
From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir / Madam

Please find herein the Draft New London Plan consultation response submitted on behalf of the Thames Chase Trust (Thames Chase Community Forest).

The London Plan is closely aligned with the vision and objectives of the Thames Chase Community Forest (TCCF), the creation of which is governed by its guiding strategy: The Thames Chase Plan.

The vision for the Thames Chase Community Forest is: “By 2030, Thames Chase Community Forest will be recognised as an inspirational example of landscape regeneration where enhanced, connected woodland and green space has made a clear difference to wildlife and peoples’ lives.”

The objectives for the Forest were partially derived from objectives set within the All London Green Grid Area 3 Framework. These are:

1. To protect, improve and expand the woodland character of the Community Forest
2. To sustain the natural integrity of the Community Forest’s air, land and water including wildlife
3. To develop a connected network of links and accessible, vibrant greenspaces throughout the Community Forest
4. To integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation responses into the developing Community Forest
5. To use the Community Forest to improve local health and well-being, volunteering, learning and employment
6. To enable effective partnership working from national to local level to maximise impact of available resources

There are a series of indicators in place to monitor delivery against these objectives and in summary, these cover: Hectares of woodland created or in active management; the quality of local rivers (associated with the Water Framework Directive and the Forest’s role in local Catchment Partnerships); Km of access routes created; Km hedges planted; Hectares of non-woodland habitat created or under conservation management; Number of volunteer days or events / activities; and an indicator of annual investment in the Community Forest.

The Thames Chase Community Forest is located on the edge of east London (within the London Borough of Havering and the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham) and has historically been viewed as the ‘Green Lung’ for the City. The alignment of the Community Forest’s objectives with those contained within the policies of the Draft New London Plan is obvious and the opportunity to maximise the Community Forest to deliver major elements of the London Plan should not be ignored.

The Thames Chase Plan embraces recent changes in knowledge, thinking and policy that extend beyond Forestry demonstrating how a Community Forest remains a very relevant proposition today. Recent planning reforms expressed through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) continue to recognise the ongoing role that Community Forests have to play in realising sustainable development. Paragraph 92 of the NPPF states that: “Community Forests offer valuable opportunities for improving the environment around towns, by upgrading the landscape and providing for recreation and wildlife. An approved Community Forest plan may be a material consideration in preparing development plans and in deciding planning applications.”

Consequently, the Thames Chase Plan sets out five Forest-wide programmes of delivery that are in alignment with the core aims of the NPPF: “Forestry; Landscape Regeneration; Access; People; Promotion”. These programmes not only encompass woodland and landscape regeneration, but also how that environment needs to be accessed and used by people to support health and wellbeing, education and economic growth. As well as echoing the ambition of the NPPF, the Community Forest Plan can also help strengthen Local Plan policies relating to these themes, supporting development of new Local Plans and development management decisions.

The relationship between the Thames Chase Plan and the Draft New London Plan

The Thames Chase Plan closely aligns with the following Draft New London Plan policies:

- Policy GG2 Making the best use of land
 - 1.2.1: TCCF has a role to play in protecting the green belt and providing green infrastructure for new homes / developments / communities
 - 1.2.4: TCCF has a role to play in connectivity and access
 - 1.2.6: TCCF is influential in biodiversity, green infrastructure and environmental issues on the edge of London
- Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city
 - 1.3.1: TCCF has a role to play in air quality, green space, climate change, social and community networks
 - 1.3.3: TCCF can provide these vital green spaces
- Policy GG6 Increasing efficiency and resilience
 - 1.5.3: TCCF can help with flood alleviation, climate change, and water management initiatives
- Policy D1 London’s form and characteristics
 - 3.1.4: Maximising urban greening
- Policy S4 Play and informal recreation
 - 5.4.2: TCCF has a proven record of success in connecting spaces, whether these be for play, informal recreation or wildlife
- Policy S5 Sports and recreation facilities
 - 5.5.8: TCCF has a close association with the Walk London Network. TCCF has a role to play in this initiative and is already host to the London LOOP
- Policy E10 Visitor Infrastructure
 - 6.10.1: London’s Visitor Economy. TCCF has a key role to play in providing this for Londoners.
- Policy E11 Skills and opportunities for all
- Policy HC1 Heritage conservation and growth
- Policy HC5 Supporting London’s culture and creative industries
- Policy G1 Green Infrastructure. TCCF is an integral part of London’s network of green and open spaces
- Policy G2 London’s Green Belt
- Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land
- Policy G4 Local green and open space
- Policy G5 Urban greening
- Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature
- Policy G7 Trees and woodlands
- Policy SI1 Improving air quality
- Policy SI5 Water infrastructure
- Policy SI10 Aggregates. There is a target of 1.75mt allocated to the London Borough of Havering. This local authority is a partner of the TCCF and as such, in partnership, we are well placed to work with the Mayor on this. The Forestry Commission Thames Beat Team is also located at the Forest Centre for the TCCF and they have a long and successful record of creating new Community Woodlands and green spaces on previous aggregate extraction (and in turn landfill) sites within the Forest. The FC will also be a key partner in this Policy.
- Policy SI12 Flood risk management. The Thames Chase Trust is co-host of the Roding, Beam & Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership with Thames21.
- Policy T3 Transport capacity, connectivity and safeguarding
- Policy T5 Cycling

We trust that the above provides sufficient detail to evidence the clear alignment between the Thames Chase Plan and the Draft New London Plan. The Thames Chase Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss the emerging

Plan in more detail and to explore how each of the identified examples herein can be developed to deliver real and lasting benefit for people and wildlife on the edge of east London and within the London Boroughs of Havering and Barking & Dagenham. The Thames Chase Plan can be viewed in full at: www.thameschase.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



This message has been scanned for viruses by the Greater London Authority.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.
