to launch a wide-ranging survey of Londoners on indicators including household food insecurity, the most detailed survey of its type that there has ever been, to tell us the extent to which families are struggling or, compared to last year, for example, whether they have skipped meals or changed their buying or eating patterns because of the insecurity of their household budgets or for other reasons. On that level, we are taking that work forward in a way that has not been done before.

We are also doing work with the London Climate Change Partnership, partnering with Chatham House and others, on what you might call the more macro study of London's food security, including its resilience to unforeseen events. We will have more of a handle than we have had before on how London feeds itself, what could potentially disrupt that regime and what we could do to mitigate any problems that come our way. We are looking at the macro level as well as at the household.

Tony Arbour AM: I see. As far as you are concerned, the micro level is that people might not be able to afford food and so they are insecure on that basis and, on the macro level, is that there may not be any food. Is that right?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): The second part, yes, that is an interpretation.

Tony Arbour AM: Unforeseen events.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes. I cannot remember who alluded to it, but supermarkets are extremely efficient. Supermarket supply chains mean that today or tomorrow or on any given day there is only three days' food supply in London right now.

Tony Arbour AM: Is that right?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): There was that volcanic ash cloud from Iceland. If that had affected us more directly, then what implication would that have had on our food supplies? I do not know the answer to that, but one can see that there are a number of things that could happen at any given time if we have only three days. How do we --

Tony Arbour AM: Is that figure mentioned anywhere in the Strategy?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): The three days figure? Yes.

Tony Arbour AM: I have it in front of me and I missed it. That is very exciting.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That is predicated on extremely sufficient -- I would not say it is exciting but I applaud your optimism.

Tony Arbour AM: Again, I suppose at a macro level, the Strategy does refer to Brexit. It says:

"... food businesses in London are facing challenges, not least in the context of Brexit negotiations which could threaten our supply chains ..."

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Yes.

Tony Arbour AM: Why do you say it could "threaten our supply chains"? Surely another way of writing this sentence could have been, "Brexit gives Londoners the opportunity to have access to food without paying extremely high tariffs".

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Again, I note that interpretation.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes. It is an interpretation.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Brexit, clearly, some people would argue, offers opportunities in some ways, yes, but we know that just over 30% of our food currently comes from the European Union (EU). If any part of that chain were to be interrupted or made more complicated, that is a potential problem. We know that 35% of people who work in the food industry - and I am not talking about in the UK, which has a different level of fruit-pickers and so on, but in London - are from the EU. They work not just in the Pret A Manger around the corner but in the processing and manufacturing. If Brexit were to exacerbate our already existing skills challenges in London, by the way, in the hospitality sector and if that were to get worse because of Brexit, then that is a different kind of challenge as well.

Tony Arbour AM: Let us just talk about supply chains. I do take your point about the effect, but of course all those arguments were used when they abolished the Corn Laws.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I was not in this office at that time, no, but --

Tony Arbour AM: It is easy to be flippant --

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Sorry.

Tony Arbour AM: -- but, in fact, the parallel is absolutely exact. There were people who said that when you have got rid of the Corn Laws, agriculture in this country will collapse, the people will starve and it will be absolutely appalling. In fact, the exact opposite happened. The price of bread fell, the health of the nation improved considerably, and that led to a great economic renaissance. To suggest that somehow or another there are not opportunities in relation to Brexit in a way suggests that the Strategy is rather partisan and it really ought not to be. I will not pursue that, Madam Chair. The point is easily understood.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I would apologise for my unintended flippancy, but, yes, we know that the current situation is the kind of metrics that I just described. We know that Brexit may offer opportunities. We are trying all the time to improve the workforce and improve the supply of food into London. If Brexit develops and gives us opportunities to make things better, then we will certainly capitalise upon that.

Tony Arbour AM: I do hope you do. I am also tasked to ask you: what is the potential for London's own food growth to contribute to London's food security? Maybe this one is not for you. Maybe this one is perhaps for your allotmenters.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): At Sustain, we are faced with the situation of Brexit and we are - exactly that - looking at it as an opportunity. What are the opportunities in there? There is opportunity to grow more food within the border of London, definitely, and the changes that are afoot around the price that people will pay for food will change that opportunity.

At the moment, it is very difficult for people to make a living out of growing food and that is because we can get cheaper food imported. That is the challenge that we face. If that playing field changes, then of course there is much more opportunity to grow food in London. The difficulty then is if the price of food rises. All the things we were talking about before about household insecurity need to be addressed at the same time. We need to put up everybody's income so that everybody can afford to pay a little bit more for food so that people can afford to be farmers in London. That is the reality. At the moment, the people who are running the large-scale farming projects are doing it as a labour of love. They are doing it because they are passionate about it and because they believe in changing --

Tony Arbour AM: Are there large-scale farming projects in London?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Yes. I would happily take you to one, if you like.

Tony Arbour AM: I have a rural constituency. I represent that part of Kingston which stretches out into Mole Valley and I have loads of farms; well, not loads, but probably as many farms as anyone else. It is not large scale.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): OK, yes, but if you are a horticultural producer, then you can produce at scale.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, I take that; market crops.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): It is not arable and it is not field crops but market crops, yes. There are some field crops there as well. There is much more potential. We know that there is a Green Belt around London and that largely it is left to its own devices. Maybe horses are grazing on it or they are growing food for horses and food that is not for human consumption. We know there are lots of opportunities there, but London will never dream of being self-sufficient in food and so it is more about how we build those markets and the supply chains to the farms that are connected to London and what we call the 'rural hinterland' and how we can build that.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): It is a really important set of issues and, of course, at the heart of it will be the agriculture policy that the Government finally agrees on. Once it comes to Parliament, I gather Michael Gove [Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] said a couple of days ago, it is likely to be the end of July [2018] now. It is about how we think about subsidies for the smallest growers who, to date, have been left out of the Common Agricultural Policy and the benefits that that has brought to farmers in the UK and is a really genuine opportunity for us to rethink how we use the funding that comes for farming to support some of the smaller growers who are often having a much wider set of social values, whether it is because they are trying more agroecological growing methods or whether it is because they have a direct link to the community that they are serving and helping people to experience a greater connection with their food, which has a knock-on impact on the extent to which they waste it or the extent to which they value healthier products and so forth. There is real opportunity, but that policy at the moment rests at the national level rather than at the city level.

Tony Arbour AM: It is a fact, of course, that during the war they tried to maximise food security for London. Every patch of ground was dug up and they had allotments in Hyde Park and all that sort of stuff. In fact, it made very little impact, did it not? In truth, it was a propaganda thing because the huge demand in London for food was only barely met but it made people feel good. I do wonder whether or not people having allotments and things like that, rather than having any kind of commercial potentiality, just makes them feel good. I am sure you know more about that than I do, Chair, in relation to that.

The final question I am asking is one for you, Mark. What about the GLA's procurement policy to assist in food security and increase food production in London.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I alluded to it earlier. We have a responsible procurement policy, which includes a responsible food procurement commitment, which was written around the London 2012 Olympic Games and which we are revisiting now because the whole of that broader policy is being updated. That will be worked upon. The next iteration of it is in September [2018], I heard. For the 7 million meals that the GLA serves across Transport for London (TfL), the police, this building and elsewhere, all the contracts will commit the suppliers to higher-welfare seasonal food, fewer sugary drinks, more water and more healthy food in general so that we can take that agenda forward that way across what is a large estate and a lot of meals.

Tony Arbour AM: That is an annual figure, is it, the 7 million meals?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): There are 7 million meals a year across each constituent part of the GLA Group.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, I understand.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): I am going to bring in Assembly Member Sahota now to talk about health. Just so that you know, Onkar is Chair of the Health Committee as well as being a member of the Environment Committee.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I also come from a background of medicine. Of course, healthy food is a very important part. As we know, babies born today are within the reach of living 100 years. A 100-year life is within our reach, but a very important part of that is a healthy diet. The first question is: how do we define a healthy diet and who does that definition for us?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We use the Department of Health guidelines on a healthy diet. Typically, when we teach it or we talk about it, we use the Eatwell Plate as the guidance for what our food should look like for a day's consumption. That is what we say to businesses. That is what we say in terms of teaching people about the food that they should eat. It has been based on the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition guidance for the last 40 years. It is really interesting because I have been saying that it is the same for 40 years, except that it changed a few months ago, the Eatwell Plate, but it has more or less been the same. That is what we base it on. We use the Department of Health guidelines around salt and oil.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: That is one definition. There are other definitions of a healthy diet and there is controversy about if that is even right. However, apart from that, given that we know what a healthy diet is, what is stopping people buying it? What is stopping that mother who is in the supermarket? The cost of an apple is less than the cost of a bar of chocolate, yet that mother is buying a bar of chocolate rather than an apple. Why is that happening?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): It is something that I have a lot of experience of. In my day job, I work in food access projects and food programmes. My job started 16 years ago by starting a fruit and vegetable market stall in the middle of the Ferrier Estate in Kidbrooke. The Ferrier Estate now does not exist. All the shops were closed. The nearest street market was Lewisham. It was two bus rides away. The nearest supermarket was Woolwich or Lee Green and so --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: In the question I asked, the supermarket is open and the mother is in the supermarket. She has a choice between buying a bar of chocolate, which costs more than the apple does, but yet she still chooses to buy the bar of chocolate for that child. It has nothing to do with opening hours.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): The industry, as in the manufacturers, spend billions and billions of pounds to make people think that they will feel good when they eat that stuff or they tie it in with cartoon characters. We are constantly complaining to the Advertising Standards Agency about this. They would not spend billions of pounds if that advertising did not work. We know that there is an element of 'pester power' and that children want to eat that stuff.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We did some insight work when we did the first-ever whole-environment approach to tackling childhood obesity. We did a year of insight work and we interviewed parents and we interviewed children. There was a child who said, "A pint-and-a-half glass of full-cream milk is really good for me". They are quoting adverts.

I remember coming to a conference here about how much money we spend on marketing fruit and vegetables in Britain and how much is spent on the food industry, and they obviously spend it because they know it

works. I have to say that I do have a lot of experience with people who genuinely are trying to change the food that they are buying, but you have the huge power of industry and advertising and marketing, and it has to be really effective, but you do have barriers.

Yes, you were saying that someone is in the supermarket and maybe it is 'pester power' or confidence around parenting. If you think that we have companies that are marketing products like powdered milk and baby food to parents from a very young age saying, "This is better for you", then we are undermining the confidence of parents from very early on. If you put that against a child and a busy person walking through a supermarket, it is going to be so much easier. We are undermining parents with marketing and how we promote things. They are dealing with a child; they are likely to be busy and harassed; they are just doing sometimes the only thing they can do that is making life easier.

In my experience - we teach about 1,000 people a year in cookery clubs - people genuinely want to make a change. They genuinely want to do the best thing that they can for their families and themselves. They just need confidence. They need nudging. They need continual support. They need follow-up. They need to be encouraged. It takes a lot of confidence.

I live with my partner and I have two children, and I am still making arguments, "But it is a treat", "You are so mean". That is what I get. I do not have them in the house. I will not buy them and I am a 'mean mother' for not letting her have sweets. When I come home, her packed lunch is there and all the five fruit and veg that I put in has not been eaten. I sit down and say, "You have to eat all of that". I have a partner saying, "You should go easy on her". That is what you are faced with. Sometimes it is like, "Give her more sweets", or I am the 'mean mother' all the time.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: The point I am coming from is that there is no lack of information and people know what is good for them. I do not think that we have not educated them enough. I have done this for the last 25 years in my surgery and see all these campaigns. People know what is good and bad. For example, we knew that smoking was bad for you, but it was not until we legislated that you cannot smoke in a public place that we got a change in behaviour. For how many years did we know that wearing a seatbelt was good for your safety? Something had to be done to make them make the right choice. There is something about human behaviour. It is that dialogue between push and shove. That we need to get right and I am not entirely sure that this Strategy gets that.

Let me push this a bit further. We did talk about advertising and the Mayor is very keen on doing this, making sure that we do not advertise on TfL, about making a healthy diet important, and also making sure that planning applications mean that we do not put fast-food near schools. What is the evidence to support that this sort of thing will work?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): On the evidence, around the 400-metre exclusion zone, there are a number of boroughs that have had to produce evidence to get this into the Supplementary Planning Guidance. Lewisham and Waltham Forest have produced quite a lot of evidence around the positioning of fast-food outlets and the behaviour of children. They have been able to evidence it enough to get Supplementary Planning Guidance. The evidence is definitely there around the 400-metre exclusion zone.

However, with advertising, for the boroughs, there is the Local Declaration on Healthy Food that the boroughs are signing up to, and there has been quite a lot of evidence done by a number of different academics and universities. There is work that has been done in Amsterdam about the impact of advertising. Even if you take away --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: There is a strong evidence base, then?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): There is quite a lot. There is a strong evidence base.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): I completely agree. It has all been very recently presented to the Health Select Committee, as you probably know, in Parliament, that body of evidence. It is particularly linked to exposure of children to repeated [advertising] and those associations with obesity outcomes and, also, particularly children who are watching television for long periods of time and their food consumption habits while they are watching not necessarily television but screens of various sorts. There is definitely a good evidence base on which to base this policy. It is ground-breaking policy.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Mark, given this is effective, why is alcohol not part of the Strategy? Why are we still advertising alcohol along with healthy foods?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Alcohol is not marketed or advertised to children. It is not targeted to them, whereas we know that the fast-food industry predicated a lot of its profit base upon --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Do you think a child walking around on London transport can say, "This ad is targeted at me and this ad is targeted at my mum and dad"? Do you think a child can differentiate between those?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes. If you meet with marketing and branding companies, they absolutely know how to target children. I was working --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Let me ask Mark. The fact that alcohol is not being exempt, what sort of message is that giving to young children?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Alcohol is going to be exempt.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Fine. Exactly. There will be advertising about alcohol.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): What message does that give to children?

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Yes.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Alcohol is not marketed at young children or, indeed, at children of any age.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: When they see adverts about alcohol and beer in TfL stations, you think it is all right for them to buy that?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That is not marketed at them, whereas there is evidence that children associate fast food and the bright lights and the satisfaction of the food and the toys that come with it, and the things that are around that whole fast-food environment are aimed at children. Alcohol is exempt from this proposal --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Do you think there is a problem of alcoholism in children in this country? Are underage children drinking alcohol in London?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I do not know.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Alcohol consumption is actually reducing among younger people in London.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Do children drink alcohol? That is the question.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): I would imagine that some children drink alcohol illegally, yes.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Most liver failure in this country now is among adolescent children because of the alcohol.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): I was going to say that the thing about the ban is that it is a controversial policy. In terms of revenue generation from the advertising, there has been nervousness to look at that, and so this is a first step to see what the impact is of reducing advertising for the higher fat, salt or sugar products and what impact that has. Maybe there are opportunities to then take that further.

Starting with the things that are focused on children is a really good approach, because we know that those specific adverts are marketed at small children and we know we have a problem with childhood obesity. We are making that link and taking that step first. I appreciate that it is a debate about what you do next, but the idea is that, in itself, it is a very bold step and one that the people that count the numbers are going to want to look at.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): In that context, for clarification, during the eight-week consultation on the whole of the Strategy, there is clearly a consultation on the advertising thing, which is being led by our colleagues at TfL, who have the estate to start with and who have the commercial relationships with the advertisers and with the food and drinks brands. Those discussions are underway and ongoing and so we wait to see what they provide.

In terms of whether there would be a loss of money, I do not know. There would be an element of displacement and so could those businesses advertise some of their healthy options? That is one of the proposals. Also, I am interested to explore and we are starting this conversation: could we use some of the TfL advertising estate to advertise fruit and veg, to put it simply, to advertise different kinds of healthy --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: Mark, I also want to pick up this comment you made about 'democracy of approach', which was highly commended when you were at the Stockholm conference. What do you mean by 'democracy of approach'?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): In the context in which I used that phrase, it was put to me by Toronto and New York City yesterday, applauding - they have read our Strategy - the ways in which we are engaging with Londoners. We have, "Here is what you can do". We have the interactive Talk London platform run by GLA Intelligence, which has not been overrun but has been inundated with comments on this Strategy, more than most --

Dr Onkar Sahota AM: In the context of healthy food, how is this being carried out around this 'democracy of approach'? Does the public know what healthy food is? Is that what you mean: that they will be defining it for you?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Thank you for clarifying the question. One of the reasons that we thought of this idea and this potential intervention, which is clearly still a proposal, is because with health colleagues a couple of years ago we did The Great Weight Debate, which was a large-scale survey of Londoners. To simplify, we said to them, "What do you think the Mayor should do in this arena?" They came back with an overwhelming response, "Everywhere we go, we are bombarded by marketing and promotion of unhealthy food", what we would call an obesogenic environment. They just say, "There is fast food everywhere. Can the Mayor do something to take that away from our streets because of 'pester power' and because of everything?" Therefore, that was us literally and explicitly listening to the democratic feedback at that stage and designing this potential intervention.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Is there anyone else who wants to say who has not had a chance to say something about health that you were hoping to say in particular? Great.

I am now going to bring in Assembly Member Arnold, who is going to be picking up on food poverty in more detail.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes. Thank you. Can I just have a quick answer to this, Claire? You said you were on the previous Board from 2009. Now that you are Chair, why do you not accept a goal of zero hunger? What is wrong about carrying forward something like a zero-hunger goal from the last Strategy to this? You were there.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Sorry, saying that we should take the zero-hunger from the 2005 Strategy and embed it within this Strategy?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, bring it forward. Why did you not?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Can I start to answer the question? By "zero hunger", I think you are referring to the report that was led by Assembly Member Twycross, which came out - I am guessing - four or five years ago, from memory. Yes, Claire has been a member of the LFB since 2004. We are still trying to eradicate all food poverty and hunger in London. I cannot remember what verb you used, Jennette. We have not stopped using the zero-hunger city as a philosophy or a driver. We are aiming to eradicate in different ways.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I think people understand that we are looking for a zero-hunger goal and that is where we want to go. It is something solid. It comes back to the work we did: we are going to stop smoking, not part smoking, not wishing people would stop. We are going to reach a position of zero hunger. That is totally different to hoping that all Londoners can eat well and they can enjoy food security.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): You are saying that you think that the Strategy should have included an implicit statement saying we would like to aim for zero hunger?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It would make sense. That is what I am trying to say.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, and we can take that comment back because this is the consultation period. The thing that we wanted to do was about zero hunger, and what we also want to expand is that it is not just about food; it is about people accessing a healthy, appropriate diet. What we sometimes see --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, that comes after. Let us just see if we could set a goal. What worries me is that, without saying that, are you not then saying then that there is a level of food poverty that is acceptable in the City?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Actually, I have read it as something different. I have read it as implicit that we absolutely have to eradicate any hunger because, if we are saying we want every single Londoner - which is our mission statement - to access a healthy, affordable diet, implicit in that is zero hunger. I misunderstood the question because I feel implicit in this Strategy is something that says very clearly zero hunger in the mission statement. If we want everyone to access a healthy, affordable diet, that is zero hunger.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: That is not how I see it. I disagree.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): There are comments coming back on the Strategy. To say we need something implicit because we do not think people are going to understand that is a valuable response to a draft Strategy.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: There seems to be fewer specific goals as well about reducing food poverty than the previous Strategy had under the previous Mayor. Can you tell us how you are going to ensure that all Londoners have enough to eat?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): With the original Strategy - and I was involved in that and that was a year of research to get to those targets - a lot of people felt that that Strategy was inaccessible. The feedback that we had over a really long period of time was that it was too detailed and it was inaccessible. Consequently, when people feel a Strategy is inaccessible, they do not use it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It had goals in it.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes, it had goals and it had targets. It had hundreds of them. I still remember some of them, like a street market in every town centre, which we have nearly achieved.

Once this draft Strategy is an agreed Strategy, there will be an Implementation Plan for the LFB. There is a work programme for GLA Food team, and there will be targets, goals and ways of measuring our impact --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Specifically about food poverty?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Food poverty and food insecurity is important to us. If we want every --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Is there a difference between 'food insecurity' and 'food poverty' so that you cannot answer my question about food poverty? We should focus on food poverty.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): I would say we would describe it as ‘food insecurity’ rather than ‘food poverty’.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: We have new language now that we are to use?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): That is the language that people are using. I do not know whether they mean the same thing.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): Food insecurity, not --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: We are not talking about poverty anymore; we are talking about insecurity?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): No, we are talking about food poverty, Assembly Member Arnold. Food insecurity is almost a broader term to describe people who are - I am simplifying it slightly - at risk of falling into food poverty because of a precarious employment situation or whatever else affects their household.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: If you are not talking about food poverty, then you do not have to put up a measure for food poverty.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): No, we are.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Food poverty is implicit within food insecurity. If you look at the work of people like Elizabeth Dowler [Emeritus Professor of Food and Social Policy, University of Warwick], who is probably one of the best academics looking at this, they do not think --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No, I do not want any more narrative. I just want to stay with some specific answers to my question.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): ‘Food poverty’ is not seen as a helpful term.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: How do you measure food poverty in this current document? Do you or not?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes. You measure food poverty as not having access to a healthy diet --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can we hear from Anna?

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): Sure. There is a very robust way of measuring what we call ‘food insecurity’, which is really another term for ‘food poverty’. It is the work --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can you stay with the words ‘food poverty’ for me? I am a simple north Londoner.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): Yes, of course. It is a 10-question scale, which starts with questions about whether you are worried about running out of money before you have to buy food, right through to the most extreme, “Have you have gone 24 hours without eating because of lack of money in the last six months?” It is a recommended measure, which is part of the

tracking of the sustainable development goals internationally. Canada and the United States [of America] have it adopted within their national measurement strategies.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Everybody talks 'poverty' and, when you look nationally to look at how we could fit into what is happening, it is reasonable that we talk about 'food poverty'.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): They all call it 'food insecurity', which is why we have adopted that term. It means the same thing in practice and, obviously, the primary reason for food insecurity is poverty. We are not trying to dodge the issue there. It is just a case of consistency of language.

The point is that we do not have a national measure in the UK and the work of the GLA, which Mark referred to, which is the Intelligence Unit is really important. What it will allow us to do is to have a baseline for London so that we can then track progress in the Strategy. When we develop the metrics and the action plan for the Strategy, we can have that baseline figure in there. I am looking to Mark for reassurance.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That is true.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): Yes. We will be able to then track progress against that baseline going forward.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We may well in an Implementation Plan set targets to address that. I do the same piece of work in Greenwich and to develop a baseline on food poverty or food insecurity in Greenwich, we have to look at 15 indicators like breastfeeding rates because we do not have a baseline way to measure household insecurity. That is why we really welcome the Mayor doing it because we do not have a starting point. We do not know what it is; we do not know how to measure our impact. Starting with this gives us a way and we will have an Implementation Plan. Therefore, apologies about the language, but it is --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: In terms of what we are doing in London, how does that fit in with what the rest of the cities are doing? If you like, you could get a coalition of action that eventually then speaks to the Government and then you affect the Government. London on its own is not going to be able to do that.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): We run a programme called Food Power and that is a city-based approach to tackling the issues around food poverty and household food insecurity. There is a programme nationally that works within local areas and there are lots of London Food Power projects going on.

One of the things is about this measurement stuff so that we know that we are going in the right direction. Another big element of that is also about experts by experience. How do we include people with lived experience of those challenges day-to-day and coming up with the solutions rather than people who have not experienced it sitting around a table and deciding what is best? That is definitely happening.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): It is an important point about cities starting to do more measurement. For example, in Liverpool we have been working quite closely with Liverpool City Council because it is really concerned about food poverty in the City and wants to start measuring. The Scottish Government is now starting to measure at the national level within Scotland.

You are right that that momentum is needed to make sure that we have a decent national measure and that this is not just isolated examples but that we can get to the point where we have an agreed understanding of

the scale of this challenge. At the moment, we do not and it allows us to dodge the issue, frankly, in policy terms.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: There is no narrative about that in the document or about working to bring about change nationally, not that I have seen, but maybe we can feed that through.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That is something that we can increase. Near the start of the document, it says we are part of the Sustainable Food Cities Network, which is across the UK and Ireland. We do not explicitly --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: That is the same thing?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): It is an example. I agree with you that we should draw this out and make it more explicit.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It is just that the problem I have is that this is so worthy, and we want something tangible that is going to bring about change because people are starving. Whoever put the words in the Mayor's mouth, "We should not accept food banks as a fact of life in London"? What are we doing? Are we ignoring the million-odd people who now totally depend on food banks? What action is there in this food poverty section that the Mayor can do and will do to reduce the level of dependence on food banks and the level of poverty that has now been experienced by so many Londoners? That is what I am asking. That is what people want to hear about.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The Food Poverty Action Plans that the boroughs have been doing, which really link with Food Power, which is UK-wide, and the Sustainable Food Cities food poverty element, are helping the boroughs identify everything they can do to address food poverty.

It is a result of poverty. It is things like the London Living Wage and Living Wage-friendly funders. It is about maximising the uptake of Healthy Start benefits and all benefits. It is about decent housing. It is about a 365-days-a-year meal offer for children who normally get free school meals. It is about breastfeeding rates. It is about decent retail strategies. It is a wide range of things. It is about meals for vulnerable older people. Those are the causes of poverty. Poverty is the cause of food poverty, but there are loads of other things that we have and mechanisms we have in place that can help us mitigate some of the causes around those kinds of things.

We have also *Beyond the Food Bank*, which is a report that Sustain does based on the work that boroughs do to do as much as they can to mitigate against food poverty.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Thank you. We can make reference because we already know about the work of some boroughs. I represent Waltham Forest and so I know some of the leading stuff they are doing.

I have two other areas and I want to move away from young people and just spend a moment looking at elders. That report by the All Parliamentary Group on hunger highlighted a heightened risk of malnutrition among older people. I am sure general practitioners (GPs) will not be surprised at that. Anybody who is living a real life will not be surprised at that.

Again, I am just wondering. What are you planning to say the Mayor can do in terms of Londoners elders who are on the brink of or are experiencing malnutrition?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We have talked about meals on wheels, but we need to talk more extensively about all meals for older people. It is not just meals for vulnerable older people at home; it is meals for older people, too, in community settings because we also need to address social isolation. Also, the other thing is about food access. If you are an older person and you have those access issues, then a good local retail strategy – hopefully, if it addresses access issues for certain population groups – will also help us address access issues for older people.

The other thing is around procurement, care homes, catering, MUSS testing. What are we doing when we are doing the meals on wheels? Is it an enhanced service where we are also looking at MUSS testing? Are we doing calorie enrichment with some of the meals when we identify someone is at risk of malnutrition? What are the quality standards in care home and supported housing? All of those --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The Strategy will be asking further questions about that, but no tangible action is planned?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): No, there will be an action plan and we have already met with Fiona Twycross [AM] to talk about older people. We are hoping that we will do a piece of work to look at the picture now. We have some really brilliant models happening in certain boroughs and we have other boroughs where we have very little happening. Recently, Hackney just commissioned £1 million of lunch club services to older people, which is a fantastic thing. Other boroughs are doing different things. We have the Hertfordshire Independent Living Service model that we have been looking at. There has been a lot of work looking at this. We really need to understand where the work needs to be done, where we can intervene, who we can work with and where the partners are. It is across quite a number of settings.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): We have just been joined by the children from Manor Longbridge School from Barking and Dagenham. We are talking about food today and thinking about how we make sure that everyone in London is able to eat good food. We are questioning some people from the office of the Mayor of London and people who are helping the Mayor of London to make sure everyone can eat good food. Jennette?

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): I think some people are looking a little bit hungry. Do you, Chair?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: They are, yes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): A little bit, but I am afraid we have no food.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We are just talking about it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Who is planning to eat fruit today? Show us. You are just all so good. Well done.

Tony Arbour AM: Ask them who is going to eat chocolate.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Who had strawberries for breakfast?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Who had strawberries for breakfast? Nice. Excellent. There are loads of strawberries around. Thank you. I have just one question left. I have loads of other questions, but I am going to just stay with this one. I would like the actions. What is the GLA doing to tackle holiday hunger?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We have the Mayor's Fund and we have Kitchen Social. Across London now, the Mayor is supporting the development of Kitchen Social, which are holiday meal providers. There is quite a lot of support and funding and a steering group and advisory group here. It is normally an existing community group or school and Kitchen Social provides them with support around resources, managing kitchens, food safety and volunteering. I cannot remember how many Kitchen Socials there will be this summer but I would advise going to see them. They are at --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The Mayor's Fund for London established that programme a couple of years back. What new is planned? The Mayor's Fund for London is associated with the GLA but is not of the GLA. What is the GLA doing?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The GLA in terms of the LFB and the boroughs subgroup or in terms of the Secretariat? The LFB boroughs subgroup partners with Kitchen Social and they work really closely to support each other about best models and dissemination of those models. We have been working on that for quite a long time.

In September [2018] there is going to be a conference. The best models that we can find in London including Kitchen Social, the model in Greenwich and also people from outside London are coming to talk to the rest of the London boroughs and all community groups. There is going to be a conference to help disseminate best practice.

With Kitchen Social, everything that they have learned is disseminated in a practical guidance for anyone to be able to start holiday meal provision. It works very closely with the boroughs subgroup of the LFB.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Anyone with the capacity to start. That is not all Londoners, is it?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): It is community groups. The thing is that you do need a setting and what we found is most practical about holiday meal provision - I have been involved in two pilots - is that if you already have an existing holiday scheme, you can add food to it. The most expensive part of holiday meal provision is not the food and is not the volunteers serving the food; it is the venue. The cost of opening schools in the summer is proving to be prohibitive and schools also, being independent autonomous bodies, are not necessarily willing to do it. What you have is things like adventure playgrounds and youth groups. They are the people - church groups, community centres - who are open in the summer for children anyway. This is appearing to be the most pragmatic, affordable and accessible and is likely to be the best way we can get full provision at the moment until we get a lot more money invested.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: So many things come out of that. You would have thought that you would be asking the Mayor to use his powers of persuasion to deal with this issue of schools being closed during this period when they could be supporting those children in need.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): It is cost to schools. I would love to use the power of persuasion to ask schools to open but, having spoken to schools; it is whether or not a school has the money to open. I work very closely with a school in Charlton. They rent out their school premises to raise the money to open in the summer, but they happen to be very fortunate to have a separate building they can use as a

restaurant. A lot of schools have very small premises and it is how they generate the income to be able to afford to open in the summer. Unless they get a massive budget increase, are very lucky or have other revenue streams, we still need to ask who is going to pay for a school to open for six weeks. It is a huge cost.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The very last question is to Mark. How much money was put aside in the Mayor's recent budget to fund actions arising from his Food Strategy?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): For the GLA Food Programme for the current financial year that has just started, our Mayoral Direction gives £144,000 for projects, in addition to us having two and three-quarter - let us call it three - staff members permanently in the Food team. To do our projects, we have £144,000.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: £144,000 is all that is allocated to this?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): That is in our recently signed Mayoral Direction.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can I say ...

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Your face says it all. We are going to move on to look at food growing in London and I am going to bring Leonie in.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): We touched on this a bit earlier on when Sarah ran through a little list of where there is some food growing in outer London, mainly, you were saying, Enfield, Walthamstow and places. The draft Strategy does emphasise the great importance of food growing in London - and, obviously, you heard me on food miles earlier - and sets out some actions that are going to promote food growing.

How much more food growing do you think there is capacity for or how much food growing space? That was something that you alluded to. There is quite a lot of housing that gets in the way. Would that represent success? How would we measure success in this Strategy in terms of an increase in food growing?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): In the last Strategy, one of the big targets and one of the big successes was the Capital Growth campaign to create 2,012 new food growing spaces. I am pleased to say we made that target and we have continued to support and grow that network. That is something that I am quite involved in.

We are not at capacity. There is capacity for more food growing. We are really pleased to see stuff in the London Plan around putting food growing into new housing developments and looking at that creatively. We have schools that want to grow food and doing that if they have room within their grounds or, if not, they are partnering up with local places. We are not saturated and so there could be an element of growing that.

What is more important now is to solidify the network of growing spaces that we have, to look at how we start to protect those and see those as real assets of community value. We are now seeing, as development continues and housing continues, some of those spaces coming under threat. How do we want to protect them? How do we see those spaces as places that have biodiversity and wildlife value? We put in quite a

detailed response to the Environment Strategy to say that we think that food growing should have more prevalence in this. There is a lot of work to link up those two areas.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Do we have a complete list of everywhere where food growing is going on? Do we have a baseline that we are starting from?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Yes. We have a map. You can go online at capitalgrowth.org and you can see a map of all the food growing spaces in London. I cannot tell you that we have 100% of them because that would be fairly impossible. I cannot tell you that all of those ones are currently active because maintaining a database that is that size requires constant work because people move and people's email addresses change. However, yes, we have a really good baseline to start. We are aware of --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): That does not include people having greenhouses and, as I just alluded to, I have all my strawberries now out in my garden and so I am a very happy person. I have some other things that I grow in my garden, but there was a project that was called Food Up Front that was encouraging to grow in their front gardens. Is that sort of network where it is slightly more organised included at all?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): People who grow at home can join our network. We have people listed who grow so that they get access to the same information, support, training and stuff that we do there. People join schemes like the Royal Horticultural Society and Garden Organics. There are lots of things for individuals who want support.

You could spend your whole life measuring what people are doing and who is doing what and we do a fair bit of that. We like baselines and we like to measure what is going on. We measure how much food they grow so that we can estimate the value of that. We do loads of work on that.

What we are really interested in is how we now link up food growing with other agendas. How can we use it as part of discussions around social prescribing so that people are signposted? How can we use it as part of skills development so that people can get training through growing food and then they can go to work in that sector or in another sector? How do we now develop some more of the commercially viable farming and what opportunities are there for that?

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): That comes on from the baseline and measuring how much to actually what people are growing. You mentioned social prescribing. Is there any guidance that has been given in this Strategy about the kind of food that we might be particularly seeking to encourage, which might make people healthier, or anything like that?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): If you are growing food and eating it unprocessed, it is not unhealthy. I would say that we --

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): I tried growing chocolate in my garden and it just did not work.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): The chocolate tree just does not work.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Not in this country, anyway.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): We would encourage people to grow what they are going to enjoy growing and what works for them. We can tell you what people do tend to grow, and that is salads because they are high-value and so it saves you more money and because they are great fresh. When you are growing them, they do not go off. People love to grow tomatoes and strawberries. Yes, we have tracked some data on what people grow.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): More salad and fruit than vegetables? Is there any encouragement around vegetables?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Yes, of course. There is a new campaign as part of Sustainable Food Cities called Veg Cities, and part that is looking at the work that Anna has been doing around getting people to eat more veg. Yes, it is quite an interesting approach. I would not say that we would dictate to people what they want to grow. If you want to grow, you know what you want to grow.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Where we are coming from on this is the idea that we can be slightly more sustainable in terms of the food that we grow. This morning, it took me two minutes to go into my garden, pick the strawberries, wash them and then eat them. That involved no food miles, no plastic packaging, nothing at all, and it was completely delicious. However, when you look at trying to encourage people towards growing their own raspberries and strawberries, which grow very easily here, or maybe even having an apple tree, how much can we encourage people to want to do? There are constant adverts that we see telling us that blueberries are a superfood or we all have to eat an avocado every day. They are more difficult to grow. How can we counter that kind of messaging?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): The idea of social prescribing is really important for us because Sustain does an incredible job with 2,700 spaces and getting people to sign up and support. It has been unbelievable, and the master gardening. To have that baseline is incredible, but what we also need is the partners on the other side to say, "This is a really good thing for you. This is a really good thing to have in our social housing. This is a really good thing to do when we develop a new piece of housing". We need it in Supplementary Planning Guidance. We need local authorities and we need public health to say, "How do we do this around social prescribing? How does this work?" We need GPs to see the value of it. We need all of those partners to say, "This is possible and this is practical".

Also, then, when you have a balcony, we need the housing provider not having a problem with you covering it in food. I have seen great examples of Family Mosaic, which has now joined with Peabody, taking some land where there were not gardens and creating gardens for their residents. This is what we need. We have a great programme and we need measuring, but we need the partners to really support the practicalities around it so that the public can respond and we need the message to be there for the public. Every time someone is on an allotment waiting list, how about saying, "Did you know there is a community garden where you live? Did you know you can do this? How about doing this on your balcony?" We need practical, pragmatic support to enable people to do it and get the messages from both sides. That is definitely something we should be looking at in an action plan going forward.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): I can see Anna is also keen to come in on this as well.

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): Just on your point about how you get people excited about vegetables in particular. An initiative we are doing with lots of other people is around trying to create an advertising fund for veg because, as somebody said earlier, 1% of food and drink advertising goes on vegetables. We have just come to the end of a crowdfund and we have loads of the public involved. We have

now a proof-of-concept stage funded for the next year. We are working with some of the leading advertisers in the country. It is called Veg Power. If you google it, you will see lots of stuff on it. It is very much in that space. It is not specifically about growing but about trying to transform the image of veg in the eyes of kids and their parents, so that children are asking for veg and linking it to superheroes and all that kind of stuff. In fact, all that work began in this very room last October [2017] at the Veg Summit. That will all complement and is a nice antidote to the junk food advertising that this Strategy is trying to tackle as well.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): I hope you are all going to remember Veg Power. That is going to become a new superhero. We are going to be seeing a little cartoon and comics coming soon and that sort of thing? Or are we moving on from girl power and we are going to see some celebrities fronting it up?

Anna Taylor OBE (Executive Director, Food Foundation): There will be a mixture of all of that, yes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): There is a lot of green infrastructure work that is going on in London, things like tree planting, sustainable drainage, promoting biodiversity. How much synergy is there between the food growing that is happening in London and those other environmental areas? How much are those programmes working together? Who wants to start?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): I am trying. I will happily share my response to the Environment Strategy with you. I read it. It was a very detailed Strategy and it looked at things like designations. In a way, food growing suffers because it does not have a specific designation. We are looking at how to create a designation for food growing, or where it fits into other designations, because the biodiversity within food growing areas is second to none. They are some of the most diverse green spaces that you are going to get. There is a lot of opportunity to build food growing more into green infrastructure and to look at things like how to grow food in parks and how all those things fit together.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Would growing food in parks be planting orchards or --

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): We are about to produce a document on this that shows about four different ways that you can grow. It tries to set a typology to help park managers to do that. There are lots of different ways that you can grow food in parks. That can be orchards, although they need to be looked after. It can be just edible planting within the planting system. It can be education and demonstration areas. It could be even productive areas, as we have seen in Dagenham. The growing community at Dagenham Farm is an area within a park, albeit closed off but it is still accessible to park users. Yes, we are really keen for food growing spaces to be recognised as part of green infrastructure.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): That is something you have fed into the Environment Strategy?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Yes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Have you had a response?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): I do not know if I have yet. I responded to so many, but I think an email might have come through about that. I should also say that the Food team is also helping us to go and meet with the Environment team to talk about this in a bit more detail because the Environment team is keen. The Food team used to be based within that department and has moved, but there are still strong contacts. We need to do some work to reinforce that again and to really see how we --

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I do not know the answer to this, but anything that has not been able to be picked up through Sarah's existing feedback we will build as much of it as we can into this Strategy in this context.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Great. Just in general about encouraging more fruit tree and nut tree, for instance, growing, is there any programme to encourage Londoners to plant fruit trees in their gardens or on streets in boroughs?

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): There is obviously the tree programme that is run here. It is not specifically about fruit and nut trees, but there are opportunities for people to apply for funding to plant trees. There is also a couple of organisations. One is called the Orchard Projects and the other is Trees for Cities. They both run programmes to help communities and schools to plant orchards.

In terms of getting people to plant them in their own places, yes, it would be a great campaign. People are very nervous about planting trees because of subsistence and stuff, but street trees are really important. Seeing how you can put edible trees within those streetscapes is part of the Incredible Edible approach, which is about normalising the fact that food does grow in places and you can forage it and you can eat it.

Yes, it would be great to talk more to the Environment team about how we can feed food more into some of their environmental programmes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Great. Then the urban fringe has come up peppered through the meeting this morning. As well as the more inner-urban food growing spaces, Sarah, you mentioned five proper horticultural big-scale farms in London. Do you think that there could be more added to the Strategy to recognise the significance of farming in the Green Belt in terms of London's food supply?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): I totally agree with that. It is difficult for us. We will not pretend that, through doing that, we will highlight that. That will not massively solve or enable London to be much more self-sufficient, but they do perform an important role. Yes, we will go back and amplify the wording on that.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): I should just tell you that Forty Hall has been working with Enfield Council and very recently has just done an extraordinary piece of work with the help of Gourmet Goat. They have helped the Council change the food that is on offer in their council building. It was quite complex because of the procurement process of buying through local producers. Instead of having one person procure food, you need a council that is very committed to changing and making it more accessible for 15 suppliers instead of one. This is the complexity. Gourmet Goat has supported Enfield Council to do this and --

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): What is Gourmet Goat?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Gourmet Goat is a --

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Social enterprise.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): -- very small food business based at Borough Market, but they live in Enfield and they have a passion. They have just achieved this piece of work. I am going to propose to the Chair of our boroughs subgroup that we invite the Leader of Enfield Council to come to talk to the other boroughs and do a piece of work to say why it was important to them. Although, as Mark says, it has a part to

play maybe with 15 million people or however many people eating in London, but there is something symbolic and there is something really valuable. It is that idea of addressing food waste by attaching more value to the food because it is raised locally, and you can go and see it. These things can have a bigger impact. There is some real value in modelling and sharing and talking about the values behind that piece of work that we have a part to play in.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): One of the things that is quite complicated, I suppose, for all the people behind all of the strategies, is how they all jigsaw together. We also commented on the London Plan and there was a reference to growing in the Green Belt but, again, we wanted to see that emphasised. It is difficult to know how putting it in the Strategy will make it happen because there are so many different factors for people to start a farm, but having it there as a vision is really important and inspirational for the people who want to have more urban growing. There are also opportunities around the Good Growth Fund and that is alluded to in here and about how that could help those farms to start and help to create the infrastructure they need. You do not just need ground; you need more than that. You need farm buildings. You need to get planning permission to do that. There are lots of bits to put in place, but this document can help to put some of those steps in.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Good growth for good growing.

Sarah Williams (Programme Director, Sustain): Yes, that is perfect.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): What about the people who actually do the farming? In putting the Strategy together, have people who farm in London been consulted?

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): We are encouraging them to do responses to this Strategy, definitely. Quite a few of us work with people who are involved in farming. In Greenwich I work with Keats [Community] Organics and we helped to set them up. We are encouraging those people, along with a lot of other people, to respond to this Strategy without a doubt, yes.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Thank you. Does anyone have anything else that they are burning to say or that they feel has been missed out? Jennette has a quick question.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, I have a quick question to Mark. One of the difficulties I am having is, without the Implementation Plan, feeling that I can say anything positive. When is the Implementation Plan going to be produced?

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): We are working on it now. Do you want to --

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Obviously, we want a finalised Strategy, but part of the process that we are going through is that we have asked all the Board Members to respond against every area of action to say how they feel they have a role and who the partners are they identify through the Strategy. We will also be looking at things like the baseline, the things that we have talked about, where we are starting and the work that has been going on for 14 years. An Implementation Plan I hope we would have this autumn.

Mark Ainsbury (Principal Policy Officer, Greater London Authority): We are saying that we envisage that the Strategy itself will be published by the end of this year [2018], so the Implementation Plan will be in parallel and in advance of that timing.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Can I just add to that? I understand where Assembly Member Arnold's question is coming from. We alluded to it at the beginning and have now come back to it at the end. It is easier for us to conduct our scrutiny of a proposed strategy if we also have the Implementation Plan to hand as well. It might have meant that some of our questions were not required because we could see that there were baselines and time-bound targets with some interim milestones and all the rest of it. I personally would have found that really handy. Perhaps we could mention that if we are writing and giving some feedback from this Committee. That would have been helpful for us, actually. Having it with the draft Strategy would have been a preference.

Claire Pritchard (Chair, London Food Board): Yes. Thank you.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): We have managed to conclude the meeting before the one minute's silence and so I am going to take us through to the end. Can I thank all our guests for their contributions? All of you, thank you. It has been really interesting.

Can I ask the Committee to note the report as a background to putting questions to invited guests on the Mayor's draft Food Strategy and note the subsequent discussion, and delegate authority to me as Chair in consultation with party group members to agree any output arising from the discussion?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: With the caveat that we have just made.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): That we would like to see the Implementation Plan?

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I cannot see how we can be for or against what we have in front of us when half of it is missing, and so that has to be a caveat.

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Within our response, thank you.

Leonie Cooper AM (Deputy Chair): Would you like us to agree that?

Caroline Russell AM (Chair): Yes, let us agree that.

All: Agreed.

Subject: Summary List of Actions

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details of completed and ongoing actions arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the completed and outstanding actions arising from its previous meetings.**

Actions Arising from the Meeting on 14 June 2018

| Minute Number | Topic | Status | |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| 6. | <p>Draft Food Strategy</p> <p>During the course of the discussion, Members requested the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information on the model of the economic benefits of eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables; and • A list of urban growing environments and the organisation's response to the Environment Strategy. <p>That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions.</p> | <p>Circulated to Members separately.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed – See Agenda Item 5</p> | <p>Executive Director, The Food Foundation</p> <p>Programme Director, Sustain.</p> <p>Scrutiny Manager</p> |

Actions Arising from the Meeting on 17 January 2018

| Minute Number | Topic | Status | For action by |
|---------------|---|---------|--|
| 6. | <p>Draft London Plan</p> <p>During the course of the discussion, Members requested the following additional information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A map of London to show where people are more than 800 metres away from a town centre;• The relationship between the biodiversity action plans, the supplementary planning guidance and the overall strategy in the London Plan; and• Further details on whether Sections 2.18(C) and 1.18(D) of the old London Plan are fully covered and protected by new policy areas: G6(B)(2), G3(C) and G4(B) of the London Plan. | Ongoing | Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills |

3. Legal Implications

3.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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Subject: Action Taken Under Delegated Authority

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines recent actions taken by the Chair under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, in accordance with the delegations granted by the Environment Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the recent action taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members, namely to agree:**
- (a) **The Committee's report, *Single-use plastic: unflushables*, at Appendix 1;**
 - (b) **The scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming at Appendix 2;**
 - (c) **The summary of the Committee's visit to Forty Hall, Enfield, at Appendix 3; and**
 - (d) **The Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Food Strategy at Appendix 4; and**
 - (e) **The Committee's response to the consultation on the proposed Riverside Energy Park in Belvedere at Appendix 5.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee notes its report attached at Appendix 1, the scope and terms of reference for the Committee's investigation into green belt farming, attached at Appendix 2, the summary of its site visit attached at Appendix 3, and the responses to consultations attached at Appendices 4 and 5 to the report.**

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 23 May 2018, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with Party Group Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion. [Plastics – Nappies and Period Products]

3.2 At its meeting on 14 June 2018, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree the scope and terms of reference for its work on the environmental impact of food growing in London's green belt. [Environment Committee Work Programme]

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions.

3.3 At its meeting on 14 June 2018, the Committee also resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the discussions. [Response to Draft Food Strategy].

3.4 In accordance with the Assembly's Scheme of Delegations, the Chair of the Committee has a general delegated authority to respond on the Environment Committee's behalf, following consultation with the lead Members of the party Groups on the Committee, where it is consulted on issues by organisations and there is insufficient time to consider the consultation at a meeting.

4. Issues for Consideration

Plastics – Nappies and Period Products

4.1 The Committee's report, *Single-use plastic: unflushables* is attached as **Appendix 1** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)¹.

4.2 The report was published on 14 August 2018 and contains the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Mayor should work alongside Thames Water and local authorities to develop a 'block buster borough scheme'. All boroughs, especially those with above average sewer blockages, should work with the Mayor to develop a programme of work to reduce these blockages.

Recommendation 2

During the next update of its guidance, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) should include the offer of a reusable nappy incentive as a tool for boroughs to increase their recycling rate. Boroughs should partner with midwives and health visitors to communicate to new parents and carers the availability of reusable nappies and the need for responsible disposal of nappies and

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/environment_committee_-_plastic_unflushables_0.pdf

period products. LWARB and boroughs should also explore the possibility of incentivising reusable menstrual products as a complement to this scheme, for example by working with schools and health visitors.

Recommendation 3

Under the accreditation review, the Mayor's London Healthy Schools initiative should ask schools to demonstrate that they are period positive. This would mean using period positive language to reduce stigma about menstruation, informing children about binning not flushing, and promoting the range of reusable and disposable period products available. The Mayor should also lobby Ofsted and the Department for Education to ensure this is included in the curriculum and national standards and guidance.

Recommendation 4

The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary requesting a statutory format to display proper disposal information and the presence of plastic in unflushable products.

Recommendation 5

Along with water companies, Ofwat should be involved in developing an independent testing model and standard for flushable products. These companies should seek input from environmental experts to ensure that new products do not leave environmentally damaging residue. Water companies should liaise with designers, manufacturers and retailers on the merits of having the standard displayed prominently on their packaging.

Recommendation 6

The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary supporting a ban for unflushable wet wipes that contain plastic and advising that only products that have passed a robust flushability standard are allowed on the market.²

Recommendation 7

LWARB should investigate recycling for unflushable waste in London.

Recommendation 8

The Greater London Authority Group should provide bins in its men's toilets for unflushable single-use products and encourage other public and private sector organisations to adopt this approach.

- 4.3 Officers confirm that the report falls within the terms of reference as agreed by the Committee at the start of the investigation.
- 4.4 The Committee is recommended to note the report.

² The GLA Conservative Group and UKIP dissent from Recommendation 6 as they believe that through better communication of the effects of disposing of wet wipes via toilets and improved labelling a reduction in the number of flushed wet wipes can be achieved.

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

4.5 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the scope and terms of reference for the Environment Committee's investigation into growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt. A copy of the document is attached at **Appendix 2** for Members and Officers but may be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)³.

4.6 The Committee is recommended to note the terms and reference for the investigation.

Forty Hall Site Visit

4.7 In advance of its investigation into growing food in the Green Belt, the Committee attended a site visit at Forty Hall Farm, Enfield on 12 July 2018. The summary of the Committee's site visit is attached at **Appendix 3** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁴.

4.8 The Committee is recommended to note the summary of its site visit.

Response to Draft Food Strategy

4.9 The Committee's response to the Mayor's draft Food Strategy was agreed with input from Members of the Health Committee and Economy Committee. The response is attached at **Appendix 4** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁵.

4.10 The Committee is recommended to note the response.

Cory Riverside Consultation

4.11 In accordance with her standing delegation, and following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a response to the Cory Riverside consultation. The response is attached at **Appendix 5** for Members and officers only but can be accessed on the GLA's website [here](#)⁶.

4.12 The Committee is recommended to note the response.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6433&Ver=4>

⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MId=6433&Ver=4>

⁵ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_assembly_response_to_cory_riverside_consultation_july_2018.pdf

⁶ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/food_strategy_response_-_final.pdf

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – *Single-use plastic: unflushables*

Appendix 2 – Scope – Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Appendix 3 – Notes of Site Visit to Forty Hall Farm, Enfield, 12 July 2018

Appendix 4 – Committee response to Mayor’s draft Food Strategy

Appendix 5 – Cory Riverside Consultation

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers:

Member Delegated Authority Forms: 983 [Plastics – Nappies and Period Products]; 974 [Growing in the Green belt]; and 991 [Standing Delegation]

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Single-use plastic: unflushables

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Key findings

- Millions of unflushables are used, and disposed of, every day in London. Disposable wet wipes, nappies and period products are convenient, effective and popular but these products cause significant environmental damage when incorrectly disposed of.
- Like all single-use products, unflushables waste natural resources – particularly when they are not recycled or reused. They also contain large amounts of plastic, which increases the damage they cause.
- Wet wipes and period products are often flushed down the toilet, where they combine with fat and oil to create fatbergs and sewer blockages. Those that escape into the wider environment cause further damage – the extent of this damage is still unknown.
- Nappies are either sent for incineration—contributing to local air pollution—or dumped as landfill.
- The cost of unflushables isn't only to our environment, it's also costing us financially. Because of their cost, many people are forced to choose between buying food, nappies or period products.
- The Mayor, the Government and manufacturers need to do more to tackle the problems these products cause and promote the message of “bin it, don't flush it”. We make a number of recommendations, including promoting alternative products, improving labelling and a ban on non-flushable wet wipes.

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Single-use plastic: unflushables

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Unflushable waste in the UK

The UK uses and throws away huge quantities of plastic contained in unflushable products. Every year, across the country over eleven billion wet wipes, nearly 2.5 billion period products, nearly four billion nappies and over a billion incontinence products are bought. These numbers are growing: wipes by over a quarter, and adult incontinence products by nearly half, compared to five years ago.¹

Consumers would find it hard to identify the presence of plastic in unflushables by looking at the packaging alone. Currently, there is no legal requirement for manufacturers to list materials on the packaging of products.² It has been estimated that, on average:³

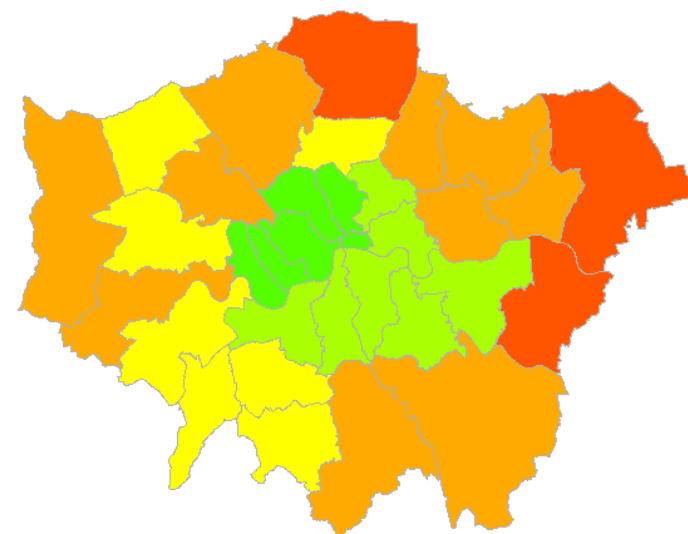
- tampons contain five per cent plastic
- period pads may contain 90 per cent plastic
- nappies are around 50 per cent plastic and similar polymers

(tampons often also come with a plastic applicator, and many of the products are packaged in plastic, sometimes individually)

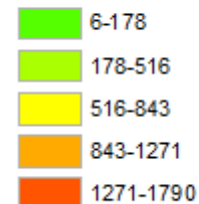
Because these items are single-use and contain plastic, their production and disposal has a number of negative environmental effects. While people are increasingly aware that using and disposing of products including plastic bottles and coffee cups is bad for the environment, little attention has been given to other plastic products

such as nappies, wet wipes, and period and incontinence products (which for the purposes of this report we will refer to as unflushables).

Map 1: Wet wipes and period products cause a considerable number of blockages across London⁴



Blockages caused by wet wipes or period products



Single-use plastic: unflushables

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Binning unflushables

The qualities that have made unflushables so popular—their strength, durability and water-resistance—also mean that their disposal damages the environment. Manufacturers have developed these products to perform effectively, and consumers have responded by switching away from reusable products (made from natural ingredients) to these single-use products (containing plastics).

Unflushables that people properly dispose of in the bin may end up being sent to one of London's incinerators. Every year, waste authorities collect around 100,000 tonnes of nappy waste, of which the majority will be sent for incineration – adding to London's carbon emissions and polluting the air.⁵ Those nappies that go to landfill reportedly take 400 years to disintegrate.⁶

“If Henry VIII had been wearing a [single-use disposable] nappy [...] it would still be in landfill now.”

Kate Metcalf, Co-Director, Women's Environmental Network

Unflushables cannot currently be recycled. Nappy and other absorbent hygiene material cannot currently be recycled in the UK, despite the technology being available elsewhere. Sometimes people put nappies

into the recycling—often because they are confused by the labelling—which can lead to the rejection of a whole truck-load of recycling. Martin Capstick, Managing Director of North London Waste Authority, told us that “disposable nappies are a significant source of contamination”.⁷ This suggests there may be problems with product labelling or public messaging.

“When I used to use disposable products, I would typically flush them. That was what felt more convenient for me.”

Mandu Reid, Founder, The Cup Effect

Many may miss or ignore the advice to bin their unflushables. A recent study showed that over 50 per cent of women flushed their period products. More than the apparent convenience of flushing, people report that concerns about hygiene, privacy and discretion are the reasons for flushing period products and wipes.⁸ Recent campaigns about unflushables have chosen to shy away from addressing period waste, focusing on wet wipes instead. People need to be less squeamish about this normal human process and talk more about disposing of used period products.

Single-use plastic: unflushables

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Flushing unflushables

No wet wipe, period or incontinence product currently on the market disintegrates fully when flushed. Once flushed, there are number of things that will happen to plastic products but fully disintegrating into water is not one of them. Firstly, flushed products may be picked up in local treatment works. Thames Water removes 30 tonnes of unflushable material every day from just one of its sites. Secondly, unflushables can combine with fat, forming local sewer blockages and fatbergs. Thames Water unclogs five house blockages a day from London's sewers – a 30 per cent increase from last year. Sewer blockages cost Thames Water, and ultimately the consumer, £12 million a year.⁹

Some products won't be picked up in the sewage treatment process and will end up in rivers and oceans. Thames 21, which runs clean-up operations in the Thames, collected nearly 10,000 wet wipes from just one location over a two-year period.¹⁰ Even those products that partially disintegrate can remain in the environment – a recent study found high numbers of microplastic particles at all study sites in the Thames, and packaging products were found to be a common source of microplastic pollution.¹¹

Labelling of unflushables is inconsistent despite industry guidance. The industry has attempted consistent labelling: for wet wipes in particular, the European Disposables and Nonwovens Association has recently updated its guidance to manufacturers, encouraging them to put 'do not

flush' symbols in a prominent place on the packaging. However, because disposal labelling is voluntary, 'do not flush' symbols are not universally used. Water UK found several different locations, symbols and advice for correct disposal used on unflushable packaging.¹²

Our reliance on disposables isn't just costing us environmentally, but financially too. A strong case for reusable products is that, after the initial cost, the cost per wear is lower when compared to disposables. Menstrual cups currently retail at around £20 and can last up to ten years. Considering the cost of disposables, swapping to reusables could save menstruating people £2,000 over a lifetime.¹³ If a parent or carer were to choose reusable nappies for their baby, a full supply would require an upfront cost of £120-300. Compared to disposables, this could save £1,000 during the time a child is in nappies.¹⁴ If they were to use the nappies for a second or third child, participate in a local voucher scheme or get the nappies second-hand, the costs could be lower still. The industry has acknowledged concerns that the cost of period products and nappies may rise post-Brexit, due to tariffs or other barriers to trade.¹⁵

Reusable nappies

There are three main types of reusable nappy: pocket, flat and fitted nappies. Most are made from a natural material such as cotton. Bio-degradable paper liners or washable (cotton, silk and fleece) liners can be placed inside the nappies for convenience.

Single-use plastic: unflushables

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Reusable period products

There are three main types of reusable period products: menstrual cups, washable period pads and reusable period underwear.

Menstrual cups are made of silicone, which is safe for the body, and inserted into the vagina to collect blood internally. Washable pads are available in a variety of colours, shapes and designs for comfort and choice. Reusable period underwear can, depending on the flow, replace pads, liners, and tampons, or be worn with tampons and cups for extra protection.

Disposable period products and nappies are given out at food banks and nappy and period poverty have been widely documented in the media. A study by a Scottish women's campaigning group found that nearly one in five respondents had to go without period products because of finances, while one in ten had been forced to prioritise essential household items, such as food, over buying period products.¹⁶ Teenagers may be particularly vulnerable to period poverty: 15 per cent have struggled to afford period products and one in five (19 per cent) have changed to a less suitable product due to cost.¹⁷ Even in the UK, this puts children and young people at risk of missing school.

Thanks to a range of benefits, reusable products are becoming increasingly popular. Along with the reported rise in the sale of reusable period products, uptake of reusable nappies is becoming more widespread. The global market for menstrual cups is expected to grow to over 1.5 billion US dollars by 2023.¹⁸ Certain waste authorities in London offer money-off reusable nappies, equal to the cost of sending disposable nappies to landfill. Real Nappies for London offers a peer-to-peer service to new parents using reusable nappies. However, reusable products are increasing from a small share of the current market: ten per cent of families in one survey of parents of three-year-olds.¹⁹ This may change as awareness grows of the negative effects of single use products and the availability of alternatives.

Efforts to limit London's residual waste problem need to take account of our reliance on unflushable products. Use of adult incontinence products has grown by over 50 per cent in the last five years.²⁰ Many boroughs are attempting to reduce waste by restricting residual waste collections to fortnightly, and encouraging people to recycle more of their waste. However, because of the number of nappies accumulating between residual waste collections, some boroughs have introduced weekly collections of nappy waste, which seems to run counter to the Environment Strategy. Alternatively, there are several ways the Mayor and boroughs could help residents to cut down their waste, encourage the use of reusables and prevent unflushables clogging up sewers, rivers and oceans.

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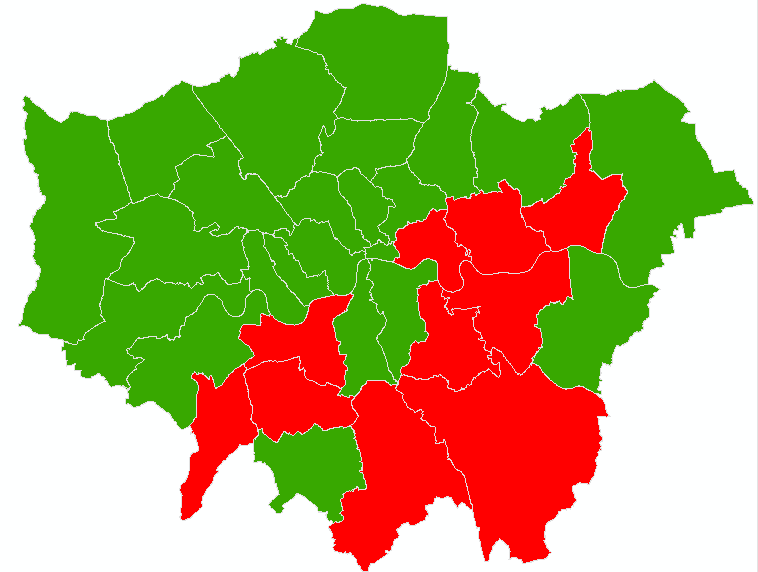
Recommendations

Incorporating a number of recommendations, the Mayor and Thames Water could introduce a ‘block buster’ initiative. Designed by local water companies and promoted by the GLA, a ‘block buster borough’ would undertake several commitments to ensure that unflushables don’t enter the sewage systems and reusables are promoted where possible. Commitments would include financial incentives for reusable nappies, schools promoting correct disposal of period products, and having ‘bin it, don’t block it’ signs on the back of public toilet doors. This would be especially important for those boroughs that have an above average occurrence of sewer blockages.

Recommendation 1: The Mayor should work alongside Thames Water and local authorities to develop a ‘block buster borough scheme’. All boroughs, especially those with above average sewer blockages, should work with the Mayor to develop a programme of work to reduce these blockages.

Financially incentivising reusables will encourage their use across London. Over two-thirds of boroughs currently offer the reusable nappy scheme (several boroughs with some of the worst recycling rates do not).²¹ The scheme could be introduced alongside measures to reduce waste, such as fortnightly residual waste collections. Currently, no boroughs offer incentives to use or purchase reusable period products.

Map 2: The provision of reusable nappy schemes is inconsistent across London (non-participating boroughs shown in red)



Source: Real Nappies for London, 2018

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Recommendation 2: During the next update of its guidance, the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) should include the offer of a reusable nappy incentive as a tool for boroughs to increase their recycling rate. Boroughs should partner with midwives and health visitors to communicate to new parents and carers the availability of reusable nappies and the need for responsible disposal of nappies and period products. LWARB and boroughs should also explore the possibility of incentivising reusable menstrual products as a complement to this scheme, for example by working with schools and health visitors.

Period positive education reduces stigma about menstruation and raises awareness of more affordable reusable options and encourages correct disposal. Campaigners believe that better education about the impact of single-use plastics and possible reusable alternatives would help reduce waste, sewer blockages and even address period poverty. Too often, product information and education in schools is still given by companies that only offer single-use period products. Anglian Water has been piloting an initiative that tells audiences about the impact of improper disposal and the range of period products, including reusables. The pilot has been successful in changing attitudes, increasing the proportion of residents who said they made an effort to bin unflushables from 51 per cent to 72 per cent and seeing a dramatic reduction in the number of sewer blockages.²²

The campaigning group City to Sea targets period education to combat shame, disgust, lack of awareness and the perception of the toilet as a second bin. It cites evidence that almost half of menstruating school students are embarrassed by their periods and four-fifths have concealed their menstrual products.²³ By openly discussing periods and using positive language, we can help challenge the stigma around menstruation and inform audiences of alternatives which may have a lesser impact on the environment and benefit people financially. A similar educational programme, embracing period positivity may benefit London. Given London's diverse population, all such campaigns and educational programmes must be culturally sensitive and work with community based organisations who understand local dynamics.

Recommendation 3: Under the accreditation review, the Mayor's London Healthy Schools initiative should ask schools to demonstrate that they are period positive. This would mean using period positive language to reduce stigma about menstruation, informing children about binning not flushing, and promoting the range of reusable and disposable period products available. The Mayor should also lobby Ofsted and the Department for Education to ensure this is included in the curriculum and national standards and guidance.

Labelling for unflushables should be clear and consistent. Although labelling for correct disposal is on most period and incontinence products and nappies, it is often missed by users. Consistency across

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products makes it easier to understand and remember the message. Furthermore, for transparency, all unflushables should state their use of plastic. The European Commission has proposed that certain products such as period pads require clear, standardised labelling which indicates proper disposal, environmental impact, and the presence of plastic.²⁴ We believe similar regulation should apply to unflushables in the UK.

Recommendation 4: The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary requesting a statutory format to display proper disposal information and the presence of plastic in unflushable products.

Enforceable flushability standards should be designed by water companies, rather than manufacturers. As Thames Water and other water companies have been challenging manufacturers about their flushability claims, they should be the ones to create the standard of compatibility with sewage treatment processes. With independent testing, users can be confident that products are truly flushable. We believe it is unlikely wet wipes or period products can be designed to disintegrate fully in water without leaving residue such as microplastics.

Recommendation 5: Along with water companies, Ofwat should be involved in developing an independent testing model and standard for flushable products. These companies should seek input from environmental experts to ensure that new products do not leave environmentally damaging residue. Water companies should liaise with designers, manufacturers and retailers on the merits of having the standard displayed prominently on their packaging.

To halt the increasing impact on the environment, a national ban on plastic in disposable wet wipes must be seriously considered. Selective banning for avoidable plastic waste such as unflushable wet wipes would significantly benefit sewage treatment in London and the wider environment. Although initially controversial and seemingly radical, disincentivising plastic has proved successful in the case of plastic bags. For example, the Marine Conservation Society recently recorded a 30 per cent drop in plastic bags found on the floor of the North Sea.²⁵ The UK Government has not ruled out a ban on unflushable wet wipes as part of their ambition of zero avoidable waste by 2050.²⁶ We believe that this would be the only way to stop people flushing plastic down the toilet.

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Recommendation 6. The Mayor should write to the Environment Secretary supporting a ban for unflushable wet wipes that contain plastic and advising that only products that have passed a robust flushability standard are allowed on the market.ⁱ

For unavoidable plastic waste, recycling options should be explored.

Currently, all nappy waste collected by boroughs goes to incineration or landfill but recycling options are possible. Procter & Gamble, which is currently running nappy recycling pilots in Italy and the Netherlands, recently signalled an interest in a UK facility.²⁷ The London Borough of Camden previously trialled a nappy recycling service and although users and the local authority were happy with the scheme, they could not continue the trial because of a lack of recycling facilities.²⁸ A site in London was previously explored but didn't get planning permission.²⁹ We encourage LWARB to investigate recycling of disposable nappies and period and incontinence products.

Recommendation 7: LWARB should investigate recycling for unflushable waste in London.

Failure to provide adequate disposal for unflushables will always lead to indiscriminate flushing. During our investigation, it was brought to our attention that the UK has no legal requirement to provide bins for

disposal of unflushables in men's toilets. This means that men who use incontinence pads or other unflushable products either have to carry their personal waste to the next available bin, or flush. The NHS estimates that three to six million people in the UK have some degree of urinary incontinence, around a third of whom are men.³⁰ In the last five years Germany has updated its legislation in response to the growing numbers of people experiencing incontinence: workplaces are now instructed to install at least one unflushables bin (incorporating a lid so waste is hidden) in men's washrooms so that people can easily dispose of their unflushable waste.³¹

Recommendation 8: The GLA Group should provide bins in its men's toilets for unflushable single-use products and encourage other public and private sector organisations to adopt this approach.

ⁱ The GLA Conservative Group and UKIP dissent from recommendation 6 as they believe that through better communication of the effects of disposing of wet wipes via toilets and improved labelling a reduction in the number of flushed wet wipes can be achieved.

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About the Environment Committee



Caroline Russell AM
(Chair)
Green



Shaun Bailey AM
Conservative



Leonie Cooper AM
(Deputy Chair)
Labour



David Kurten AM
UKIP



Tony Arbour AM
Conservative



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Labour



Jennette Arnold OBE
AM
Labour

The Environment Committee examines all aspects of the capital's environment by reviewing the Mayor's strategies on air quality, water, waste, climate change and energy.

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For further information about the work of the Environment Committee, and to see our current investigations, visit [our website](#).

About the London Assembly

The London Assembly holds the Mayor and Mayoral advisers to account by publicly examining policies and programmes through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

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End notes

¹ Evidence supplied by EDANA

² Tracy Stewart, AHPMA, at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018

³ Evidence supplied by Women's Environmental Network, based in part on correspondence with AHPMA and Natracare and Evidence supplied by Real Nappies for London

⁴ Evidence supplied by Thames Water

⁵ Local authorities collect around 3.7 million tonnes of waste per year, of which 54 per cent is sent to incineration and 12 per cent landfilled (GLA in the London Environment Strategy Evidence Base; of the remaining waste, most is recycled, which will not include nappies) and around three per cent of this is nappies (Martin Capstick, North London Waste Authority, at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018)

⁶ Alice Walker, Real Nappies for London, citing BBC research at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018

⁷ Martin Capstick, North London Waste Authority, at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018

⁸ *FOG and un-flushables Peterborough pilot: Pre- and post- research findings*, Anglian Water, 2011. 'Most important' reasons for flushing period products and wipes: more hygienic 32 per cent; more private and discreet 23 per cent; easy and convenient 22 per cent.

⁹ Evidence supplied by Thames Water

¹⁰ Evidence supplied by Thames 21

¹¹ *Large microplastic in sediments of tributaries of the River Thames, UK – Abundance, sources and methods for effective quantification*, Horton, A., Svendsen, C., Williams, R., Spurgeon, D. and Lahive, E, 2017 (available online)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X16307251>

[accessed 16 July 2018]

¹² *Sewer Misuse – monitoring Product Labelling and Plastic Content 21st Century Drainage Programme – Workstream 4*, WaterUK 2017

¹³ Evidence provided by Women's Environment Network.

¹⁴ Alice Walker, Real Nappies for London at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018

¹⁵ Tracy Stewart, AHPMA, at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 23 May 2018

¹⁶ Women for Independence, 2018 (forthcoming publication)

¹⁷ Plan International UK, 2017 <https://plan-uk.org/media-centre/1-in-10-girls-have-been-unable-to-afford-sanitary-wear-survey-finds> [accessed 23 July 2018]

¹⁸ *Menstrual Cup Market Research Report- Forecast To 2023*, Market Research Future, July, 2018. Online article <https://www.marketresearchfuture.com/reports/menstrual-cup-market-1407> [accessed 27 July 2018]

¹⁹ Survey of 208 parents conducted for Bambino Mio

²⁰ Evidence supplied by EDANA

²¹ Evidence supplied by Real Nappies for London

²² *FOG and un-flushables Peterborough pilot: Pre- and post- research findings*, Anglian Water, 2011 and Evidence supplied by Anglian Water included an 84 per cent reduction in sewer blockages after the Peterborough Pilot, citing "PECT (Peterborough City Environmental Trust) based on six month before and six month after visits to 2,040 properties and 784 initial surveys, Peterborough July 2017"

²³ Evidence previously supplied by City to Sea, May 2018. Available online at https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s70302/summary%20list%20of%20actions%20--%20City-to-Sea_Unflushables-Report_2017-18_FINAL.pdf

²⁴ *Single-use plastics: New EU rules to reduce marine litter*, European Commission Press Release Database, 28 May 2018 (available online) http://Europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3927_en.htm

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²⁵ *30% drop in plastic bags littering the sea floor around Britain*, Marine Conservation Society, 2018. Online article https://www.mcsuk.org/news/seafloor_bag_drop [accessed 27 July 2018]. Based on:

[Below the surface: Twenty-five years of seafood litter monitoring in coastal seas of North West Europe \(1992-2017\)](#), Maes et al, 2018, *Science of the Total Environment*, Volumes 360, pages 790-798

²⁶ *Wet wipes 'to be eliminated in UK' in effort to save marine life, government says*, Independent, 7 May 2018. Online version

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/wet-wipes-banned-uk-pollution-single-use-rubbish-sea-life-environment-a8340111.html> [accessed 27 July 2018]

²⁷ *P&G unveils plans to recycle used nappies*, LetsRecycle.com, 13 October 2017. Online article <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/pg-unveils-plans-recycle-used-nappies/> [accessed 27 July 2018]

²⁸ Evidence supplied by Camden Council

²⁹ *Knowaste appeal for nappy recycling plant dismissed*, LetsRecycle.com, 28 March 2017. Online article <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/knowaste-appeal-nappy-recycling-plant-dismissed/> [accessed 27 July 2018]

³⁰ *Service Specification for Complex Gynaecology Services – Recurrent Urinary Incontinence*, NHS (available online)

https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/specialised-services-policies/user_uploads/recurnt-inctnce-serv-spec.pdf [accessed 8 August 2018]

³¹ *Vectair Systems campaigns for hygiene bins in men's toilets*, Vectair Systems, 6 December 2015. Online article <https://www.vectairsystems.com/news/vectair-systems-campaigns-for-hygiene-bins-in-mens-toilets/> [accessed 27 July 2018]

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Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

This project will explore how to promote more sustainable food growing in Green Belt and urban fringe areas of London, including current and future threats and barriers to sustainable farming, and measures that can help support biodiversity, resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Background

About 22 per cent of London's area is designated Green Belt, distributed loosely in a ring around the main built-up area, completed by a much larger area of Green Belt in the surrounding counties. Green Belt land is protected from development under national and London planning rules. Under half of it is actively farmed for food production though; other uses range from golf courses to scrap yards, as well as non-food 'farming' such as keeping horses. There are around 500 registered farm holdings in Greater London, most of which are in the Green Belt, and most of which are very small in area compared to the national average.

Environmental impacts

Green Belt farmland, like other green infrastructure, helps to cool the air, filter out pollution and absorb rainfall. It therefore plays a part in cushioning London from the effects of extreme weather such as heatwave or heavy rain, and from the health effects of toxic emissions. While potentially slowing drainage in upper river catchments, agricultural land can also affect the water quality of its runoff, including with animal waste and agricultural chemicals.

It provides a wide variety of wildlife habitats. Being arranged in a belt around the city, these may act as a reservoir and connector for otherwise more isolated suburban habitats, enabling species to maintain more viable breeding populations, rather than being broken up into vulnerable pockets.

Being visible from adjacent suburbs and from high ground across the city, the Green Belt is an important contributor to the appearance and experience of London as a relatively green large city, set in and connected to its environment. Using land for food growing can maintain a green, open, traditional aspect. The preservation of open land, accessible to urban dwellers for respite from city life, has always been a core part of the Green Belt philosophy. Parts of the Green Belt have rights of access over all the land; many other parts have access along paths, roads and other rights of way.

The choice of food product and production methods can influence these impacts significantly, as well as other farm management decisions such as about trees, hedges, drainage, paving, buildings and so on.

There are also environmental benefits from the availability of local, seasonal food to London. Although London's food growing capacity is marginal in the context of its enormous food demand¹, sourcing food locally may reduce transport emissions, as well as offering Londoners the opportunity to be aware of the sources of their food and the environmental impacts and benefits of production.

Role of the Mayor and the GLA

The Mayor has a significant influence over land uses in the Green Belt through the London Plan and related policies. He is maintaining and even strengthening the protection of the Green Belt against development,

¹ London grows a few tens of thousands of tonnes of food per year, and consumes a few million tonnes: about a hundred times more.

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

concentrating the large expansion planned in London homes, workplaces and infrastructure mainly into increasing the density of the existing urban built-up area.

The Mayor's Environment Strategy and draft Food Strategy also have some bearing on the Green Belt, though both currently focus more on green spaces and food growing within the built-up area. The Food Strategy encourages urban food growing and the local availability of fresh and sustainable food, and there are Mayoral and partner programmes including Capital Growth, Food Growing Schools and the Urban Food Awards. The Environment Strategy emphasises the importance of green infrastructure for its many benefits (including those noted above for Green Belt farmland). It also notes that food security is a high risk in the context of global climate change.

The Mayor has established a London Food Board to oversee the food Strategy and related initiatives, bringing together a range of experts and stakeholders.

Non-GLA actors

The farm businesses themselves are privately held and operated; in 2006 there were around 470 registered farm holdings in Greater London. There is also a significant surrounding economy of suppliers and customers.

The relevant boroughs are significant stakeholders, representing residents who participate in the food and farming economy, and having planning powers over the land. Some outer boroughs have large proportions of their areas given to farmland: according to one estimate, Havering 44 per cent, Bromley 35 per cent, Hillingdon 23 per cent and Enfield 22 per cent.

National farming policy is set by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Its Environment Agency, and its sponsored non-departmental body Natural England, have significant powers in the area. National changes to planning policy have removed requirements to enhance and improve the Green Belt. The influence of the European Union is also very significant, and the effects of leaving the EU are one of the significant sources of uncertainty in the sector. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has indicated that he plans to use EU exit to replace the European system of farm subsidies mainly based on land area with one more based on rewarding public benefit, especially environmental enhancement. There could also be changes in international food trade and prices, and in agricultural labour markets, especially seasonal harvesting work.

Previous Assembly work

The Planning Committee in 2010 published a significant and relevant report *Cultivating the Capital*, which addressed issues for farmers and food growing, especially in the Green Belt.² This investigation will build on and seek to update its findings, particularly on environmental impacts and sustainability.

² <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/cultivating-capital-food-growing-and-planning>

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

The Economy Committee in 2015 published *Weathering the Storm: The Impact of Climate Change on London's economy*.³ It drew attention to the vulnerability of London's major domestic and import supply chains to the risks of climate change.

There have been a number of pieces of work emphasising the potential benefits of maximising the range and value of environmental services provided by each area of green space in London. These include reports by this Committee in 2016 (*Growing Growing Gone*⁴) and 2017 (*Park Life*⁵) and a seminar on the Green Belt of the future held by the Planning Committee in 2017.⁶ The Planning Committee is expected to return to this topic in future.

Equalities issues

There are inequalities in access to green space across different demographics, including ethnicities and different socioeconomic groups. To the extent that this investigation finds ways to promote access to green space as an environmental benefit of Green Belt farming, it should seek to address these inequalities. There are also inequalities in access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. The investigation should consider equality of access in any findings or recommendations on marketing or producing food for Londoners.

The ethnic make-up and age distribution of the outer London population differs from inner London. The investigation should consider the impact of issues, and any recommendations, on local residents, and particularly any equalities issues that may arise.

3

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/Economy%20Committee%20Weathering%20the%20Storm_0.pdf

⁴ <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/growing-growing-gone-long-term-sustainable>

⁵ <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/park-life-ensuring-green-spaces-remain-hit>

⁶ <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/green-belt-future-seminar>

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Scope

London's Green Belt farmland forms a sizeable fraction of its area, and potentially one with particularly significant environmental benefits. These environmental benefits are of primary concern to the Environment Committee.

Realising the environmental benefits of sustainable farming will involve the committee in looking at some other issues around farming in London, including the economics of producing and selling food, and skills challenges for the farm workforce. Although these are not a core part of the Environment Committee remit, excluding them from the investigation scope could risk limiting the potential to identify solutions and ways forward. Therefore, they will be included where necessary.

Some other important issues around London's food system, including access to healthy food and maintaining and potentially increasing food supply resilience, are largely outside the remit of the Environment Committee and will not form the primary focus for this investigation.

Some aspects of London's food system would be within the remit of the Environment Committee, such as the environmental footprint of London's global food supply chain. However, to keep the scope of the review manageable it is proposed that the investigation focus on activities within Greater London's boundary.

Because of significant differences in the challenges and impacts of food growing within urban and suburban areas compared to the Green Belt, and the current focus of mayoral policy on urban growing, the investigation will focus on Green Belt and urban fringe food growing, rather than London-wide.

Environmental impacts

Mayoral strategy, and past Environment Committee work, have identified the many benefits of green infrastructure across London, and the importance of bringing multiple benefits from each space. However, the thinking has often been either London-wide or focused on smaller green spaces interwoven with urban development; there is scope to extend the multiple benefits approach to the urban fringe and Green Belt. An evidence base could be built up by seeking to bring together information about the benefits contributed by specific areas, particularly those in the Green Belt and growing food.

The investigation could seek to bring together known and new information about the effects of Green Belt farmland (and/or other Green Belt land uses) on:

- Wildlife habitat, biodiversity and pollinators
- The Urban Heat Island effect
- Drainage volume and speed
- Soil health and resilience to climate change
- Water quality
- Air pollution
- Carbon emissions
- Access to nature
- Visual amenity
- The environmental footprint of London's food supply chain

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Factors affecting the environmental impacts of food growing

Not all farmland is equivalent in its environmental impacts. The investigation will seek evidence on whether environmental benefits can be maximised and harms minimised by low-impact farming methods that also benefit the wider environment and soil health. Methods to consider could include:

- Work on the land such as drainage, tree and hedge management, ploughing
- Choice and suitability of crops or stock for conditions
- Mowing, harvesting, use of fertilisers and chemicals, leaving fallow and other crop management
- Where and how animals are kept and looked after
- Management of waste
- Farm buildings and structures, and choice of materials
- Farm machinery

Challenges, threats and opportunities for Green Belt farming

To help understand the implications of these choices and formulate recommendations, the investigation should consider the challenges faced by farmers, and the threats and opportunities inherent in current and future changes. These may include:

- Climate change, particularly the effect of possible:
 - hotter summers with more frequent and intense heatwaves
 - changes in rainfall patterns, water shortages and/or heavier storms
 - shifts in patterns of pests and diseases.
- Housing and development pressures
- Economic pressures
- Exiting the EU

Ways to optimise these factors

These factors are chosen by farmers on a business basis within a context of many constraints and influences, including the cost of options, their availability from suppliers, whether farmers know of the options and farm workers can implement them, regulations, incentives and policies. The review could therefore seek to look for means by which to encourage greater environmental benefits, potentially including:

- Planning policy including the Mayor's London Plan, currently under review
- Mayoral or other initiatives to promote sustainable farming, including the Mayor's London Food Strategy and his advisory body on food matters, London Food
- Raising awareness of sustainable options and their benefits
- Promoting the necessary skills for the farm workforce
- Incentives to use environmentally-friendly methods
- Changes to agricultural policy and its governance that may come with leaving the European Union

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Terms of reference

1. To investigate the environmental impacts of food growing in London's Green Belt and urban fringe
2. How farming in London's Green Belt has changed in recent years.
3. To investigate current and future threats to, and opportunities for, food growing in London's Green Belt and urban fringe
4. To consider how the environmental impacts can be improved and what can be done to address identified challenges
5. To seek ways to promote and increase sustainable and environmentally-friendly food production in London's Green Belt, and measures to improve soil fertility, biodiversity, resilience and adaptation to climate change (particularly ways that can be for Mayoral action, or that may arise from changes to agricultural policy linked to leaving the EU)

Impact

| Category | Evidence of impact |
|-------------|---|
| Challenging | Evaluating whether existing policies adequately address the environmental impacts of Green Belt food growing. Highlighting GLA (or other) strategies and programmes that require improvement. |
| Influencing | Identifying potential improvements to Mayoral strategies and programmes for sustainable food growing in the Green Belt. Encouraging other actors to support these goals and actions. |
| Engaging | Ensuring the Committee's overall focus covers all of London Going far from City Hall to take evidence in the urban fringe Providing additional channels for stakeholders to contribute to City Hall policy making in this area. |

Growing food for Londoners in the Green Belt

Stages of the investigation

- 1. Further research** (June 2018 onwards).
By Greater London Authority staff and potentially externally commissioned. To update and build on the existing evidence base.
- 2. A call for views and information in writing** (June 2018). We are especially keen to hear from:
 - Farmers, farm workers and others involved in food growing, and bodies representing them
 - Wholesalers, retailers, market organisers, agricultural suppliers and others involved in the wider agricultural and food economy
 - Academics and other independent experts
 - Outer London boroughs, Defra, and other public and third-sector bodies involved in promoting farming, food growing, green infrastructure and their environmental benefitsQuestions on which views and information are sought are set out below. More general contributions are also welcomed.
- 3. Meeting** (June 2018). The primary business for this meeting is to examine the draft London Food Strategy, but this may generate material that feeds into the investigation. Potential guests include:
 - GLA officers and the Mayor's London Food Board
 - Independent experts on food
- 4. Site visit/s or other off-site evidence gathering** (July 2018). The subject matter would lend itself to evidence gathering in the field, by site visit to farm/s and potentially other relevant sites, and/or informal discussion with contributors outside City Hall. The Committee has a date in July when all members should be available, and other dates are being explored.
- 5. Informal discussion and evidence gathering** (July 2018). Additional views and information could be taken at informal meetings in City Hall. Contributors could be identified from written submissions or targeted contacts within the call for evidence list.
- 6. Report** (October 2018). The Committee plans to publish a report setting out the findings and recommendations from the investigation.

Questions seeking written views and information

1. What are the challenges faced by food growers in London's Green Belt? What threats and opportunities are emerging from recent, current and potential future events?
2. What are the environmental effects (benefits and/or otherwise) of food growing and associated activity or other farm activity on Green Belt land in London? Comparing, where appropriate, with the environmental effects of alternative land uses.
3. How could these effects be optimised, for example through choice of farming practices?
4. How can environmentally-friendly farming practices be helped and encouraged? What barriers or disincentives exist to the adoption of these practices? What could the Mayor or other public bodies do to help?

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Environment Committee at Forty Hall Farm, Enfield, 12 July 2018

Round table attendees

Environment Committee members: Caroline Russell (Chair), Tony Arbour, Jennette Arnold, David Kurten, Onkar Sahota

GLA staff: Joe Driscoll, Raphi Driver, Jo Laban, George Raszka, Holly Smith, Ian Williamson

External guests:

Forty Hall Farm—Kate McGeever, Manager, and Beth Stuart, Grower

Community Food Growers Network and **Land Workers Alliance**—Deirdre Woods

Lea Valley Growers Association (and **National Farmers Union**)—Lee Stiles, Secretary

Surrey County Agricultural Society (and **Agricultural Association**)—Jonathan Thompson, Vice-Chairman

Sustain—Sarah Williams, Programme Director

Sutton Community Farm—Alice Brown, Manager, and Joris Gunawardena, Head of Production

Apologies were received on the day from Brian Kelly of **OrganicLea**, who sent his input via Sarah Williams of Sustain. Apologies were also received from Environment Committee members Léonie Cooper (Deputy Chair) and Shaun Bailey, and from the Enfield and Haringey constituency member Joanne McCartney.

Introductions

The external guests introduced the organisations they were representing and their work.

Forty Hall Farm is a mixed organic farm, renting around 170 acres of land from Enfield Council. It is an educational centre as well as a commercial grower. It also puts on a monthly farmers' market, an annual food festival and an annual music festival, and other community events.

The Community Food Growers Network (CFGN) represents small to large community gardens and farms, lobbying on their behalf and providing support. It seeks to help with access to land, security of tenure and sharing learning. The Land Workers Alliance is a union of small ecologically-friendly producers.

The Surrey County Agricultural Society is a charitable trust promoting agriculture, and educating farmers and the public. The Agricultural Association is a representative body for lawyers working in areas related to agriculture.

Sutton Community Farm (SCF) was set up a few years ago to promote health and environmentally sustainable food. It is a community operation, with 300 community customers and 70 volunteer workers, and being owned by its 400 members.

The Lea Valley Growers Association (LVGA) represents 100 glasshouse growers in London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Between them they grow most of the UK's sweet peppers and cucumbers, mainly in hydroponic systems. The high yields mean they can achieve a large turnover (collectively, £0.5 billion) in a modest area of land. The Association also represents urban farmers.

Sustain is a national alliance of around 100 member organisations, campaigning on food and farming issues.

Challenges for farmers

Guests at the meeting outlined a number of issues that present challenges for farmers. The notes below summarise points made by guests.

Access to land

Challenging aspects include getting sufficient land area, of the right kind, and the length and security of tenure. OrganicLea reported that they cannot keep up with the demand for their produce, or find land for all the growers they train.

Short tenures pose several challenges. They increase the cost in time and money of negotiating tenure. They deter investment. Farmers need to invest in site-specific capital improvements such as buildings, which have long payback periods. Environmentally-friendly farmers in particular invest in trees, hedges, and the condition of the soil, which can take years to start to show a return. If tenure on the land is not long and secure enough, farmers cannot rely on seeing the benefits of the investment. Ten years can be regarded as a minimum, and longer leases are beneficial.

The difficulty of engaging in the private land market for (small) agricultural businesses means that publicly owned land may offer the best opportunities. Local authorities are major landowners.

There are also many cases where land ownership is unclear. It would be useful for there to be a public database of land that may be available for potential users.

A Green Belt designation limits the uses that land can be put to and may encourage agricultural use. However, concerns were expressed over large land owners 'banking' land for possible future development. In the Green Belt, where development is not allowed under current designation, this can be a long-term situation, perhaps encouraged by debate over the status of Green Belt land. The land can be under-used in the meantime. Landowners felt to be doing this included public sector bodies as well as private. It was argued that local authorities should exercise better stewardship, and not allow good agricultural land to be built over. County farms are being lost at an alarming rate.

Financial viability

It was noted that the financial viability of agriculture depends on a wider range of factors, including food prices and input costs. In a couple of years, commercial food growers will be charged for the amount of water they use, which they are not currently.

Farm size and support for small agricultural businesses

Under the current subsidy regime, farms that are large in area receive the most subsidy, whereas small farms (of which there are many in London's Green Belt) receive less; those under 100 acres may not find it worth the time it takes to apply. The subsidy regime no longer appears to encourage employment creation.

Forty Hall received a small start-up grant from the Outer London Fund and has shown a sustained benefit from this. It also receives a grant through Natural England to maintain pasture and meadow in an environmentally-friendly way. The grant makes it viable, because although the land management is sometimes termed 'low-input' it can be more expensive, for example because of the labour cost of hand-weeding rather than spraying. Smaller farms therefore might not be able to maintain organic status.

It was suggested that the GLA could support investment to help farms get established, expand or diversify. There would be benefits to a range of GLA strategies, including skills, to justify Mayoral support. The Good Growth Fund is applicable.

Forty Hall and Sutton Community Farm had benefited from grants in their early years that were made to, or under the auspices of, a larger body that set up the farms. Stand-alone start-ups may be unable to benefit from many grants, either because they do not have the credibility to win the grants, or they do not have the cash reserves to rely on grants made in arrears. Without a parent organisation, there may be scope for start-ups to work with a larger partner, or to group together to bid for grants.

There are alternative models of farm business including share farming, in which farmers share their overheads, and contract farming, in which parties provide different inputs and share the profits. In a number of other countries, including France and Japan, there are more agricultural co-ops. Within the UK, the organic sector has more co-ops. There are co-operatives in certain types of farm input, like machinery rings. Farms could benefit by pooling procurement. They could also benefit by coming together to meet larger supply contracts, such as to schools or hospitals. There are examples of this kind of arrangement in Manchester, Copenhagen. In London there is a Procurement Across London project, led by Havering.

Worker accommodation

One factor making land usable for farming is the availability of on-site accommodation. Farm workers need to do long hours and potentially respond to urgent work out of hours. Larger farms benefit from tied accommodation on site, and for small operators it was suggested that the Land Settlement Association model could work—5 acres and a home, enabling agricultural entrepreneurs to start small. However, others at the meeting felt that allowing homes on agricultural sites could create opening for abuse, or risk undermining Green Belt status.

Low Emission Zone

It was asked whether the Low Emission Zone could cause problems for cross-border farms, but those at the meeting were not aware of issues.

Environmental impacts

Again, the notes below summarise points made by guests about the environmental impacts of farms in London's Green Belt.

Farms deliver a whole range of benefits, such as biodiversity, especially when they produce in line with nature rather than against it. Several of the farms at the table were organic and avoid pesticides. In the LVGA's glasshouses it is normal to use biological control of pests, placing predator organisms in the glasshouses before planting.

The commercial glasshouse operators of the LVGA mainly use hydroponics, which uses one-sixth the water of conventional growing and recycles nutrients. They claim near-neutral carbon emissions thanks to computer control of the growing climate. Heat and power are typically supplied by CHP, and in some cases fuelled by renewable energy such as biomass. One grower has an AD plant that takes about half of the food waste from Spitalfields market and some local authority food waste, but AD requires a controlled feedstock and this limits the usability of some waste streams. In the Netherlands, some glasshouses use geothermal heat, but this is viable there because of the density of demand created by the larger concentration of glasshouses. It has not been found viable in this country. LVGA suggested that it be made compulsory for generators of waste heat to make it available for other users.

There are emissions from transport of products to market. Lea Valley growers used to use river transport, but this no longer meets their needs and they use road transport.

Food security

This was felt to be a national priority, with UK farming making a valuable contribution. It was argued that the perception that food production and environmental benefit are in conflict is false, and fails to take into account the environmental impacts of overseas food production.

Site tour

The group toured the Forty Hall Farm site. This note briefly summarises some features seen and discussed.

The farm includes market garden, pasture, vineyard and woodland. They have 3 paid growers, doing about 12 days' work per week between them, plus community volunteers and students.

They run a veg bag scheme, filling the bags on average over half with their own produce, and supplementing with produce from elsewhere in the UK when their own production is low. As well as producing in different seasons, the aims of their crop choice include reducing labour requirement and to diversify out the risks of poor growing conditions. Growing flowers alongside the food crops attracts pollinating insects and volunteers. Rotating crops in a 9-year cycle, with changes of plant family, discourages pests. The rotation includes green manure for soil condition. They concurred that they should plant more produce that caters to the London's diversity of cultures.

They would like to find seeds bred for organic agriculture. Those from nearly all producers are optimised for chemical use.

London is short of people with tractor skills, and of local training opportunities. The small plots in London make it difficult to use tractors. Another skill challenge is in picking. Picking the right fruit or veg at the right time, without damaging, and then grading it for sale, it is a skilled job.

There are some markets they don't have the time to sell in—those further away and/or operating very early in the morning. Sutton Community Farm use Food Chain distributors.

Forty Hall is used for events, such as the music festival, as well as food production.

London Assembly response to Mayor's draft Food Strategy

This response has been agreed by the Environment Committee, with input from members of the Health Committee and Economy Committee. The bulk of the response has been agreed without objection; there are a few points where a minority of the relevant membership dissents from the main text: these are noted where appropriate.

Aims and approaches

We welcome a cross-cutting strategy that captures the impacts of London's food systems on a wide range of outcomes, and the roles of a range of Mayoral and other policy areas in influencing these food systems. We support the focus on health, economy (and particularly food poverty and accessibility in both of these) and on environment. We support the coverage of the settings in which food is accessed: homes; shops and eating out; public institutions and community settings; and maternity, early years, education and healthcare. We note that good food shopping is inextricable from good food at home, and that good food for Londoners' health is a much wider issue than good food in healthcare settings, but this response does not attempt to resolve the tensions between different possible chapter divisions in detail.

We welcome that the strategy begins to bring out the roles of different actors and set out their commitments to support the objectives in their various ways.

The strategy could do much more to detail actions, in particular measurable objectives, milestones and targets. A priority target should focus on tackling childhood obesity in London, by decreasing the promotion and accessibility of unhealthy food, as well as promoting physical activity. We look forward to the development of these in the action plan and final strategy. We heard that it is felt that not specifying targets gives flexibility. We believe that there is always flexibility to explain that a target has been no longer pursued for the sake of some other goal, but to do so explicitly, by dropping some targets and including new ones, is more transparent. Targets should be specified and there should be milestones against which progress can be assessed, on the way to achieving outcomes. We therefore look forward to the publication of the implementation plan; since it is to be in advance of the final strategy, we may seek to respond to the implementation plan with further recommendations for the final strategy.

We note that the GLA has limited resources specifically for food work, including a £144,000 budget for projects and 3 staff (not all full-time) in the team. We would hope that a clear statement and quantification in the final strategy of the wide and important benefits to London of food work might support a case for more dedicated resources and/or for collaborating between parts of the GLA Group to support food-based work with their own resources.

We applaud the intention to communicate the principles of the food strategy to Londoners and provide ways in which they can support the objectives. However, we do not think that the draft has demonstrated that embedding these simple ideas in dozens of pages of strategy-speak is necessarily the best way to get them across to a wide audience. We suggest that it might be more effective to produce separate publications: one or more aimed only at the public; and something separate to guide action by delivery partners and to enable the Assembly and others to hold the Mayor and his partners to account. Sustain pointed to the popularity of its stand-alone Ten Tips document, which may be a good model for a publication for Londoners. If we can't engage parents at home in changing their approach to nutrition then we will make little progress in tackling the growing obesity crisis, especially amongst our children.

We welcome the commitment to lead by example at the GLA, through for example the promotion of healthy, sustainable food in the GLA Group and using procurement to increase

the provision of fresh, healthy meals. However, we would like to see more detail on the GLA's role in promoting healthy food procurement and provision in other public institutions, such as hospitals, to ensure the most vulnerable Londoners are able to benefit.

Food growing, security and resilience

We heard that there could be opportunities to increase London's local food production. We welcome this for its potential environmental, economic and health benefits. It may marginally alter London's sensitivity to international food markets, but will not fundamentally change the situation that London relies on huge and continuous food imports to feed its population. We heard that London only has 3 days' supply of food stored locally and 30 per cent of our food currently comes from the European Union (EU) which could cause problems if any part of the supply chain is interrupted.¹

We therefore welcome the Mayor's work with the London Climate Change Partnership on large-scale food security and resilience. This should inform not only the food strategy but also work under the Environment Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy. The Mayor should seek opportunities to support London's food growers. This could potentially include Green Belt farmers and other commercial producers, who are currently not emphasised sufficiently in the draft strategy. We are currently undertaking a more in-depth review of food growing in London's Green Belt and urban fringe, expected to be published in the autumn, and will commend this to the Mayor as an input to the development of the final version of the food strategy.

We applaud the work that has taken place to promote urban food growing, including the Capital Growth scheme. We note the suggestion that the priority is now to protect and solidify current food growing spaces, including those recently established under this work. We would therefore encourage work to understand and capitalise on the environmental as well as the community value of these spaces. Environmental benefits include biodiversity, urban cooling, sustainable drainage, healthy travel and others.

We heard at our meeting that London still has capacity for more food growing spaces and recommend that the Mayor does not stop looking for opportunities to establish more spaces where they are of benefit—see the final section of this response.

We note the role of social prescribing in directing users to urban food growing spaces, and would encourage healthcare providers and public health officials to use this model, and space providers to make links with the health sector to tap into this source of users. This is likely to be particularly beneficial for older and more vulnerable Londoners, who are more likely to face social isolation. Similarly, we would encourage work with the social housing sector to the mutual benefit of all the organisations concerned and especially of the residents. Finally, community groups or allotments can play a significant role in tackling social isolation and increasing Londoners' confidence to grow their own seasonal produce, and should be encouraged to hold lessons on planting and how to cook produce.

Healthy food

We welcome the aim to use food as a lever to promote public health and tackle health inequalities.

¹ The GLA Conservatives and the UKIP Group do not consider that exit from the EU poses a threat to London's food supply.

We recognise that individual choices are important determinants of healthy lifestyles, and also that people's choices and habits are influenced by their environment, including the availability of different kinds of food, advertising and promotion. Childhood obesity is a significant challenge for London, which has higher obesity rates than the rest of the country and often has widespread unhealthy food advertising. As we heard in our meeting on the Strategy, nearly 40 per cent of children in London leave primary school overweight or obese. We therefore strongly support the strategy's flagship proposal to reduce the ubiquity of unhealthy food and drink retailing and advertising, including not carrying such adverts on the TfL estate. We welcome the ambition displayed in this proposal.²

We heard in our committee meeting about the importance of schools in supporting children to eat more healthily – children all eat at least one of their meals at school, two if they attend breakfast club. Supporting schools to provide healthy food will therefore be vital for tackling childhood obesity and ensuring all children have a balanced diet and do not go hungry. We welcome the Mayor's support of free school meals and strongly urge the Mayor to work with the Government and stakeholders to enable free school meals to be provided to every child in London, so that children from all backgrounds have access to healthy food and do not fall behind on their educational attainment.

Learning about healthy food through the curriculum will help children to gain skills for life on planning and preparing healthy meals. This also means that children who bring a packed lunch to school can benefit from learning about healthy eating.

We welcome the proposal to prevent new hot food takeaways opening within 400m of a school, as we heard in our committee meeting that there is an abundance of strong evidence that measures to reduce children's everyday exposure to unhealthy food is effective at encouraging healthier eating habits. We also welcome the proposal to work collaboratively with boroughs and businesses, to provide support for those seeking to provide affordable and healthy food, especially to disadvantaged communities. However, we would hope to see greater detail about how pilot projects will be delivered.

Alcohol is a major public health issue. Although purchase is legally restricted to adults, attitudes begin to form in childhood, and consumption and its health effects are seen in some older children as well as adults. In our meeting on the Strategy, the Committee heard the strength of evidence that advertising bans are effective at encouraging healthy choices. Although alcohol is to be excluded from the advertising ban, we are not convinced that the rationale for this works well from a public health point of view. The Mayor should review the inclusion of alcohol in the advertising ban.³

We also welcome the work throughout the strategy to promote healthy food through availability, awareness, skills and other channels. Supporting healthy food through advertising on the TfL estate would be a positive step.

Food poverty

We welcome that the Mayor is working to assess household food insecurity, and its causes, in the absence of data being collected. We recommend that this be a fundamental part of the final version of the strategy. The strategy should establish a baseline for food poverty or insecurity, and targets for improving this. In particular, there should be a clear goal to eliminate food poverty in London, specifically to be a 'Zero Hunger City', as recommended in a report by the

² The GLA Conservatives and UKIP do not support TfL's proposed advertising ban, as advertising on the TfL estate is not targeted at children specifically.

³ The GLA Conservatives and UKIP disagree with the advertising ban as a whole, as noted above.

London Assembly Health and Environment Committee in 2013. We welcome the inclusion of many of the recommendations from this report in the draft Strategy, including working with partners to establish sustainable free breakfast clubs in schools and monitoring risk factors for food poverty.⁴

It would be helpful to clarify for the general reader the terminology around food poverty, food insecurity and related concepts, and how London's measures relate to national measures and policies. Tackling food poverty must engage families and parents, at home, meaning it is vital that our language is clear and understandable for all groups.

It is widely accepted that low income is a contributing factor to food insecurity and there must be even higher numbers of employers paying the London Living Wage going forward.

We welcome the proposal for the Mayor to encourage stakeholders to donate surplus food to food banks as a more sustainable solution, but further action will be needed to tackle food insecurity fully. A solution that supports food banks to accept perishable food would be beneficial, as we heard that bread is the biggest waste food product in the UK. Supermarkets should be encouraged to work with local community groups, residential homes, schools and food banks and reduce the amount of surplus food.

We welcome the work contained in the strategy to reduce food poverty, and to promote access to healthy food for those in or at risk of food poverty. We welcome the attention paid to children in this work, but would also recommend more detailed plans for supporting older people. In particular, the draft strategy sets out the intention of the Mayor to encourage better coordination and collaboration between local authorities to champion healthy eating for older people. While we welcome the direction given to external partners, we would expect to see more detail as to how this work will be delivered, including measurable targets for improvement, particularly in light of financial pressures on local authorities.

A further opportunity for engaging external partners is to provide information to schools and teachers how the school or local authority can help when they identify students who are facing or at risk of food poverty. Going hungry at school has a significant impact on a child's educational attainment and wellbeing.

However, we heard in our meeting that many children in London are facing holiday hunger. Community groups and local voluntary sector organisations are doing excellent work across London to support children during the summer holidays, but this is far from universal. We commend the Mayor's Kitchen Social project which aims to engage 50,000 children and young people in London by 2020. We would like to see this project extended beyond this point to ensure that no child lacks nutritious food in school holidays.

The strategy should address future food poverty risks and opportunities. Exiting the EU could potentially have a considerable effect on food supply, standards and costs. Leaving the EU without a trade deal would mean that the UK's trade would be on WTO terms, which could well include tariffs on food imports and thus higher prices. Indeed the impact on sterling after the EU referendum has already led to an increase in the price of food. On the other hand, if this feeds through to higher farm gate prices and/or wages, there could be opportunities for increased local production and/or higher incomes for people at risk of food poverty. However, ensuring that Londoners receive the London Living Wage is the best way to protect against food poverty.⁶

⁴ London Assembly Health and Environment Committee, (2013), [Zero Hunger City](#)

Further risks of exiting the EU without a deal could include no agreement on food quality standards, including for imports, potentially leading to a deal with the USA allowing products currently not permitted such as chlorinated chicken. They could also include restrictions on the movement of labour, leading to further difficulty for farmers meeting seasonal needs for fruit and vegetable harvesting, and they could include border delays affecting the availability of fresh food.⁵

London's economy

The food sector is an important contributor to London's wider economy, and to the skills and employment opportunities available in the city. If there were to be significant shifts in the market, such as from animal- to plant-based food, from processed to home-cooked, from long-distance imports to lower food miles, or from a supermarket-dominated to a more diverse retail sector, then there could be significant shifts in where those business and employment opportunities are. The Mayor should ensure that there is more modelling and encouragement of these potential shifts, so that London's workers and businesses can see where the opportunities are and respond to them.

It will be vital to engage the full range of stakeholders in order for the final Strategy to have maximum benefit for Londoners. We welcome the commitment to support local businesses to increase their supply of fresh, local and seasonal products, which should hopefully make local food healthier and cheaper for Londoners and support a diverse and vibrant sector. Businesses should make it easy for consumers to find local, sustainable food and healthy food, for example by introducing packaging that clearly informs customers where their food is sourced and how much sugar is in it.

Supporting skills development will be essential for the hospitality and food sectors to overcome future challenges, including Brexit as 35 per cent of workers in the capital's food industry are (non-UK) EU citizens.⁶ We support the Mayor's commitment to use the devolution of adult skills funding and employment services support to London from 2019-20 to support skills and education providers to deliver the skills that the food and hospitality industries need to be competitive is imperative to the success of the sector. Businesses should ensure that workers, including those on night shifts, have easy access to healthy food in staff canteens.

Environmental impacts

We welcome the inclusion of environmental issues in the food strategy. Food is very significant in London's overall environmental footprint. We note that food systems that meet health and food accessibility goals are likely also to have lower environmental impacts, by using less animal produce and less highly processed food, and potentially more seasonal and locally-grown food. Cutting food waste also has environmental benefits, for example by reducing the amount sent to landfill and avoiding all the impacts arising from producing food that would then go to waste. We were pleased to hear at our meeting that environmental impacts may be included alongside affordability and health benefits in work with food providers such as schools, and we would encourage this.

⁵ The GLA Conservatives and UKIP disagree with these two paragraphs, particularly in so far as they refer to the EU and exit from it.

⁶ The GLA Conservatives and UKIP do not consider that Brexit poses a risk to the supply of skills and labour in London's food industry.

We welcome the prospect of setting a target to reduce food waste by 50 per cent by 2030 and encourage the Mayor to do so. In our recent report on waste management⁷ we also recommended that all unavoidable food waste should be sent to anaerobic digestion and/or composting. Further, we would like the Mayor to set out clearer plans for how he will continue to work with partners such as WRAP and LWARB on tackling food waste.

We received evidence that food growing spaces have great benefits for urban biodiversity, as well as other benefits common to green space such as urban cooling and sustainable drainage. Further, increasing the supply of local food for Londoners will help tackle carbon emissions as a result of food air miles. We therefore encourage the protection and promotion of food growing spaces in work under the Environment Strategy and London Plan, accounting for the Mayor's programme for London's housing stock. In particular, with parks looking for more diverse benefits and resources, we would encourage local authorities and others to think about the food growing potential of parks and other public green spaces—for example for community gardens, orchards or hedgerow foraging. We were encouraged to hear of work that Sustain is doing with the GLA and others, and look forward to more content in this area in the final strategy. The Mayor in particular could support fruit and nut trees in suitable locations as part of his tree-planting programmes, and promote their planting by partners, community groups and Londoners.

Animal Welfare

We welcome the inclusion of animal welfare standards in the draft strategy's definition of good food and in the actions set out in Chapter 3 and Annex 3. We welcome the inclusion of RSPCA Assured as an animal welfare standard and support the RSPCA's position that products containing meat that has not been pre-stunned before slaughter should be clearly labelled as such to enable the many consumers who do not wish to eat such meat to make their choice. We call on the Mayor to work with the RSPCA and government towards this labelling.

⁷ [Wasting London's future](#), Environment Committee, March 2018

Chair of the Environment Committee



Caroline Russell AM

Chair of the Environment Committee

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30 July 2018

Nicholas Pollard, CEO
Cory Riverside Energy
Belvedere, London
DA17 6JY
(Via email)

Dear Nicholas,

Proposed Cory Riverside Energy Park in Belvedere, with waste energy recovery incinerator

This is the response of the London Assembly Environment Committee to your consultation on the proposed Riverside Energy Park.¹ I must first thank you for Cory's assistance to the Committee's investigations of waste management strategy in London, as your staff have attended our meetings, provided written information, and shown committee members around Cory facilities.

However, the London Assembly Environment Committee is wholly unconvinced of the need for greater energy from waste (EfW) capacity at Belvedere. There are positive elements of the Energy Park proposal, but in its current form these are far smaller than the incineration element, which does not appear justified according to the evidence presented.

Waste management demand and capacity projections

According to the Mayor's Environment Strategy, as London reduces waste per person and increases the separation of dry recycling and food waste, its residual waste should plateau, even as the population increases and landfill is phased out. With EfW incinerators coming on stream at Edmonton and Beddington Lane, London is to have EfW incinerator capacity equal to this residual waste stream. The need for increased capacity will primarily be in recycling, and potentially in organic treatment.²

¹ It is the response of a majority of the committee. The GLA Conservatives and the UKIP Group dissent from its conclusions, for reasons noted below.

² From figures in the Evidence Base to the Mayor's Environment Strategy, London's expected waste management requirements in 2030 would be about 3.8 million tonnes of recycling (with existing and pipeline facilities about 1.5 million tonnes short of handling that), 0.9 million tonnes of organic treatment (with

Therefore, the anaerobic digestion (AD) element of the energy park proposal is a positive. Adding 40,000 tonnes waste handling capacity to London's AD infrastructure would make up some of the capacity gap expected if food waste is separated better but not reduced at source. The proposed 1.2 MW solar generation capacity would certainly be a useful contribution to London's zero-carbon energy supply, and the proposed battery storage capacity would also be an important part of smart and renewable energy infrastructure.

However, these elements are very small in comparison to the proposed waste incineration.³ We are therefore responding to this current proposal primarily as an EfW incinerator. Apart from landfill (and incineration without energy recovery, which is already near zero), EfW incineration is at the bottom of the hierarchy for London's waste management. Reasons to avoid incineration if possible include the loss of materials in the waste stream, and the air pollution produced.

Loss of materials and the circular economy

You state that the proposed incinerator will only burn non-recyclable waste. However, this relies on effective waste segregation which in practice has not been achieved. Based on this we do not accept this claim. London's residual waste stream currently contains a large proportion of material such as plastic, paper and card that could be recycled if separated and appropriately handled. To achieve the 90 per cent reduction in carbon emissions targeted by the Mayor and required by the UK's climate change commitments, London will need to reduce, reuse and recycle its waste materials, creating what is known as a circular economy. Burning waste to recover energy has some environmental benefits compared to landfill, but as it creates harmful substances such as ash and exhaust gas it is not preferable to recycling or anaerobic digestion, which more effectively uphold the principles of a circular economy.

In our recent report, *Wasting London's Future*, we set out recommendations for the Mayor to improve recycling, which included improving the recycling offer to flats and improving consistency across London. We are also considering further findings on how the government could work with supermarkets to increase recycling for plastic

Air pollution

Incineration also contributes to air pollution. In our report, we found that London's EfW incinerators emit over 2,000 tonnes of NO_x per year, 4 per cent of London's total. Many other pollutants, including chlorine, arsenic and mercury are also emitted from EfW facilities.

facilities about 0.1 million tonnes short) and 2.2 million tonnes of EfW (with facilities approximately equal to the requirement). If additional goals on food waste reduction are met, then the shortfall in recycling would be slightly less, and there would be approximately 0.2 million tonnes more capacity than required in each of organic treatment and EfW. The proposed Riverside Energy Park is not included in the EfW capacity pipeline in these figures and so would create around 0.6 to 0.7 million tonnes excess EfW capacity. London would only need this capacity if it fell far short of the recycling targets (and did not manage the shortfall by exporting waste outside its borders while the shortfall existed).

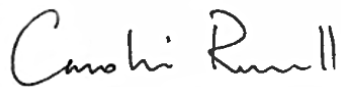
³ In terms of waste handling, the proposal is to take up to 655,000 tonnes of residual waste (for the incinerator) and up to 40,000 tonnes of food and organic waste (for AD). The incinerator would therefore represent about 94 per cent of the total waste capacity. In terms of power generation, the total capacity is proposed to be 96 MW. Of this, 1 MW would be AD and 1.2 MW solar, leaving approximately 94 MW for incineration, about 98 per cent of the total.

Energy generation

The energy generated by incineration is a benefit. However, the energy is not fully renewable. Only the organic component of the waste stream qualifies as renewable fuel. As more of this is separated and sent to AD, the overall fuel mix for incineration may become less renewable.⁴

In conclusion, we remain wholly unconvinced with the case for greater EfW incinerator capacity at Belvedere and instead wish to see a direction of travel towards the circular economy. Madrid recently committed to stop sending waste to incineration by 2025: London is not in a position to achieve this so soon, but should be heading in a similar direction. With the Mayor's strategy (and national policy) directed at increasing recycling and taking food waste out of the residual waste stream, these should take priority over building any additional incinerator capacity.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Russell, Chair of the Environment Committee

⁴ The GLA Conservative and UKIP Groups support energy from waste generation as a tool for delivering renewable energy to Londoners.

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Subject: Response to the Committee's Report, *Wasting London's Future*

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 The Committee is asked to note the response from the Mayor to its report, *Wasting London's Future*.

2. Recommendation

2.1 **That the Committee notes the response from the Mayor to its report, *Wasting London's Future*, as attached at Appendix 1 to this report, together with the Impact Review Report, attached at Appendix 2 to the report.**

3. Background

Wasting London's Future

3.1 The Committee's report, *Wasting London's Future*, also published on 21 March 2018 and was sent to the Mayor at the same time. The report may also be accessed on the GLA's website [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wasting_londons_future.pdf)¹

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The Mayor wrote to the former Chair of the Environment Committee on 20 June 2018 with his response to the recommendations set out in *Wasting London's Future*. The letter from the Mayor is attached at **Appendix 1** for the Committee to note.

4.2 Officers have prepared an impact for the report. This highlights media and stakeholder responses, summarises the Mayor's response to the recommendations and assesses progress towards implementation. The review can be found at **Appendix 2** for the Committee to note.

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wasting_londons_future.pdf
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA
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5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: Response from the Mayor dated 20 June 2018.

Appendix 2: Impact Review Report.

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|--|
| Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 |
| List of Background Papers: None |
| Contact Officer: Clare Bryant, Committee Officer |
| Telephone: 020 7983 4616 |
| E-mail: clare.bryant@london.gov.uk |

MAYOR OF LONDON

Leonie Cooper AM

Chair of the Environment Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
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Our ref: MGLA210318-7223**Date:** 20 JUN 2018

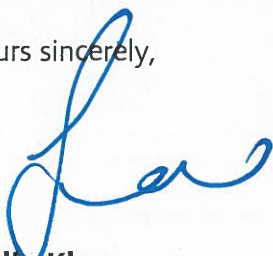
Thank you for sending me the London Assembly Environment Committee's 'Wasting London's Future' report.

Significantly cutting food waste and single use plastics, boosting household waste recycling performance, and taking a circular economy approach to avoid materials becoming waste in the first place all form a key part of the London Environment Strategy. This will help drive resource efficiency, cut waste costs and avoid the need for more incineration capacity. I welcome the report and am keen to continue working with the Environment Committee to effectively implement the key findings and recommendations where I am best placed to influence. Please accept this letter as a response to the recommendations in your latest report, which includes the key findings and recommendations across the Environment Committees' three waste investigation reports: 'Waste: The Circular Economy (September 2017)', 'Waste: Household Recycling' (December 2017) and 'Waste: Energy from Waste' (February 2018).

I have given a detailed response to the report's recommendations in the attached appendix. My overall approach to increasing recycling, cutting waste and maximising the circular economy are set out in the final London Environment Strategy. This includes setting a minimum household waste recycling service, requiring waste authorities to develop reduction and recycling plans, installing water fountains to help cut plastic bottle waste, and working with the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and partners to deliver behaviour change projects. In addition, I have set out a host of measures required of government and manufacturers to drive resource efficiency and increase recycling performance, including new funding for recycling services and measures to ensure packaging material is easily recyclable. I will also ensure that London continues to lead on circular economy activities by embedding circular economy policies and principles through the London Environment Strategy, as well as through my other strategic plans: the London Plan, Economic Development Strategy and the GLA Group Responsible Procurement policy.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Appendix 1: Detailed response to London Assembly recommendations from 'Wasting London's Future'

Preventing Waste

Recommendation 1: The Mayor should set specific targets for circular economy procurement within the GLA group.

I published an updated Responsible Procurement Policy in 2017. In the London Environment Strategy, I am committing to trialling and adopting circular economy approaches in procurement activities undertaken by all the Functional Bodies. I have dedicated a full chapter for GLA group operations to lead by example. Work has been undertaken in partnership with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to identify and target suitable high spend product categories including construction, IT, furniture, textiles and facilities management.

Recommendation 2: To promote the circular economy, the Mayor should ensure that the LWARB Route Map to the Circular Economy is widely promoted and adopted, including funding circular economy entrepreneurs.

The circular economy will be promoted through the GLA with LWARB being a key engagement partner in the Courtauld Commitment 2025. I will continue supporting reduction campaigns including Recycle for London, Love Food Hate Waste, and Trifocal to help Londoners and businesses to cut waste. I will also work with the government, large organisations and manufacturers to adopt circular economy approaches that design waste out of products and the supply chain, and designs for 100 per cent recyclability. I have embedded circular economy principles and policies across my strategic plans and will take the following actions in collaboration with LWARB:

- Work with partners to implement the 100 practical actions set out in London's Circular Economy Route Map, in order for London to make the change and accelerate growth in materials reuse, remanufacturing and recycling.
- Continue investment and support, through the Advance London programme, which is helping circular economy SMEs to grow, and traditional businesses to transition. This will be through venture capital investments, the provision of accelerators and incubators and tailored business support.

In addition, my Entrepreneur programme will continue to engage university students across London on low carbon circular economy market opportunities and work with them to develop new ideas for environmental goods and services that tackle the environmental challenges that cities are facing today.

Recommendation 3: The Mayor should lobby Government to further increase producer responsibility for packaging and to reduce plastic waste. This should include better signage on products so that plastics are kept in circulation for as long as possible or recycled as appropriate.

The London Environment Strategy sets out my proposals to call for government action on the following priorities:

- Setting minimum standards of design (including labelling) for reuse and recyclability, and strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility requirements for packaging materials, namely plastics. This will help drive out products not easily recycled, from the supply chain.

- Introducing tax relief on materials innovation that reduces waste and reliance on virgin materials, and boosts materials reuse and recycling.

I have met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and raised my priorities for the government's upcoming waste strategy, and will continue to call for extended producer responsibility.

Recommendation 4: Partnerships between circular economy operatives, such as charity shops and municipal waste services, should be strengthened by Mayoral involvement. The Mayor should aim to improve connections so that residents can easily choose to participate in the circular economy when disposing of household waste.

The London Environment Strategy requires waste authorities to develop reduction and recycling plans, and I will work with LWARB to ensure that opportunities to allow residents to reduce and re-use materials are considered.

Increasing recycling

Recommendation 5: To ensure all homes have a consistent recycling service, the Mayor should include flats within the standard recycling provision offer, as stated in the draft Environment Strategy. This should include separate food waste collection.

I have set out proposals to ensure all homes have a consistent level of household recycling service across London. This will require all waste authorities, by 2020, to provide a minimum household recycling collection service to all properties, including to flats where practicable and cost effective. Waste authorities will need to collect the six main dry materials (paper, card, tins/cans, glass, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (pots, tubs and trays)) and provide a separate weekly food waste collection to all properties receiving a kerbside collection. LWARB has partnered with Peabody to better understand the barriers to recycling and develop measures to help residents in flats to recycle more. LWARB has also set up a Flats Task Force and allocated £1m to help waste authorities to understand how to boost their recycling collection services to flats.

Recommendation 6: Recycling provision for new homes should be strengthened in the London Plan. To elevate the importance of recycling, the wording should read – “Dwellings must be designed with adequate and easily accessible storage space that supports the separate collection of dry recyclables”.

I am currently considering this suggestion, as set out in the London Assembly's response to the consultation on the draft London Plan. Following the consultation, I am considering 'early suggested changes' to propose to the panel of independent planning inspectors conducting the Examination in Public (EiP) of the draft Plan. Early suggested changes are only made in response to formal representations received through consultation, or are factual updates or points of clarification. Throughout debate at the EiP, I may propose further changes to the draft Plan.

Recommendation 7: The Mayor should publish a required trajectory for each borough's recycling rates, to ensure that future targets are met — and if these rates are not successfully met at the time of contract renewal, the Mayor should step in. In directing the services, the Mayor should ensure recommendations included in this report are taken up by the service provider.

The London Environment Strategy has set London-wide targets for the recycling of Local Authority Controlled Waste (LACW), requiring that London is recycling at least 50 per cent of LACW by 2025.

It has also introduced a requirement for waste authorities to develop and submit for my sign off, a Reduction and Recycling Plan by 2020. This plan will require waste authorities to define and lay out the specific actions it will take to make a bold and meaningful contribution to the London wide targets. In addition, the plans will also need to demonstrate how the authority would seek to achieve targets of:

- 45 per cent household recycling rate by 2025
- 50 per cent household recycling rate by 2030

The plans will also have requirements for regular reporting of performance making tracking against the London Environment Strategy targets possible. Early engagement with and support for authorities will also be provided by LWARB if required.

London's waste authorities are all vastly different, facing their own unique challenges and having different opportunities for service development and growth. It is right that they have the responsibility for setting their own targets. Through the Reduction and Recycling Plan process, I can ensure that waste authorities are being both challenged and supported in making their fair contribution to London's overall target.

Recommendation 8: The Mayor should explore the funding options that he and others could provide to ensure the implementation of a consistent harmonised recycling service that would maximise recycling in London. However, the Committee recognises that this may take several years due to the length of borough waste contracts. Utilising break clauses in contracts that allow for early improvements (such as the segregation of food waste) should be actively explored by boroughs, with support from the Mayor's team as necessary.

Significant cost savings could be made by boroughs by combining collection services. For example, South London Waste Partnership is expecting savings of over £200m from bringing together their contracts in a more efficient and cost-effective way. It means that the same services are now offered to all who live in the partnership's four boroughs of Sutton, Merton, Kingston-upon-Thames and Croydon. However, further funding will be required, and I have already written to the government calling on them to invest in local collection systems to ensure that the increase in the household waste recycling rate is achieved. A one-off contribution of Landfill Tax receipts of £100m, combined with existing resources, could enable London boroughs to meet the Mayor's local authority collected waste recycling target of 50 per cent by 2025.

I will continue to engage with waste authorities through my formal role in reviewing new contracts, and will also continue to support boroughs in making service improvements within contract cycles where this is feasible and affordable.

Reducing waste

Recommendation 9: When providing recycling and food waste collections, boroughs should consider reducing the frequency of residual waste collections.

Waste authorities are required to develop reduction and recycling plans by 2020 at the latest. These plans will need to set local targets and demonstrate how local authorities will help their residents to cut waste and increase recycling performance; making an effective contribution to my reduction and recycling targets. It will be for boroughs to demonstrate, through these plans, that the service configurations that they implement have the demonstrable capability of achieving the targets set.

Recommendation 10: The Mayor should facilitate the use and, if necessary, the construction of Anaerobic Digestion facilities, to ensure food waste never ends up in landfill or incineration.

Food waste is a critical issue within my London Environment Strategy. In the first instance, reduction is my priority, which is why I have increased the overall target for London to a 50 per cent per capita reduction in food waste by 2030.

For unavoidable food waste, our evidence strongly supports Anaerobic Digestion (AD) as a significantly better environmental and cost option than either incineration or landfill. My targets for no biodegradable or recyclable waste to go to landfill by 2026, along with my requirement for the separate collection of food waste, will help drive the development of new AD capacity by putting more material on to the market and hence supporting the funding and development of new AD capacity.

Recommendation 11: The Mayor should lobby the Government to make it easier for boroughs to fine serial offenders who fail to comply with recycling regulations including landlords.

I do not have powers to fine serial recycling offenders, but local authorities have the powers under Section 45 (1) of the EPA 1990. I will support a review of these powers should London boroughs consider that strengthening them would be effective in driving higher recycling performance.

Energy from waste and benefits of waste disposal

Recommendation 12: The Mayor should set targets to reduce the total amount of biodegradable and recyclable waste sent to landfill and incineration by 2026 — and set targets to further reduce the amount by later dates.

I have set targets for London to:

- send no recyclable or biodegradable waste to landfill by 2026, and to be a zero-waste city by 2050;
- be 100 per cent net waste self-sufficient by 2026 (through the London Plan); and
- reduce food waste and associated packaging waste by 50 per cent per person by 2030.

Recommendation 13: The Mayor should strongly support the construction and use of facilities within London's borders for the most sustainable management of its own waste.

I want to retain the economic value of waste within London and ensure that London can manage net 100 per cent of its waste within the city by 2026. In my London Plan, I set out how waste sites in London will be identified and safeguarded. I have set proposals to ensure that waste authorities, in developing their waste contracts and services, will identify how to maximise the use of local waste facilities and identified sites for waste.

Recommendation 14: The Mayor should aim for London to become a zero-waste export city, conducting research on the feasibility of this, and then set a policy to achieve as close to zero as feasible, subject to overall environmental objectives.

London should manage as much of the capital's waste within its boundaries as practicable, enabling London and Londoners to receive environmental and economic benefits from its management. I acknowledge that waste contracts do not recognise administrative boundaries and that waste flows across borders. Consequently, the aim of waste policies in the London Plan is to

achieve net self-sufficiency for household and commercial waste by 2026. If achieved, this would mean enough sites are identified within London to deal with the equivalent of 100 per cent of the waste apportioned to the boroughs.

Waste reports

Released throughout 2017 – 2018

During 2017 – 18 the London Assembly Environment Committee published a number of reports on the subject of waste and waste services in London. Outputs included: three short findings, one long report with recommendations, blog posts and associated media coverage.

Stakeholder feedback

The Mayor of London welcomed the report in his response to the Committee: “I welcome the report and am keen to continue working with the Environment Committee to effectively implement the key findings and recommendations where I am best placed to influence”.

UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) endorsed the report: “We hope London’s Mayor follows the Assembly’s advice and does everything he can to prevent more incinerators being built in London”.

Environmental Services Association (ESA) expressed disappointment in reading the Energy from Waste (EfW) short report: “EfW has a vital role to play as the UK transitions into a circular economy, and that the increased quantity of London’s waste sent to EfW is a ‘success story’ as it is the left over after recycling that would be sent to landfill otherwise”.

Media coverage

The report received good media coverage, with print, radio and television news items. The EfW received a significant amount of media attention and response from national and trade magazines, including The Times and Daily Mail. The Evening Standard published two articles by Léonie Cooper, then Chair of the committee, on the subject of household recycling. Two blog posts written by Léonie were also published in trade magazines.

The Chair was interviewed on London Live on Wasting London’s Future. Coverage also included China Daily USA and China.org.cn. There was coverage in trade titles including Plastics In Packaging, Materials Recycling Week, Recycling Waste World and International Environmental Technology.

The individual reports also received coverage. The Household Recycling component was featured in the Evening Standard. As well as national titles mentioned, EfW featured in trade titles including Carbon Emission News, Recycling and Waste World and Bioenergy Insight while the Circular Economy report received broadcast coverage from London Live and LBC News. The report featured in 21 online outlets in all.



Response to recommendations

The Mayor provided his response to the report’s recommendation in June. The response in summarised below.

| Committee’s recommendation | RAG rating | Mayoral response |
|--|------------|--|
| The Mayor should set specific targets for circular economy procurement within GLA group. | | The Mayor updated the GLA Responsible Procurement Policy to include reference to the circular economy in 2017. The Environment Strategy includes a commitment to trialling the circular economy and has a full chapter on the GLA group leading by example. |
| The Mayor should ensure that the LWARB route map to the circular economy is widely promoted and adopted, including funding circular economy entrepreneurs. | | The Mayor has embedded the circular economy across a number of strategies and has committed to working with partners to implement the Circular Economy Routemap and continue investment and support through the Advance London programme and Mayor’s Entrepreneur programme. |
| The Mayor should lobby Government to further increase producer responsibility for packaging and to reduce plastic waste. | | The Mayor will call on Government to set minimum standards of design (including labelling) for reuse and recyclability, and strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility requirements for packaging materials, namely plastic. The Mayor will also ask government to introduce a tax relief on materials innovation which reduces waste and reliance on virgin materials, and boosts materials reuse and recycling. |
| Partnerships between circular economy operatives, such as charity shops and municipal waste services, should be strengthened by Mayoral involvement. The Mayor should aim to improve connections so that residents can easily choose to participate in the circular economy when disposing of household waste. | | The Environment Strategy requires waste authorities to develop a reduction and recycling plan. The Mayor will work with LWARB to ensure that opportunities allowing residents to reduce and reuse materials are considered in these plans. |
| The Mayor should include flats within the standard recycling provision offer, as stated in the drafts Environment Strategy (including separate waste collections). | | The Environment Strategy strives for a consistent recycling service across London. For flats, efforts to improve consistency will be considered where practicable and cost effective. |

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| <p>The London Plan should include the wording – “dwellings must be designed with adequate and easily accessible storage space that supported the separate collection of dry recyclables”.</p> | | <p>The Mayor is considering the recommendation to propose to the panel of independent planning inspectors conducting the Examination in Public, part of the ‘early suggested changes’. As well as this, there will be further opportunities for the Mayor to suggest changes.</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should publish a required trajectory for each borough’s recycling rates to ensure that future targets are met – if these rates are not successfully met at the time of contract renewal, the Mayor should step in. In directing the services, the Mayor should ensure recommendations included in the report are taken up by the service provider.</p> | | <p>The Mayor will monitor efforts to increase the recycling rate through waste authorities Reduction and Recycling Plans (2020 deadline).</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should explore the funding options that he and others could provide to ensure implementation of consistent harmonised recycling service that would maximise recycling in London.</p> | | <p>The Mayor acknowledges that significant cost savings could be made by boroughs combining collection services. The Mayor has written to the Government calling on them to invest in local collections and suggests that a one-off contribution of Landfill Tax receipts of £100m, combined with existing resources, could enable London boroughs to meet its recycling targets.</p> |
| <p>When providing recycling and food waste collections, boroughs should consider reducing the frequency of residual waste collections.</p> | | <p>The Mayor states that it will be for the boroughs, through the Reduction and Recycling Plans, to demonstrate that service configurations have the capability of achieving recycling targets.</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should facilitate the use, and if necessary, the construction of Anaerobic Digestion facilities.</p> | | <p>By 2030 the Mayor aims to reduce food waste to 50 per cent per capita. Targets for no biodegradable or recyclable waste to go to landfill by 2026, along with the requirement for the separate collection of food waste, will help drive the development of new AD capacity by putting more material on the market.</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should lobby the Government to make it easier for boroughs to fine serial offenders who fail to comply with recycling regulations including landlords.</p> | | <p>The Mayor will support a review of enforcement powers should London boroughs consider that strengthening them would be effective in driving higher recycling performance.</p> |

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| <p>The Mayor should set targets to reduce the total amount of biodegradable and recyclable waste sent to landfill and incineration by 2026 – and set targets to further reduce the amount of later dates.</p> | | <p>The Mayor reiterates his plans to send no recyclable or biodegradable waste to landfill by 2026, a zero waste city by 2050 and 100 per cent net waste self-sufficiency by 2026.</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should strongly support the construction and use of facilities within London’s borders for the most sustainable management of its own waste.</p> | | <p>In the London Plan, the Mayor has set out how waste sites in London will be identified and safeguarded. The Mayor has also set proposals to ensure that waste authorities, maximise the use of local waste facilities and identified sites for waste.</p> |
| <p>The Mayor should aim for London to become a zero-waste export city, conducting research on the feasibility of this, and then set a policy to achieve as close to zero as feasible, subject to overall environmental objectives.</p> | | <p>The Mayor acknowledges that waste contracts do not recognise administrative boundaries and that waste flows across borders. Consequently, the aim of waste policies in the London Plan is to achieve net self-sufficiency for household and commercial waste by 2026. If achieved, this would mean enough sites are identified within London to deal with the equivalent of 100 per cent of the waste apportioned to boroughs.</p> |

Subject: Embodied Carbon in Buildings

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee will discuss, with expert guests, carbon emissions from parts of the building life cycle including materials production and construction, and potentially demolition and materials disposal.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on life cycle carbon emissions from buildings, and notes the subsequent discussion.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee delegates authority to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 London's buildings generate significant carbon emissions. Much of these are from heating, lighting and other energy consumption in the operation of the building. There are also carbon emissions in other phases of the building life cycle. These can be as big as or bigger than the operational emissions. Carbon emissions that have been incurred in producing materials, structures or other products are often termed 'embodied carbon'.

4. Issues for Consideration

Phases of carbon emission in the building life cycle

4.1 A building life cycle can be divided into a number of phases, each with its carbon emissions:

- Materials—carbon is likely to be emitted in extracting, processing, forming and transporting the materials that go into a building. For example, for every tonne of steel produced, two tonnes of carbon is emitted; cement is another major emitter. Wood or recycled materials can have lower emissions;
- Construction—the processes of putting materials together to make a building on site also use energy and emit carbon;
- Maintenance—during the operational phase of the building’s life, emissions are mainly from the activities going on as part of the building’s use. There may also be further materials required and energy use involved in maintaining the building fabric, and these can be counted as part of the building’s embodied carbon; and
- Demolition—as with construction, the processes of taking down a building use energy
- Disposal—transporting materials away from the site takes energy. Depending on the destination of these materials, there may be a further carbon cost, but there may also effectively be a reduction in emissions if the materials can be efficiently recycled.

Other opportunities to reduce lifecycle carbon

4.2 Carbon can be reduced at the design phase, for example by designing the building carefully to use smaller quantities of materials, or designing the material elements and the architecture so that it is easy to recycle the materials after the end of life of the building. The proposed new London Plan contains a requirement for major developments to undertake a lifecycle carbon assessment and to seek to reduce lifecycle emissions.

4.3 Lifecycle emissions can also be affected at a higher level of decision-making, when considering whether to replace existing buildings with new ones (likely to be more energy-efficient in operation, but with a cost in embodied carbon), or to refurbish buildings (with different energy efficiency gains and embodied carbon costs), or to continue to operate buildings as is for longer.

4.4 The Committee has invited guests from relevant industry and public bodies to answer questions. Representatives are expected from:

- Sturgis Carbon Profiling;
- Institution of Civil Engineers;
- The Crown Estate;
- WSP;
- Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers; and
- The Greater London Authority.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There is no financial implication to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

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| Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 |
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| List of Background Papers: |
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Subject: Environment Committee Work Programme

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 20 September 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report notes and updates the committee's work programme for the 2018/19 London Assembly year. The programme was originally agreed in May 2018 and is updated at each meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers how it will take forward the Assembly's opposition to the expansion of Heathrow airport and notes the letter sent to all London Members of Parliament in June 2018, urging them to vote against expansion in the House of Commons on the grounds of noise and air pollution attached at Appendix 1 to this report.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees to use its October 2018 meeting to discuss the environmental impacts of aviation, focusing on carbon emissions from aviation (in particular from the additional flights implied by Heathrow expansion), and further agrees to consider a potential informal meeting about the environmental impacts of City Airport, as set out in paragraph 4.4.**
- 2.3 **That the Committee agrees to use its November and December 2018 meeting slots to discuss cold and damp homes, as set out in paragraph 4.6.**
- 2.4 **That the Committee notes its previously agreed work programme for the 2018/19 Assembly year, as set out in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.3 and 4.7 to 4.10.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The work programme for 2018/19 was originally agreed in May 2018, at the first meeting of the Committee's year.
- 3.2 A similar report will be submitted to each subsequent Committee meeting to track the Committee's work and propose any changes, including confirming dates and adding topics as required.

4. Issues for Consideration

Embodied carbon in the built environment

- 4.1 This meeting is being used to examine components of buildings' life-cycle carbon emissions other than operational emissions: emissions from extracting and producing materials, manufacturing components, transporting components, constructing the building, maintaining the building fabric, taking down the building at the end of its life, and disposing of the materials. A covering report on this topic can be found at **Agenda Item 7**.

Work programme for the rest of 2018/19

- 4.2 The table below sets out the allocated dates for the Environment Committee in the 2018/19 Assembly year. The table notes suggested business for the earlier dates.
- 4.3 The work programme is subject to change in future as the Committee develops proposals for its work. Dates may be used for formal committee meetings, informal meetings, site visits or other activities for the committee. The work programme also provides for the Committee to respond to any matters that arise during the year.

| Meeting Date | Proposed topic |
|---------------------|--|
| 11 October 2017 | Committee meeting Environmental impacts of aviation |
| 8 November 2017 | Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Cold and damp homes |
| 6 December 2017 | Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Cold and damp homes |
| 16 January 2018 | Committee meeting (or other evidence-gathering) Particulate pollution |
| 28 February 2018 | To be confirmed |
| 27 March 2018 | To be confirmed |

Environmental impacts of aviation

- 4.4 The Committee previously agreed to hold a meeting on aviation issues at some point during the year. Following the Assembly's unanimous resolution on 19 July 2018 that this and other Committees should consider at each meeting how to oppose Heathrow expansion, it is now proposed to timetable this meeting for October 2018, with a focus on carbon emissions from aviation (in particular from the additional flights implied by Heathrow expansion). Also, following representations from Londoners concerned about the environmental impacts of aviation, including around London City Airport as well as Heathrow, committee members are considering possible dates for an informal meeting about local impacts of London City Airport, including noise and air pollution.

- 4.5 Prior to the vote in the House of Commons in June 2018, the party Group Lead Members from the Green, Labour and Conservative Groups wrote to all Members of Parliament in London to urge them oppose the expansion of Heathrow airport. A copy of the Letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Cold, damp and carbon emissions in homes

- 4.6 The Committee has previously investigated carbon emissions from London's domestic sector, and Mayoral programmes to reduce it. With progress being made on easy measures like loft and cavity wall insulation, there is a need to tackle homes that are hard to insulate, especially where this leaves residents in cold and/or damp conditions. The investigation is likely to focus on social housing and to examine delivery of the Mayor's Fuel Poverty Action Plan. The issues have greatest public resonance in winter, so it was agreed to gather evidence in autumn/early winter 2018 and to publish a report later in the winter. It is now proposed, with the aviation meeting in October 2018, to use the November and December 2018 dates from the Committee's calendar for this investigation.

Particulate pollution

- 4.7 Air pollution from motor exhaust has received considerable attention over recent years, but some other sources have received less. With cleaner motors taking over the roads, other sources are emerging as having greater relative significance. These sources include secondary engines on vehicles, such as those powering refrigeration units, and solid fuel burning such as in wood fires and stoves, pizza ovens and barbecues. The Mayor is aiming for stringent health-based clean air targets, as recommended by this Committee, and so all sources of emissions need to be borne down on. It is now proposed to hold a meeting on this topic in January 2019.

- 4.8 There is also ongoing work to assess particulate pollution on the underground network.

- 4.9 Whether within the cold homes investigation or the air pollution, Lead Members have expressed an interest in investigating domestic boilers, including replacing older boilers with more efficient ones, replacing boilers altogether with systems such as heat pumps, and whether householders can use their heating more efficiently.

Other work

- 4.10 Party Group Lead Members have considered other potential work of the Committee, including holding the Mayor to account for developing and delivering policies such as the T-charge and Ultra Low Emission Zone, a Mayoral energy supplier, the Solar Action Plan, the Environment Strategy and associated strategies, and action on Tube noise.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – letter to London MPs on Heathrow vote

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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London Assembly Environment Committee

Caroline Russell, Chair

21 June 2018

To London MPs

Via email

Dear Members,

Expansion of Heathrow Airport—noise and air pollution impacts

With the Commons vote on the Government's final National Policy Statement on Heathrow expansion, due on Monday, we are writing today to urge you to put the health of Londoners first and oppose this proposal.

The London Assembly, and successive Mayors of London, have been united in their opposition to expansion for many years. Earlier this month, the Assembly reiterated this opposition in a unanimous all-party vote.¹ There are many reasons, and prominent among these are the impacts on Londoners of noise and air pollution, especially from aircraft and surface transport.

Noise

Noise from aircraft at Heathrow is already a problem. Around 700,000 people are affected by noise from Heathrow, more than three times as many as any other European airport. Aircraft noise particularly affects residents' health (especially because of disturbed sleep from night flights) and their education (especially because of disturbed lessons from morning and afternoon flights).

Three runways will create more noise, and across a wider area, than two. Over 300,000 more people are set to be affected by increased noise. Also respite from noise for areas already affected would be reduced from one-half of the day to one-third.

The Government has made promises about noise reduction, regulation and noise insulation for homes. However, there are flaws with these proposals. The proposed measures for noise

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/assembly-opposed-to-heathrow-airport-expansion>

reduction targets do not give enough weight to the frequency of noise episodes and to night noise between 11pm and 7am. It is proposed to target reductions from current noise levels, much of which would have occurred anyway as newer, quieter aircraft come into the fleet. Proposed noise mitigation measures are not to be delivered until up to 20 years after the new runway opens. And the proposed ‘independent’ aviation noise regulator will be anything but independent: it is to be established within the Civil Aviation Authority and with terms of reference, appointment processes and funding set by the Secretary of State. We have made recommendations to the Government about these specific issues, but the root problem is increased and more widespread noise from the extra runway, which can only be avoided by voting against the expansion.

Air pollution

Air pollution is one of London’s biggest public health challenges. It is responsible for thousands of additional deaths per year, impaired lung development in children, and a host of diseases and life-limiting conditions. Reducing pollution levels would reduce this harm. Reduction is also legally required, as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limits are breached in many London locations, including Heathrow airport and roads leading to it (particularly the those towards the airport from central London). These breaches are currently projected to continue until 2028. Particulate pollution also breaches World Health Organisation guidelines across London.

The Government’s proposal relies on the effective implementation of measures to bring the real driving emissions of diesel vehicles into line with on-paper emissions standards. This is challenging and controversial in itself—the diesel emissions scandal is well-known, and the Government itself acknowledges the extent to which even the latest diesel cars emit more pollution in real driving situations.² Since the publication of this analysis, findings have continued to emerge of the high real-world emissions of even newer diesel vehicles.³ In addition, the modelling still excludes construction impacts, which could come at crucial times for limit value compliance.

The case for Heathrow expansion also relies on Heathrow-specific measures to reduce air pollution, such as improved public transport links and an ultra-low-emission zone. Without these measures, expansion is projected to worsen pollution by a greater extent, increasing still further the air pollution impact and the likelihood of delaying zonal compliance. It is still unclear how the necessary transport improvements will be delivered and paid for, and the promised cap on airport-related traffic is not to be legally enforceable.

The Government itself acknowledges that Heathrow expansion would increase air pollution – both in construction and in operation, particularly due to increased surface travel – and that this would harm the health of, and increase mortality among, people exposed to the increased pollution. The Government argues, as did its Airports Commission, that this is acceptable as long as it is legal, and that it is legal as long as the increased pollution from

² *Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities* Defra and DfT May 2017

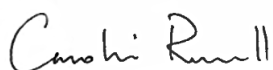
³ <https://www.airqualitynews.com/2018/06/06/diesel-cars-emissions-limits/>
<https://www.autovistagroup.com/news-and-insights/just-15-euro-6-diesels-pass-real-world-emissions-tests>

expansion does not exceed the worst pollution in the whole of Greater London.⁴ We reject this argument.⁵ However, even within this approach, the Government's own figures show⁶ that current policies carry a 49 per cent risk of expansion creating the worst pollution in London. The expansion proposal relies on a 'central projection' of its impacts, ignoring all risk and margin for error.

This disregard for the health of Londoners is simply unacceptable. The Government has a duty to protect and improve the health of the people it serves, yet this proposal will do the opposite. Those who vote to expand Heathrow would be consigning hundreds of thousands of Londoners to noise, air pollution and worse health for many years to come.

These impacts of expansion are likely to have a significant impact on your constituents, whether in their homes, their schools and workplaces, or as they travel around the city. I urge all London MPs to join the Assembly and the Mayor in opposing Heathrow expansion, by using their votes and by speaking to their Parliamentary colleagues.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Russell AM
Chair of the Environment Committee



Léonie Cooper AM
Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee



Shaun Bailey AM
GLA Conservatives Group Lead, Environment Committee

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/653966/consultation-on-revised-draft-airports-nps-web.pdf

⁵ The London Assembly Environment Committee has outlined legal issues and other aspects of the air pollution impact in more detail in its response to the Government's December 2017 consultation on the aviation National Policy Statement. <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/response-draft-aviation-national-policy>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/airport-expansion-further-updated-air-quality-re-analysis>

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