

## Securing the Future: The Gaps and Opportunities in London

### Summary Report

June 2007



In association with



London Sustainability Exchange

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**Acknowledgements**

This summary is based on 'Securing the Future: The Gaps and Opportunities in London', which was produced by London Sustainability Exchange for the London Sustainable Development Commission, in association with the Government Office for London, Forum for the Future and Community Environment Associates. The full report was completed in May 2006.

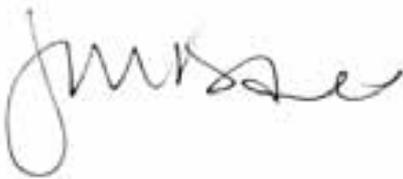
## foreword

The UK Government launched its new strategy for sustainable development, 'Securing The Future' in March 2005. This marked an important milestone for sustainability implementation and provided a greater emphasis on delivery at regional and local level.

This report, 'Gaps and Opportunities in London' assesses how London is tackling the Strategy's challenges and addressing its four priorities: sustainable production and consumption; climate change and energy; protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment, and sustainable communities. London is already leading the way in many of these areas, with a strong strategic response and policies in place to ensure delivery of the national strategy.

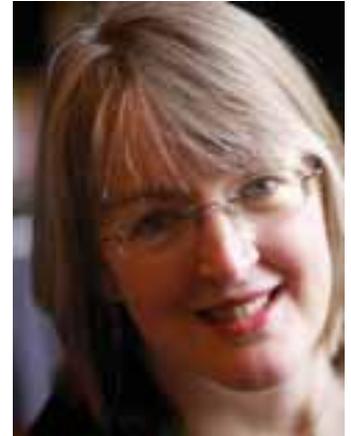
There has been considerable progress since this research was completed, in particular the development of high level sustainability indicators across the GLA Group to complement the London Sustainable Development Commission 20 headline quality of life indicators for London. However, whilst London has policies in place, our key challenge is the integration of different London strategies to ensure sustainable development delivery. For the London Sustainable Development Commission this is a key priority. This report is playing an important contribution to shaping the Commission's work programme and we have responded this year by focusing on sustainable consumption and production – one of the broad areas of work identified as needing further attention at both a strategic level and at delivery.

It is fundamental that the aspirations at a national level are translated and delivered at a regional and local level. Only by understanding where gaps and opportunities are in making these links can we continue to strive towards truly sustainable solutions – helping to make London a better place to live and work, strengthening our economic foundation and reducing our adverse impact on the planet.



**June Barnes**

Chair, London Sustainable Development Commission



## summary

This is a summary of research undertaken by the London Sustainability Exchange (LSx) for the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) and Government Office for London (GOL) in 2005–06. It assesses how London is tackling the challenges set out in the new national sustainability strategy, ‘Securing the Future’, identifies any gaps in London’s policy response and suggests where opportunities may occur. The report, entitled ‘Gaps and Opportunities’ was completed in May 2006.

*“Make the wrong choices now and future generations will live with a changed climate, depleted resources and without the green space and biodiversity that contribute both to our standard of living and our quality of life. Each of us needs to make the right choices to secure a future that is fairer, where we can all live within our environmental limits. That means sustainable development”.* Prime Minister Tony Blair; Foreword Securing the Future

### The national strategy

The Government published its new sustainable development strategy for the UK, ‘Securing the Future’ in March 2005. This strategy sets out five principles we need to follow if we are to deliver a sustainable future. These are:

#### *Living Within Environmental Limits*

Respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

#### *Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society*

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.

#### *Achieving a Sustainable Economy*

Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and efficient resource use is incentivised.

#### *Promoting Good Governance*

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity.

#### *Using Sound Science Responsibly*

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty

(through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.

**A Strategic Sustainability Framework for London**

In London, The Mayor tasked the LSDC to produce a Sustainable Development Framework for London<sup>1</sup>. This was published and adopted by the Mayor in 2003.

As a way of implementing the Framework, ‘Making your plans sustainable: a London Guide’<sup>2</sup> was produced by the LSDC in April 2004.

In 2004, the LSDC produced 20 headline quality of life indicators<sup>3</sup> to monitor London’s progress towards sustainability.

**The Mayor’s Strategies**

The Mayor is responsible for the co-ordination of strategic policy in London via the publication of a number of strategies. A total of 13 Mayoral strategies were reviewed by the LSx research:

The London Plan	Noise
Economic development	Food
Transport	Energy
Municipal waste	Children
Air quality	Older People
Culture	Tourism
Biodiversity	

In addition, other Mayoral strategies have been issued, or are being developed, but were not considered in detail by this research. Following the 2006 Review of Powers, the Mayor will be responsible for additional strategies including Housing, Skills, Health Inequalities and Climate Change Adaptation.

**The research findings – a comparison of national and London priorities**

The research concluded that London, with the Mayor’s strategies and appropriate supplementary planning guidance, has, for the most part, appropriate policies in place that should ensure the delivery of the national strategy. The national strategy identifies four priorities: these are set out in table 1 below, together with a summary of London’s strategic response.

**Table 1 Comparison of national and London priorities**

<b>National priority</b>	<b>London priority/response</b>
<p><b>Sustainable Production and Consumption</b>            “We now need a wider and more developed approach that focuses across the whole life cycle of goods, services and materials, also includes economic and social impacts, and in particular encompasses impacts outside the UK.”</p>	<p>Municipal Waste Strategy and development of Wider Waste Strategy            Mayor’s Green Procurement Code and London Remade Energy Strategy            Transport Strategy, London Plan and Economic Development Strategy            London Innovations Strategy            London Sustainability Weeks            London Fairtrade City campaign            London Principles</p>
<p><b>Climate Change &amp; Energy</b>            “Sustainable development and climate change are two vitally important and interrelated challenges facing us in the 21st century”.            In 2003, the UK Government committed to the long-term goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent by 2050 with real progress by 2020.</p>	<p>Energy Strategy            Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (in development)            London Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Design and Construction            Climate Change Agency Partnerships (Energy, Hydrogen, Renewables, Climate Change Adaptation)</p>
<p><b>Protecting our natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment</b>            “The demands made on natural resources continue to grow as people’s desire to consume more is coupled with a rise in population”.            Mayor’s environmental strategies (biodiversity, energy, air quality, noise, waste)</p>	<p>Water Action Framework (in development)            Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (in development)            Ecological footprinting (in State of the Environment Report)            Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment undertaken on strategies and programmes, based on LSDC framework</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Communities</b>            “The drive to improve neighbourhood participation, address inequalities and support delivery at the local level is at the heart of the Sustainable Communities agenda”</p>	<p>London Plan, Transport Strategy and Economic Development Strategy            London Councils/GOL/LSDC work on LAAs            MPS work tackling crime            Children’s Strategy, Older People’s Strategy            Food Strategy.            Capital Standards            Mayoral commissions on sustainable development, health, equalities and child poverty.</p>

In addition to stressing the overall need for better integration across strategies to ensure we deliver sustainable development, the research focused on four key areas where London could improve its contribution to the national strategy:

- Ensure that London is monitoring its progress and impact against all high-level targets and using appropriate appraisal frameworks;
- Develop a more cohesive unified response to address sustainable production and consumption, drawing on the policies and targets developed in the major strategies, making full use of procurement policies and working with the retail and finance sectors;
- Encourage behavioral change to ensure London meets climate change targets;
- Develop a more coherent approach to addressing poverty and inequality in the capital, which brings in issues of deprivation and environmental justice.

A full list of recommendations is set out in Annex 1.

### **Progress on key areas**

Since the completion of the research, there has been considerable progress on a number of key areas covered by the recommendations. In particular:

- Development of high level sustainability indicators across the GLA Group to complement the LSDC 20 headline quality of life indicators for London;
- Implementation of a GLA Group sustainable procurement policy;
- Projects funded by the Defra Innovation fund including procurement and sustainable consumption/production;
- Development of a GLA Group Climate Change Action Plan;
- Development of 'DIY Planet' and 'Footsteps of a Generation' environmental sustainability promotional campaigns;
- Setting up the Mayor's London Child Poverty Commission;
- Emergence of new powers for the Mayor on skills, housing and planning.

## annex 1 - recommendations

- 1 London should develop a more cohesive and unified approach to sustainable consumption, drawing on the policies and targets developed in the major strategies. London should respond to and coordinate with the Sustainable Consumption and Production Task Force on a Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan.
- 2 In order to fulfill the objectives of the NSDS the revisions of the London Plan and other pertinent strategies should indicate how the concept of environmental limits and social justice has been taken into account.
- 3 London should prepare a specific response (preferably through existing groups) to the Sustainable Procurement Task Force and Action Plan due to be launched in the autumn.
- 4 The opportunities arising from fair trade should be considered and encouraged by the London Business Community and other agencies, in order to move it to the mainstream.
- 5 London initiatives need to be integrated to engage with businesses under the one banner as supported by the London Development Agency promoted Green Business Brand. This work should support the coordination of businesses approach to sustainable practices including drivers and incentives. There is also strong evidence to suggest that such business advice should be sector specific.
- 6 Current sustainability guidance on construction in London should be broadened to include social as well as environmental objectives to provide a cohesive sustainable development approach for the construction industry.
- 7 The GLA should work with GLA Economics to expand their recent work on the retail sector to include policies on sustainable retail. The Mayor should investigate opportunities for a sustainable lifestyles campaign for London.
- 8 The London Sustainable Development Commission should work with Visit London to consider what a sustainable tourism sector for London might look like including discussion on what the key performance indicators should be.
- 9 Design, Media and Fashion work could play an important role in making environmental awareness and sustainable development more appealing to a wider public.

- 10 Any wider work to engage with the finance sector by the Mayor should bring together policies in this area, as part of its remit.
- 11 London has benefited from some groundbreaking work on climate change from the GLA. In order to take this work further and provide the leadership and framework on carbon savings that London needs; the Functional Bodies and the boroughs should set devolved targets on carbon that relate to the Mayor's targets as set out in the London Plan.
- 12 The Defra Climate Change Awareness initiative should be a good catalyst to linking up the multiplicity of good initiatives in London. The London Climate Change Partnership and the London Energy Partnership are best placed to work with change agents and the boroughs to maximise this opportunity. Exactly how the London Plan has supported the take up of renewables and energy saving in London should be publicised.
- 13 There should be an ongoing regional reporting structure audit to establish to what extent Biodiversity Action Plans are taken into account in planning decisions.
- 14 The London Parks and Open Spaces Forum could deliver strategic funding advice and support similar to that provided by the London Recycling fund. The ODPM (now Communities and Local Government) should be approached to consider this option.
- 15 Since access to open space is closely linked to quality of life and health, it is appropriate that functional bodies should consider adopting a mainstream target based on access to open space for regeneration schemes.
- 16 There is a good opportunity here for Londoners to be actively engaged with improving their health by supporting the Low Emission Zone. Transport for London could lead a public awareness campaign with the London Health Commission and the LSDC.
- 17 London's Water Resources Group is well placed to contribute to the deliberations on a national target by considering regional implications. The Research and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) model may be a useful tool that the water resources group can use in developing a target.
- 18 Relevant London agencies should engage in the current sustainability consultation process and support the Water Services Regulation Authority in its statutory duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

- 19 The LSDC framework could be used to measure how well London's government and other relevant agencies are delivering sustainable communities, perhaps by taking the Local Area Agreements as a starting point. The LSDC should continue to champion the role of LAAs in embedding sustainable development at a local level, including the development of an appropriate monitoring framework for assessing whether this is occurring.
- 20 Work integrating poverty and inequalities into sustainable communities and strategic planning needs to be consistently coordinated.
- 21 In line with recommendation 20, the LSDC should work with the Metropolitan Police Service and TfL, building on their current work on reducing car accidents, policing low emission zones and the inclusion of environmental justice in their objectives. (And then encourage other functional bodies and the boroughs to consider how environmental justice is included in their work.)
- 22 Any revisions or strengthening of the Regional Skills and Learning structures should not jeopardise implementation across London of the Learning and Skills Council Sustainable Development Strategy and should in fact support this.
- 23 Sustainability appraisal methodology and application should be continually improved to reflect the integrated thinking of the London Sustainable Development Commission Framework.

## notes

- 1 LSDC Framework: [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm\\_framework.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm_framework.jsp)
- 2 Making your plans sustainable: a London Guide: [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm\\_guide.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm_guide.jsp)
- 3 Quality of Life Indicators: [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm\\_indicators.jsp](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/sustainable-development/susdevcomm_indicators.jsp)

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### Vietnamese

Tiếng Việt  
Nếu bạn muốn bản sao của tài liệu này bằng  
ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi điện theo số hoặc  
liên lạc với địa chỉ dưới đây.

### Greek

Αν θα θέλατε ένα αντίγραφο του  
παρόντος εγγράφου στη γλώσσα  
σας, παρακαλώ να τηλεφωνήσετε  
στον αριθμό ή να επικοινωνήσετε  
στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

### Turkish

Bu broşürü Türkçe olarak edinmek  
için lütfen aşağıdaki numaraya  
telefon edin ya da adrese başvurun.

### Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕੋਪੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪਤਾ 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

### Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज़ की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं,  
तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नम्बर पर फोन करें अथवा दिये  
गये पता पर सम्पर्क करें।

### Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই নথির প্রতিলিপি  
(কপি) চান, তা হলে নিচের ফোন নম্বরে  
বা ঠিকানার অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

### Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے  
ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں  
یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

### Arabic

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ચાહો છો, તો કૃપા કરીને નીચેના નંબર પર  
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