

From: Richard Barnes <RichardBarnes@woodlandtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 08 December 2016 17:30
To: Your Views
Cc: governmentrelations@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Subject: A City for All Londoners - feedback from the Woodland Trust

Dear Madam/Sir,

I'm responding on behalf of the Woodland Trust to the request for feedback on *A City for All Londoners*.

By way of an introduction, the Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity and aims to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future. We do this by restoring and improving woodland biodiversity and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woods and trees. We own over 1,250 sites across the UK (including four in London) covering over 23,580ha (from 0.06 to 4,875 ha). We have an estimated 25,000 members in London, and provide free tree packs to schools and community groups in London.

The Trust is delighted to see recognition of the valuable contribution of trees to the quality of life in London, on Page 57 in the *Integration* paragraph. However, I was hoping to see more on how the current Mayoral *Biodiversity Strategy* and *London Tree and Woodland Framework* would be carried forward into the new single integrated environment strategy. The value and influence of these existing policy documents on local authorities (and other organisations with a role in improving London's environment) should not be under-estimated.

Looking forward, there are a few specific strategic headlines that could be incorporated into the next iteration of *A City for All Londoners*, and followed through in the detail of the new London plan, and integrated environment strategy:

1 Protection of London's existing irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland, and veteran trees found outside ancient woodland.

The Trust is aware of over 600 ancient woodlands under threat from development in the UK, and it is only a matter of time before this occurs in London, given the intense pressure for housing and associated infrastructure.

Therefore the London Plan should send a clear of no loss of ancient woodland, and the Mayor should have call-in powers to decide any development affecting ancient woodland.

2 Establishing a clear target on increasing canopy cover and an associated delivery strategy to achieve this.

The Trust is pleased to note the renewed commitment to increasing London's canopy cover to 25% by 2025, but feels this should be stated in *A City for All Londoners*.

Furthermore, there is no clear baseline of existing canopy cover, with estimates varying from 20 to 22.5 %. Nonetheless, every 1% increase equates to 1,572 ha of extra canopy cover. Therefore a delivery strategy, and a funding commitment, are required to fulfil the Mayor's ambition.

Part of such a strategy should be consideration of increasing Londoners' "Access to Nature", as detailed in current London Plan Policy 7.19, and further explained in the London Plan Implementation Report *Improving Londoners' Access to Nature* (GLA, February 2008: www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/uploads-access-to-nature.pdf). The Trust has produced the Woodland Access Standard (Woodland Trust, 2015: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2015/02/space-for-people/), now adopted by the Forestry Commission, and has information at a London borough level of where deficiencies in access to woodland lie, which should help inform the creation of new wooded open spaces as part of your approach to reducing areas of deficiency.

Since the Woodland Trust would like to plant 64 million trees across the UK by 2025, and has considerable experience in woodland creation, we would be happy to offer our expertise as a delivery partner.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on *A City for All Londoners*, I look forward to hearing about the Mayor's future

strategy documents.

Best regards,
Richard

Richard Barnes MCIEEM, CBiol, MRSB

Senior Conservation Advisor, Government Affairs Officer - London & Herts

t: 0343 770 5821 | m: 07881 836 138

e: RichardBarnes@woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL

t: 01476 581 111

w: woodlandtrust.org.uk



Life's better with trees

The Woodland Trust is a charity registered in England (No. 294344) and in Scotland (No. SC038885).

A non-profit making company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No. 1982873.

Registered Office: Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

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

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