

**From:** Becky Porter <executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk>  
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## **A City for All Londoners**

### **London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) response 9 December 2016**

The London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) welcomes the Mayors commitment to protecting and enhancing London's environment during his time in office, and his key twin environmental objectives to make the city healthy, resilient and fair, and to make it resource efficient, low carbon and green.

Achieving the ambition of London being 'the greenest of all global cities' in the context of trying to resolve the housing crisis in London, and encouraging growth and providing an adequate transport system is not without challenge, but we support the document in its transparency in recognising that these policy directions create competing demands on space in London.

Trees will be a critical component of many of the forthcoming strategies, not least the environment strategy, given their cost effectiveness in providing multiple benefits to environmental quality, biodiversity and sustainability.

As new policies are drafted for the London plan and the forthcoming strategies, the LTOA encourages the Mayor to create policies which:

- ensure new development provides adequate space to retain existing valuable trees and provide sufficient space for new tree planting;
- keep existing trees healthy by promoting good tree management practices and supporting strict biosecurity arrangements, to ensure that the pressure on existing trees do not result in inappropriate loss of mature trees and consequentially a permanently juvenile urban forest;
- support new tree planting in the public realm;
- ensure local authorities have sufficient resources to deliver mayoral tree protection and tree planting objectives; and
- support local authority tree officers as the most appropriate people to manage trees - a healthy population of trees relies on a healthy population of tree officers.

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Becky Porter  
Executive Officer

Postal Address:  
London Tree Officers Association  
Arboricultural Services  
Sustainability and Green Space

Supporting Communities

Camden Town Hall

Judd Street

London

WC1H 9JE

Phone: 0207 974 4124  
Mobile: 07771 976238  
Email: [executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk](mailto:executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk)  
Website: [www.ltoa.org.uk](http://www.ltoa.org.uk)

The communications element of the LTOA is kindly sponsored by Barcham Trees

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