

London's Quality of Life Indicators 2008-09 Report

Executive Summary





London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC)

The Commission was established in 2002 to advise the Mayor of London on ways to make London a sustainable, world-class city. The Commission is an independent body challenging policy makers to promote a better quality of life for all Londoners, both now and in the future, whilst also considering London's wider global impacts.

In 2003, the Commission published 'A Sustainable Development Framework for London'. This provides decision and policy makers with fourteen overarching objectives that they should seek to achieve with any strategy, policy or project they wish to progress. These objectives relate to the Commission's four areas of sustainable development:

- Taking Responsibility for the impact of one's actions on other people and the environment, and thinking longer term;
- Developing Respect for London's diverse communities and for London's environment;
- Managing Resources more prudently to reduce London's environmental impact and;
- Getting Results, which achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives simultaneously to improve the quality of life of Londoners now and in the future.

One of the ways the LSDC assists London is to identify priorities for improving sustainability and to provide an overview of how well London is progressing against a core set of key sustainability indicators. This report is part of that assistance.



London Sustainable Development Commission

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Foreword

London is well placed to be the exemplary sustainable city the world looks to when it wants to know how to develop a sustainable future.

The sustainability of London, while having global implications, will significantly impact on the quality of life of those living here. For example we know poor air quality affects health and the ability of people to travel to work and school and participate in the labour market; we know that a lack of affordable childcare limits parents' ability to enter or re-enter the workforce, and that low levels of recycling mean opportunities to re-use waste as a resource are lost.

In 2004, the London Sustainable Development Commission produced the first report on London's Quality of Life Indicators. We are pleased to introduce our third report. This performs the vital task of helping us understand what progress has been made towards a more sustainable London and what more needs to be done.

London's size, scale, density and unique governance structures present particular challenges and opportunities in delivering sustainable development. In many areas it is still too early to tell whether London's performance is improving or not. That said, it is pleasing to note the early signs that concerted regional action is making a difference. Examples of this include the introduction of congestion charging, a focus on childcare, and recycling initiatives being championed by the Mayor.

On the other hand, there is clearly still much to do requiring sustained action from all sectors. This will require strong leadership from London's Mayor, its boroughs, Local Strategic Partnerships, businesses, the Voluntary and Community Sector and a range of public agencies. All are needed to create lasting improved change.

The Commission looks forward to working with this range of partners, especially pan-London bodies, who are vital in advancing the necessary rapid improvements in quality of life and sustainable development.

This report aims to inform and stimulate debate and, more importantly, lead to coordinated and sustained action to improve the quality of life of all Londoners, today and tomorrow.

Knowing is the first step towards taking effective action.

Paul de Zylva

Acting Chair, London Sustainable Development Commission (2008–09)

John Plowman

John Plowma

Chair, London Sustainable Development Commission



Executive Summary

How far are we from a sustainable London-a city that operates in harmony with the planet and supports its residents and businesses? That is the basic premise behind the London Sustainable Development Commission's (LSDC) third Quality of Life Indicators Report.

London is at a crucial point in its history having to deal with both the current economic downturn and issues like climate change - the single issue that makes us all think about our impact on the planet and change our behaviour. Both these issues demonstrate how environmental, social and economic issues are inextricably linked. For example, ensuring that our economy emerges stronger and more resilient to future shocks must require the development of a resource efficient, low carbon economy, which provides opportunities for all Londoners. Such integrated solutions will be key to securing a healthy environment for future generations, helping to make our city a just and equitable place by reducing social and economic inequalities, eradicating childhood poverty and improving overall quality of life.

The Commission has therefore chosen 23 headline indicators to capture the breadth of the challenges facing London and provide a simple yardstick of how London is performing against the measures of a well-functioning, healthy, safe and sustainable city.

The report will help key decision makers and stakeholders in London to better understand the links and inter-relationships between the indicators. We hope this will support more effective and coordinated decision-making whether by the Greater London Authority (GLA) group, local authorities, business or other organisations.

Key Issues

For the first time in this series, the Commission has highlighted a number of key issues, which, unless addressed, will seriously impact on Londoners' quality of life now and in the future. In identifying these broad issues we draw on the unique insights that the indicators provide. It is also worth reflecting that these are not the only issues facing London, just those cross cutting issues that have emerged from this new report. The report also identifies best practice where Londoners are already delivering as well as areas where understanding of the issues and how to address them needs to improve.

The Commission has identified the following key cross cutting issues:

- Consumption of resources and the resulting drag on our economy
- Threats to community cohesion
- Delivering change through innovative ways of working

Consumption of resources and the resulting drag on our economy

One of the key issues emerging from the suite of indicators is the need to reduce the impact of London's consumption of resources. This impact is felt within London, on the surrounding area and overseas. For example whilst carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions (indicator 13iii) have declined in London, much of this has been due to the trend in UK manufacturing moving overseas – so-called "off-shoring". This often results in more CO_2 emissions being associated with the production and transportation of goods, which are still consumed in London.



One of the most significant recent impacts on Londoners has been the effect of the global 'credit crunch' including falling house prices and lower consumer confidence. Prior to the recession, London faced rising commodity prices caused by increased demand for raw materials, including food and fuel, in part due to the rise in demand by new economic powerhouses such as China and India.

It is vital therefore that London emerges from the current downturn more efficient and resilient to: volatile commodity prices, increasing competition from new economic powerhouses, the effects of diminishing natural resources, climate change; and better able to reverse the polarisation between the rich and the poor. In short London urgently needs to find better ways of doing more with less.

Threats to community cohesion

A number of indicators within the report (such as worklessness, crime and income inequality) demonstrate factors that may undermine efforts to deliver the type of strong, resilient, cohesive communities that we all wish to live in. In turn this could further impact on our communities through, for example, a reduction in willingness to volunteer, increased crime, and a reluctance to set up businesses. Whilst it is still difficult to judge what Londoners think their neighbourhoods will look like in the future, and whether they will choose to live there, there is evidence that they are becoming more dissatisfied with their local neighbourhoods.

We recognise that experiences differ substantially amongst individuals, between communities and across different localities. However, what we all have in common is a desire to build a strong society where civility and courtesy are the norm, where people are at ease with change and are committed to being good neighbours and active citizens. A society where opportunities for advancement are

there for the taking and prosperity is more evenly distributed.

Cohesion is about people finding such ways to live with each other, and integrating through equality and understanding. Addressing these issues and improving cohesion will make a substantial contribution to overall sustainability and quality of life and deliver a city where people continue to want to live and work.

The need to deliver change through innovative ways of working

London by its nature and history is a complex city with a complex governance structure and many competing interests that make tackling sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all Londoners a difficult task.

Many of the issues affecting Londoners' quality of life are determined and influenced by many levels of government and the resulting solutions are often made and influenced by a number of key stakeholders. Subsidiarity – decision–making at the lowest possible level, has been put forward by many as a possible way to tackle sustainable development issues.

The partnerships and strategies that develop through a process of real participation with communities and stakeholders are key to successful and sustainable solutions to the problems facing society. Put simply, unless people feel they have played a part in determining programmes and policies that will affect their lives, all too often they feel no responsibility for their implementation. Various indicators show that Londoners are not as engaged as they perhaps could be. Indicators looking at electoral turnout and formal volunteering, show that although levels are increasing, London still lags behind the rest of the UK and Europe.



Next steps

Are these the correct key issues to identify as priorities for London? What case studies exist to illustrate solutions to the issues? And what actions will be required to solve these problems?

We want to hear your feedback on what you think of the indicators, the picture they show of progress, or otherwise against sustainability goals, and whether there are major barriers other than the ones identified here, that are impeding our ambition to become a world class sustainable city.

The Commission will use this information to inform its ongoing work programme and we will initiate a dialogue with key stakeholders in London to develop shared recommendations for action.

We will then produce a short report focussing particularly on the key issues, detailing best practice and setting a series of recommendations for action.

Contact us to give us your views and to obtain more copies of this report:

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Results

- significant change, in direction of meeting objective (improvement)
- on significant change (little or no change)
- significant change, in direction away from meeting objective (deterioration)
- insufficient or no comparable data





Results

Where is London doing well?

Compared with the results recorded in our 2005 Report, London has improved on 13 of the 23 indicators. Areas of notable improvement are:

- Percentage of pupils with 5 or more GCSEs (A*-C) – a real improvement from 52.9% to nearly 60% and London is now above the national average;
- Household recycling rates improvement of 9.7%;
- Crime levels continue to fall within London, reducing by 20% over the past 6 years.
 Substantial achievements have been made in reducing serious violence, knife and gun crime and burglary. Recent months have shown an increase in business crimes and this is thought to be linked to the recession:
- Bird populations an overall positive picture, with improvement from 115 to 131 on the Breeding Bird Index and a 31% increase in some common bird species;
- Carbon efficiency for London has improved considerably and more than in the rest of the UK regions;
- Life expectancy has improved and is higher than the UK average; and
- Air quality PM10 levels have improved.

Hidden issues

Despite these improvements, London still lags behind the national average on many indicators (see main report for details).

Good results on some indicators also 'hide' a number of issues – for example:

- Although child care places are increasing, the cost of child care remains high;
- Although GSCE results have improved across London as a whole, results for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups' results continue to be lower than average;
- Although life expectancy has improved and
 is above the UK average, disparities in life
 expectancy exist within and between boroughs.
 These differences reflect Londoners' differential
 access to the determinants of good health such
 as good housing, financial security, and access to
 health services. In many cases, neighbourhoods
 where people experience multiple forms of
 deprivation exist right beside relatively wealthy
 neighbourhoods;
- Although household recycling rates have improved, the amount of waste collected has also risen:
- Although carbon emissions have reduced, much of this is a result of a decline in manufacturing industries with London importing significant levels of goods from abroad; and
- Although London's air quality has improved, it is still the worst in the UK for most pollutants and has caused the first UK breaches of the EU limit values, which are designed to protect human health.



Where is London underperforming?

Five of the indictors show areas where quality of life is in decline. Others show no real overall improvement. Areas of notable decline (or underperformance) are:

- Satisfaction with living in London a fall from 75% to 73% in response to high costs of living and other factors:
- Percentage of children living in poverty –
 from 2004–07, there has been no sustained
 improvement since 2000, where two out of
 five children (41%) in London lived under the
 poverty line after accounting for housing costs.
 This accounts for over 650,000 children, the
 worst rate in the UK for child poverty. This is
 particularly acute in Inner London where nearly
 half (48%) of all children live in poverty after
 housing costs are taken into account;
- Income inequality percentage of people in bottom tenth and top tenth of income - this new indicator shows the large income gap prevalent within London compared with the rest of the UK;
- Travel to school a reduction from 50% to 44% in the number of children walking to school and an increase in the number travelling by car, though both were within 5% of the national average;
- Fuel poverty this new indicator shows that fuel poverty is getting worse in London. This is further exacerbated in London with its high housing costs compared to the rest of the UK;
- Housing affordability this new indicator shows that housing costs in London are higher than the rest of the UK and have been getting worse over the past few years (before the recent economic

downturn). The average mortgage payments, as a percentage of average working household income is 26.4% compared with the UK figure of 21.7%.



Table of Results

Is London heading in the right direction?

The 23 indicators in Table A have been chosen to reflect the integrated nature of sustainability and quality of life and capture the key challenges facing London. The indicators should not be considered in isolation but as an integrated 'basket' that reflect the strong links and impacts between each.

As well as ordering the table in terms of progress we have also highlighted the indicators in terms of whether they fit into social, environmental and economic issues and where they fit into the Commission's 4Rs - Responsibility, Respect, Resources and Results.

Key

The progress of each indicator is shown by one of the following symbols:

- Clear improvement
- Eittle or no change
- **Clear deterioration**
- Insufficient or no comparable data

Where indicators have changed or new ones included, attempts have been made to find data from previous years to show progress.



Indicator	Indicator	Measure in 2005 report	Measure in 2009 report	Movement / Progress	National average for 2009 report
1 Social/ Responsibility	Voting	37%	45%	Electoral turnout % Significant improvement at 8%, but still below national average. Mayoral elections are the source of the main improvement.	
2 Social/ Responsibility	Volunteering	37%	42%	Formal volunteering % Improvement at 5% but still marginally behind the national average.	44%
3 Social/ Responsibility	Childcare	14.9 per 100 70,900 places	15.8 per 100 81,900 places	Childcare nursery places per 100 children Significant improvement of 15.5% (comparing actual number of places). Despite the overall increase in the number of places available, the average costs of day nursery places in London are 20 to 25% higher than the England average.	20.7 per 100
4 (ii) Social/ Responsibility	Secondary Education	52.9%	59.4%	Percentage of pupils 5+ GCSEs A*-C Significant improvement at 6.5%. Percentage of pupils with 5 or more GCSEs. Overall GCSE results have improved in London, with increased numbers of pupils achieving higher grades across gender and ethnicity, building on the increases in previous years. The figure is above the national average.	59.1%
9 Social/ Respect	Crime	56,455	42,233	Number of street crimes reported Improving and real steady improvement in most areas.	
13 (iii) Environment/ Resources	CO ₂ Emissions	44.8 million tonnes in 2002	43.9 million tonnes	CO ₂ emissions Improving – emissions have generally decreased since 1990.¹	
14 (i) Environment/ Resources	Bird Populations	115 (Bird index)	131 (Bird index)	Bird populations Improving - Most bird populations are increasing at greater rates than in the rest of the English regions.	





Indicator	Indicator	Measure in 2005 report	Measure in 2009 report	Movement / Progress	National average for 2009 report
15 Environment/ Responsibility	Household Recycling	13.3%	22.9%	Household recycling rates Significant improvement at 9.6%, but still below national average.	30.9%
18 Environment/ Resources	Air Quality	2991 tonnes (2003)	2822 tonnes	${\rm PM_{10}}$ emissions Improving - Decline in ${\rm PM_{10}}$ emissions - but still the worst in the UK for most pollutants.	
20 Social/ Results	Life expectancy	80.8 women, 75.9 men	82.0 women, 77.4 men	Life expectancy at birth Improving and remains slightly higher than the UK average. However disparities exist between and within boroughs	
23 Economic/ Resources	Carbon Efficiency	252 tonnes	231 tonnes	Carbon emissions / Gross Value Added (GVA) £million Improving - London is more service-dominated than the rest of the UK and is more productive, generating increased output for each unit of CO ₂ emitted.	530 tonnes for UK
4 (i) Social/ Responsibility	Primary Education	100.3	100.3	Key Stage 2 Improvement measure No significant change - Key stage 2 Value added measure — 19 of London's 33 boroughs were in the 25% of local authorities with the highest value added scores from KS1 to KS2.	100.0
7 Economic/ Respect	Employment	∀ /Z	58% BAME, 69% all	Employment rates Changed Indicator - Insufficient/incomparable - During 2006, 69% of working-age Londoners were employed, compared with a national average of 75%. The employment rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Londoners averaged 58%. Between 2002-2006, overall employment rates in London have shown no improvement and the gap between rates in London and the rest of GB has remained wide, at around 5-6%.	75% all





Indicator	Indicator	Measure in 2005 report	Measure in 2009 report	Movement / Progress	National average for 2009 report
8 Economic/ Respect	Child Poverty	∀ /Z	41%	Percentage of London's children in income poverty Changed Indicator - Insufficient/ incomparable - Change in measure from '% of children living in workless households' to 'percentage of children in income poverty after housing costs are taken into account'. At 41% the highest level in the UK. There has been no consistent reduction in child poverty in the capital since the year 2000.	30%
16 Environment/ Resources	Traffic volumes	32.8 billion vehicle km	33.0 billion vehicle km	Traffic volumes No significant change – although nationally traffic volumes have increased by 4% during the same period.	
17 Environment/ Respect	Travel to School	50% walk, 20% bus, 22% car	44% walk, 23% bus, 26% car	Travel to School Mixed result - marginal increase in the number of children travelling by bus and slight increase in the number travelling by car. Decline in number of children walking to school.	46% walk, 31% car
19 Economic/ Results	Business Survival	63%	%29	Business Survival, Percentage of companies surviving 3 years later Improving. London's one-year survival rate has increased since 1999. However, it remains beneath that of the UK as a whole. (Figures are pre the present economic downturn).	71%
21 (i) Social/ Results	Decent Housing	64%	64%	Percentage of decent housing stock No change – London is unusual among the regions in seeing no significant increase between 2001 and 2003 in the proportion of decent homes. The figure remains below the UK average.	70% England
10 Social/ Respect	Neighbour- hood Satisfaction	75%	73%	Satisfaction with living in London Slight decrease in overall satisfaction.	





Indicator	Indicator	Measure in 2005 report	Measure in 2009 report	Movement / Progress	National average for 2009 report
11 Economic/ Respect	Income Inequality	A/N	16% in bottom 10%; 18% in top 10%	Percentage of Londoners in bottom 10% and top 10% of income New indicator - Getting worse - Percentage of people in bottom tenth and top tenth of income. Numbers in the top quintile and bottom quintile are both growing meaning increasing polarisation of income.	
12 Social/ Resources	Fuel Poverty	Not used 176,000 (2003)	518,000 – full income 760,000 – basic income	Number of households living in fuel poverty New indicator - Getting worse. The number of households in fuel poverty rose in 2005 and again in 2008.	8.4% of all households
13 (ii) Environment/ Resources	Waste	3,326,000 tonnes	3,390,000 tonnes	Waste (Household) Getting worse. Overall levels of waste are increasing although levels of municipal waste have decreased slightly.	
21 (ii) Social/ Results	Housing Affordability	A/N	26.4% of average working household income	Average mortgage payments as percentage of average working household income New indicator - Getting worse. With house prices increasing for over a decade until the recent downturn, housing has become progressively less affordable in London.	21.7%
5 Environment/ Responsibility	Green Procurement Code	397	550	Sign up to Mayor's Green Procurement Code Incomparable. Although Improving before change in criteria – in 2006 550 organisations had signed up to the Code. New Code introduced in 2007.	





Indicator	Indicator	Measure in 2005 report	Measure in 2009 report	Movement / Progress	National average for 2009 report
6 Social/ Responsibility	Physical Activity	Not used	20.2%	Percentage of Londoners participating in moderate exercise New indicator - Insufficient/incomparable - similar to national average. 20.2% of Londoners participated in 30 minutes of moderate exercise 3 times a week. However the 2007/08 participation figures represent a 1.08% decrease in participation compared with previous figures from 2005/06.	21.3%
13 (i) Environment/ Resources	Ecological Footprint	6.63 gha	5.48 gha	London's Ecological footprint ² Insufficient/incomparable - Not comparable with previous figures. However, if everybody used as many resources as are used in London we would need around three planets to survive.	5.30 gha
14 (ii) Environment/ Resources	Access to Nature	4 /Z	24,962	Hectares of London mapped as lying in an area of deficiency in access to nature New indicator - Insufficient/incomparable - 24,962 hectares of London are classed as areas of deficiency for access to nature.	
22 Environment/ Resources	Flooding	∀ /Z	460,000 properties at risk from flooding 24,000 properties registered to receive flood warnings.	Number of properties at risk from flooding and households signed up to flood warning system New indicator - Insufficient/incomparable — In 2007, 460,000 properties were at risk from tidal and fluvial flooding within Greater London. Of these, approximately 24,000 properties are registered to receive flood warnings through the Environment Agency's Flood Warning Service.	

The Ecological Footprint of a city is defined as the area of land and sea required to supply its population with resources, such as food or timber products, and to absorb its emissions and waste products.

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Chinese

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Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੈਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন্ নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Urdu

اگر آپ اِس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاھتے ھیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مر اسلة العنوان أدناه

Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઇતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાદ્યો.

