

Draft London Plan

London Assembly Public Engagement Events

Events on 5 August 2026



LONDONASSEMBLY

Research Unit

Overview

This summary note, produced by the London Assembly Research Unit, provides an overview of public engagement activity organised by the Planning and Regeneration Committee to hear directly from Londoners as part of its scrutiny of the Draft London Plan.

About the Research Unit

The London Assembly Research Unit provides an impartial research and information service. We undertake research and analysis on key issues in London to inform the Assembly's work.

All of our publications are available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-research-unit-publications>

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Context: Draft London Plan Consultation

On 16 July 2026, the Mayor published his Draft London Plan, the spatial development strategy for Greater London, for consultation.

The London Assembly's Planning and Regeneration Committee organised public engagement events following publication of the Draft London Plan, in order to hear directly from Londoners about their experiences of living in, travelling through, and accessing different parts of the city.

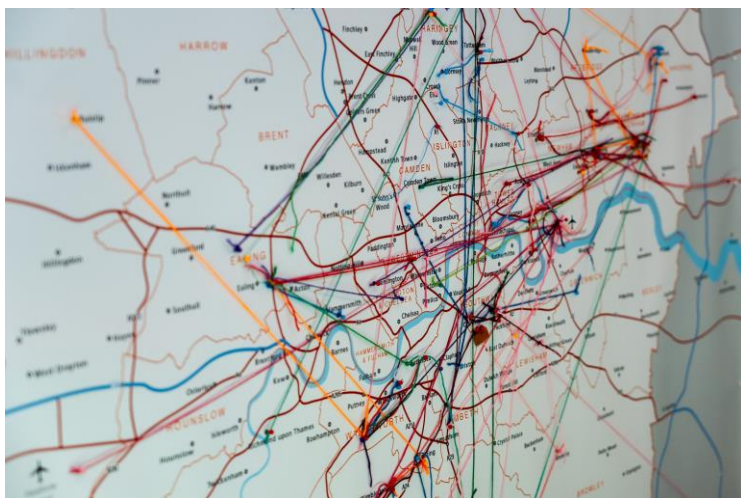
The programme was split into two events that were aimed at gathering the perspectives of young people living in London (aged 11 to 17) and adults living in London (aged 18 and over). Discussions were focused on key themes including housing, neighbourhoods, public spaces, and transport. The events were promoted via partner networks of youth, community and housing organisations.

The evidence gathered during the events has contributed to the Committee's scrutiny of the Draft London Plan.

Events programme

The Committee held two public engagement events on 5 August 2026 at a conference centre on London's South Bank:

- Event for young people living in London (aged 11-17) – **45 attendees**
- Event for adults living in London (aged 18 and over) – **30 attendees**
- Participants joined the events from 20 London boroughs



The events were led by facilitators with experience of youth and community engagement within a built environment context. The events used a combination of:

- Facilitated table discussions
- Creative and arts-based activities
- Mapping exercises
- Group prioritisation exercises
- Collaborative London-wide mapping activities

Participants were invited to submit photographs prior to the events, to show aspects of London they valued and aspects they found challenging. These materials supported discussions during the sessions.



**A place, building, location
that shows what you love about the city**

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Discussion themes: Young people living in London



Safety and community

The most consistent theme was personal safety. Participants highlighted concerns about knife crime, antisocial behaviour and drug misuse. Many called for greater police presence, improved street lighting, additional CCTV, and more safe spaces for young people.



Youth provision

Participants frequently identified a shortage of youth-focused spaces and activities. There was strong support for increased funding for youth clubs, more cultural activities, and opportunities that are meaningful and long-term rather than short-term initiatives.



Housing

Housing affordability and overcrowding emerged as significant concerns. Participants discussed long waiting lists, overcrowded homes, and the impact unsuitable housing can have on studying, wellbeing and family life. There were calls for less reliance on temporary accommodation and more permanent housing.



Employment, skills and education

Participants highlighted a need for greater access to work experience, employment opportunities and education relating to practical life-skills. Suggestions included budgeting, housing, finance, and employment readiness.

Discussion themes: Young people living in London



Transport

Transport was frequently identified as one of London's strengths, particularly the connectivity and frequency of services. However, participants also raised concerns about affordability, delays, cancellations, limited concessionary arrangements and the quality of some services.



Green spaces and environment

Participants valued parks and green spaces but expressed concerns regarding litter, fly-tipping and maintenance. There was strong support for protecting existing green spaces and creating additional greenery where possible.



Young people's voice

Participants emphasised the importance of involving young people more directly in decision-making processes and welcomed opportunities to contribute views through engagement events.

Reflections from young people living in London

When asked, *“What's your hope for London's future?”*

“ ...some young people feeling like because of their post code, they can't necessarily succeed. So, I guess my hope for the future of London would be a London where everyone feels like they can succeed, and they can do their absolute best in this world. ”

“ More like engagement with youth because sometimes a lot of youth feel left out in plans that do involve them. So, making sure that youth are not just spoken about, but spoken with... ”

When asked, *“What would you change to make London a better place?”*

“ The amount of green spaces, definitely... green spaces definitely will create more safe spaces. ”

“ An expansion of third spaces for young people... we are kind of seeing that closure of those spaces, and I think it would be really important to have more of the spaces available. ”

When asked, *“What's one thing you love about London?”*

“ The multicultural society that we have, all different people from all different backgrounds and how well connected the city is. ”



Participants at the Draft London Plan Young Londoners engagement event, 5 August 2026.

Discussion themes: Adults living in London



Housing

Housing was the strongest recurring topic. Participants called for more affordable and social housing and raised concerns about design quality, overheating, damp, mould, privacy and limited space in some new developments.



Community and belonging

Participants placed considerable importance on community cohesion, belonging and neighbourhood identity. Many highlighted London's diversity, local relationships and community spirit as positive aspects of city life.



Participation and engagement

Some participants expressed concerns that planning and regeneration can feel top-down and called for greater transparency and stronger public engagement. Participants welcomed opportunities to contribute directly to discussions such as this event.



Children, young people and families

Participants highlighted a need for more youth facilities, improved planning for families, and better consideration of children and young people's needs in development decisions.

Discussion themes: Adults living in London



Safety

Concerns about crime and perceptions of safety were raised across multiple discussion groups, alongside suggestions for stronger community safety measures.



Green spaces and environment

There was strong support for protecting existing parks and open spaces. Participants emphasised the value of green space in supporting health, wellbeing and community pride.



Inclusion

Participants highlighted the importance of ensuring all communities can engage with planning processes, including the Traveller community.



Participants at the Adult Londoners engagement event, 5 August 2026.

Next steps

The evidence gathered through the workshops is being considered by Assembly Members, alongside other consultation evidence gathered during the Assembly's engagement activity of the Draft London Plan. Findings will contribute to the Planning and Regeneration Committee's investigation and help inform its consultation response to the Mayor on the Draft London Plan.



Acknowledgements

Event participants

We would like to extend a particular thank you to the Londoners who generously volunteered their time to take part in these engagement events, sharing their insights, local knowledge, and lived experience to inform the Assembly's work.

With special thanks to our event partners and collaborators.

Event Collaborators

- The Learning Crowd (Facilitator)
- Our Cube (Facilitator)
- London Youth Assembly
- University of West London/London Research and Policy Partnership (LRaPP)
- ZCD Architects

Engagement Partners

- London Youth Assembly
- Our Cube
- University of West London (LRaPP)
- London Housing Panel
- Poplar HARCA
- Notting Hill Genesis
- London Legacy Development Corporation/ Elevate Board
- G15 Residents Group
- UCL Citizen Science Academy
- Tower Hamlets Youth Council
- Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum
- Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Council
- Wandsworth Youth Council
- Aylesbury Tenants and Residents Association
- Thurlow Lodge Tenants and Residents Association
- Pembroke House
- Generation Rent
- London Gypsies and Travellers
- Traveller Movement

Other formats and languages

If you, or someone you know needs this report in large print or braille, or a copy of the summary and main findings in another language, then please call us on: 020 7983 4100 or email assembly.translations@london.gov.uk

Chinese

如您需要这份文件的简介的翻译本，
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Vietnamese

Nếu ông (bà) muốn nội dung văn bản này được dịch sang tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi bằng điện thoại, thư hoặc thư điện tử theo địa chỉ ở trên.

Greek

Εάν επιθυμείτε περίληψη αυτού του κειμένου στην γλώσσα σας, παρακαλώ καλέστε τον αριθμό ή επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας στην ανωτέρω ταχυδρομική ή την ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση.

Turkish

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Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਅਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਉਪਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਡਾਕ ਜਾਂ ਈਮੇਲ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Hindi

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का सारांश अपनी भाषा में चाहिए तो उपर दिये हुए नंबर पर फोन करें या उपर दिये गये डाक पते या ई मेल पते पर हम से संपर्क करें।

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই দপিলের একটা সারাংশ নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে ফো করবেন অথবা উল্লেখিত ডাক ঠিকানায় বা ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

Urdu

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Arabic

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Gujarati

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