

London Sustainable Development Commission Annual Report 2004/5



Sustainable Development is simply about achieving a better quality of life for Londoners, both now and in the future.

Sustainable development requires the achievement of economic, social, and environmental objectives simultaneously, and means that we all need to:

Take Responsibility for the impact of our actions, and think longer term,

Develop Respect for London's diverse populations, and its environment,

Manage Resources natural and built more prudently,

Achieve Results. long term sustainable



A Vision for a Sustainable London

Our thinking and decision-making will be long-term, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own

needs. This means ensuring that the ways in which we live, work and play will not interfere with nature's inherent ability to sustain life.

The Sustainable Development Challenge

How London grows and develops affects all of us, whether we live, work, study, or choose to spend our leisure time in London. London's growth also affects the lives of others much further afield as the wider impacts of our actions are felt nationally, and even globally.

Small changes in how you live your life, or how your organisation operates, can make big differences. Turning lights off when you leave the building, for example, can create energy savings for you, or your organisation, and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere, which contributes to our changing climate.

Even bigger differences can be made through integrating sustainable development principles into organisational strategies, structures, and processes. Organisations which advance economic, social and environmental goals simultaneously, tend to be more successful, and help to create the changes necessary for our city to prosper.

Sustainable Development is relevant to us all, and requires us all to act to make a difference.

The London Sustainable Development Commission encourages you to take up the challenge, to work towards creating a London fit for the future.

The Commission

The London Sustainable Development Commission comprises 24 Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor to advise on sustainability issues in London.

Commissioners bring a range of skills and expertise in economic, social and environmental issues, and work across London's voluntary, public, and private sector, together with governance interests.

Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor as individuals, who perform their role in a voluntary capacity, with the exception of the Association of London Government, London Assembly, Transport for London and London Development Agency, who appoint representatives.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Commission firmly backs the London bid, and is of the view that the Olympic and Paralympic Games present an unrivalled opportunity to create lasting economic, social and environmental opportunities and a legacy for future generations of Londoners, with positive impacts far beyond London's boundaries.

Over the last year...

The Commission worked with the London 2012 team helping to integrate sustainability considerations into the plans for the Games, to fulfil the aspiration for it to be a truly sustainable Games. The Commission also participated

in the International Olympics Committee's visit in February 2005.

Over the next year...

Should the International Olympic Committee decide that London will host the Games in 2012, the London Sustainable Development Commission will play an independent monitoring role of the sustainability of the Games.



Air Travel

The Commission's report 'The impacts of air transport on London' was launched in April 2004, and found that the case for airport expansion in the South East had not yet been proven.

The report attracted a lot of interest, including receiving multiple mentions at London Assembly meetings, and a full page of coverage in the Evening Standard.



Economic Development

Over the last year...

The London Development Agency published their revised Economic Development Strategy 'Securing Success' in January 2005. The Commission had substantial involvement with the new strategy to deliver economic growth which is socially inclusive and has no adverse environmental impacts.

Key commitments are contained in the new strategy, which are designed to help London to become a more sustainable city.

Over the next year...

The Commission will work with the London Development Agency as the strategy is implemented to help deliver the sustainable development objectives contained within it.

LONDON
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Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit

In January 2005, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister held an international Summit focused on sustainable communities.

The Commission was one of the London partners represented at the Summit.

The London stand focused on sustainable development and a key component was structured around the four Sustainable Development Framework 'R's.

The Commission held a stakeholder networking event at the Summit which attracted some 40 people. Here the Commission highlighted their work in London, and provided a platform for the London

Climate Change Partnership to launch their consultation document 'Adapting to Climate Change, A Checklist for Developers'. Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor of London spoke at the event, who gave the audience an overview of the new London Climate Change Agency.

Commissioners also participated in workshops at the Summit, with Samantha Heath speaking at a workshop on 'Can Growth be Green', and Pamela Castle answering questions at a Masterclass, where the Mayor of London gave a speech detailing London's approach to creating sustainable communities.



A Sustainable Development Framework for London

'A Sustainable Development Framework for London' (Framework) was published in 2002 and forms the overarching framework for integrating sustainable development into decision and policy making in London. It contains 14 objectives which need to be achieved for London to become a sustainable city.

Over the last year...

Commissioners actively promoted the London Sustainable Development Framework at various events and meetings including those with central government, social enterprises, agencies in the construction industry, and the ODPM international Summit to name a few.

The Mayor adopted the Framework in April 2004 to inform policy and decision-making at the GLA.

The Commission worked closely with the London Health Commission (LHC) who have led the development of Integrated Impact Assessment methodology. Integrated Impact Assessment incorporates Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This new methodology was structured around the objectives of 'A Sustainable Development Framework for London' and has been used to

carry out assessments of the London Plan Sub-regional Development Frameworks.

Following useful feedback from users of the Framework, a section of the Framework was amended in 2004, in order to create greater clarity regarding the Respect objectives.

Over the next year...

More organisations in London need to incorporate 'A Sustainable Development Framework for London' into their organisational decision making processes, and project planning.

Pan London agencies, Local authorities, Business Leaders, and the Voluntary sector all have a key role to play in promoting the objectives contained within the Framework.

Organisations are encouraged to make use of this Framework, and its supporting toolkit 'Making your plans sustainable: A London Guide.'

Guide

The Commission published guidance on how to make projects sustainable in June 2004.

This booklet contains some 50 practical questions for professionals to ask themselves when designing a project, to help create successful projects which have beneficial social, economic and environmental outcomes.

An example of the use of the guidance was the bid to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London.



The Commission undertook a sustainability appraisal of the 2012 bid, assessing the bid against the 50 questions contained within the Commission's guidance booklet. This led to key commitments around sustainable development being included in the candidature file.

'London is a world city, with potential to act as a catalyst for action on sustainable development. We look forward to continuing our work over the coming years, and encourage you all to play your part in helping London to become a more sustainable city.'

Pamela Castle and Samantha Heath
Co-Chairs of the
London Sustainable Development Commission

Quality of Life in London

Over the last year...

In April 2004, the Commission launched a report into Quality of Life in London, which set a baseline from which we can monitor progress over the coming years.

The 2004 report showed that there is a long way to go for Londoners to improve the degree to which they take responsibility for the impacts of their actions, in order to reduce our use of natural resources, and to decrease poverty and inequality in London.

Over the next year...

We will monitor progress against these quality of life indicators, including producing a first update in 2005.

Commission priorities

Before

During the first Mayoral term, the Commission's focused its efforts on integrating economic, social and environmental considerations into the Mayoral strategies.

Moving forward

The Commission's work will now increasingly focus on working with others to achieve sustainable outcomes for London, advising where appropriate, and encouraging others to take forward the sustainable development agenda themselves.

The Commission held a stakeholder networking event in June 2004 at London's City Hall, with some 250 guests present, representing key decision and policy makers across London.



Transport in London

Over the last year...

Transport for London used methodology based on 'A Sustainable Development Framework for London' to carry out a sustainability appraisal of the western extension of the congestion charging zone.

Over the next year...

The Commission will work with Transport for London on the sustainable development aspects of major transport projects, and to continue to embed sustainability considerations into their methods of working.



London's growth

Over the last year...

The Commission commented on a number of Supplementary Planning Guidance documents to the London Plan over the last year.

Over the next year...

The Commission will work with the London Plan team on the consultation on new draft 'Supplementary Planning Guidance on Sustainable Design and Construction'.



UK Sustainable Development Strategy

Over the last year...

A new UK Strategy on Sustainable Development 'Securing the Future' was published on the 7th March.

Commissioners played an active part in the consultation on the strategy in 2004, chairing and participating in the steering group for the London regional consultation, and submitting a written response.

Over the next year...

The Commission looks forward to working with central government and the national Sustainable Development Commission on the implications of this new strategy for the London region.



Changes in the Commission over the last year

The Mayor initially appointed the Commission for a term of two years ending in June 2004. The appointments were extended by six months to the end of October 2004, and in November 2004 the Mayor reappointed the Commission for his second Mayoral term.

There are normally 24 Commissioners, and the Commission hopes to shortly announce new Mayoral appointees to fill the vacant positions.

A few thank yous

This year has seen changes in the membership of the Commission.

We would like to thank all Commissioners for their enthusiasm, hard work, and commitment to the Commission's objectives over the Commission's first term.

In particular, we would like express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ian Coull, who stood down from his position as Co-Chair in Autumn 2004.

Commissioners

Pamela Castle OBE (Co-Chair)
Samantha Heath (Co-Chair from Nov 04)
Ian Coull (Co-Chair until Nov 04)
Paul de Zylva
Prof Nigel Bell
Dinah Cox
Penny Shepherd MBE
Chris Birks
Peter Head OBE
Sue Riddlestone
June Barnes
Dr Robin Stott
David Fell
Dr Joanne Wade
Simon Woolley
Tom Burke
Rachel Crossley (until Nov 04)
Prof Shirley Ali Kahn (until Nov 04)
Victor Anderson (until Nov 04)
Reverend Dick Johnson (until Nov 04)

Mike Tuffrey (from Nov 04), London Assembly
Ros Dunn (from Nov 04), London Development Agency
Paul Greenwood (until Nov 04), London Development Agency
Barry Broe (from Nov 04), Transport for London
Cllr Andrew Judge (from Nov 04), Association of London Government
Cllr Sidney Kallar (until Nov 04), Association of London Government

Penny Bramwell (Observer), Government Office for London
John Duffy (from Nov 04), (Observer), Greater London Authority
David Goode (until Nov 04), (Observer), Greater London Authority



Copies of all of the Commission's documents can be obtained by contacting the Secretariat, or through downloading from the Commission's webpages.

London Sustainable
Development Commission
Secretariat
PP18, Greater London
Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Tel: 020 7983 4304
Email:
paula.hirst@london.gov.uk

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone said:

'As London grows we need to develop in a way that benefits the next generation of Londoners as well as those of us living here today. In November 2004, I was pleased to be able to reappoint the London Sustainable Development Commission for a second term and I hope to see them carrying forward their agenda to make sustainable development central to decision and policy making for growth in London'.

www.london.gov.uk/londonissues/sustainability.jsp