

Environment Scrutiny Commission

Tuesday 3 December 2024
7.00 pm
160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
4.	Minutes The minutes of the meetings held on 22 July 2024 and 14 October 2024 are enclosed, as well as an appendix setting out the amendments agreed to the Biodiversity report.	1 - 37
6.	Wheels for Well-being Director, Isabelle Clement, Wheels for Well-being will present. The presentation is enclosed. The item will be conducted as part of a roundtable to provide evidence for the Environmental Health scrutiny review.	38 - 48
7.	JoyRiders Mariam Draaijer, Chief Executive , JoyRiders will present. JoyRiders is a not-for-profit CIC that runs casual led-rides, learn-to-ride sessions and Dr Bike to encourage more people to take up riding a bike as a form of transport. JoyRiders are in receipt of funding to run family and women only learn-to-ride and led rides with qualified cycling instructors in Burgess Park.	

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Date:

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	The item will be conducted as part of a roundtable to provide evidence for the Environmental Health scrutiny review.	
11.	Work Programme	49 - 56



ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Environment Scrutiny Commission held on Monday 22 July 2024 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Margy Newens (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Anna Colligan
Simon Saville
Councillor Hamish McCallum

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

OFFICER & Diana Wallace, Community Learning and Engagement Officer ,
PARTNER London Wildlife Trust
SUPPORT: Jane Lilley, the acting Head of Learning and Engagement,
London Wildlife Trust
Jack McKenna, Senior Public Affairs Manager UK and Ireland,
Lime
Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
Gillian Boundy, Senior Public Health Programme Manager –
Place and Health Improvement
Julie Timbrell, Project Manager, scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bethan Roberts , Sabina Emmanuel and Leo Pollak.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

5. LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST: CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE GARDENING

The chair welcomed Diana Wallace, Community Learning and Engagement Officer and Jane Lilley, the acting Head of Learning and Engagement, and invited them to present on volunteering and learning sessions at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening, base in East Dulwich, and the London wide 'Nature in Mind 'project.

Wildlife gardening

Diana Wallace, Community Learning and Engagement Officer, explained there are various session held at the Centre for Wildlife gardening in East Dulwich These include schools, as well as sessions for people with learning disabilities, and older people. There are also dedicated volunteers. Wildlife gardening is particularly special as people observe nature unfolding. People with autism in particular benefit.

'Nature in mind ' .

Jane Lilley, the acting Head of Learning and Engagement, explained this happens in Walthamstow. The project works with people on the CAMHS green list while waiting further mental health care. There are two age groups (under and over 11). The sessions

are good for life skills, using skills (practical and personal) and providing a perspective. Sessions are often not taken up by schools as wildlife is not part of the curriculum.

The chair then invited questions and the following points were made:

- A member asked how the London Wildlife Trust work with a diverse demographic? The staff explained that there are many nature reserves and there can be different barriers at each one. The London Wildlife Trust have started a paid traineeship.
- One issue can be the background of London residents and if nature has not been introduced by parents and grandparents, which can be more likely in an urban environment. This can mean that young people are less familiar with wildlife and so there is a focus on family learning. Children often go home with enthusiasm, which the Wildlife Trust hope is infectious, and it often is.
- There was a comment that green spaces are not perceived as for all. The London Wildlife Trust staff agreed and said that they reach out as stewards of this land to welcome all the community. The conduct outreach to work with mosques, the Spanish and Latin American community, and go to Children Centres. There is a lot of outreach.
- The Centre for Wildlife Garden is based in East Dulwich and was fought for by local people and now run by London Wildlife Trust as well as other sites across London, and woodlands in Southwark.
- Members asked about links with the local authority as many primary schools are still maintained. The London Wildlife Trust conduct outreach to local schools, e.g. Brunswick and family centres.
- Members asks how Southwark might have a Nature in Mind project in Southwark and the London Wildlife Trust said that the organisation would like to see them everywhere.
- There was a discussion on encouraging wildlife with its messiness and the advantages of wildlife networks. It was noted that Lambeth Council stopped spraying pesticides, and promoted interest in volunteer plants and also encouraged No Mow May, with a mown strip to indicate this is deliberate.

The London Wildlife Trust staff highlighted that this has been a disastrous year for insects. Some schools do have raised beds and are encouraging wildlife areas. Children do love finding wildlife - a slug can be a delight. Over time people are coming round as there is more understanding across generations.

- The London Wildlife Centre staff were asked how they conduct education on climate change. They explained that there is some work on this topic but there is limited time, and the additional issue of being sensitive to eco anxiety. The centre offers a stand-alone lesson, and there are also nuggets of information that are weaved in rather than the apoplectic adult conversations. Children are all very aware already.

6. HEALTHY WEIGHT

The chair invited Public Health officers to provide a presentation on the Healthy Weight Strategy with particular reference to active travel and green spaces, in order to support the proposed review on Environmental Health : the health and wellbeing impacts of active travel.

The following officers presented:

- Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
- Gillian Boundy, Senior Public Health Programme Manager – Place and Health Improvement

The chair invited questions and the following points were made:

- A member commented that given inactivity is so linked to income deprivation and poor housing are we tinkering round the edges and putting the cart before the horse by focusing on activities rather than tackling the causes of deprivation. Officers agreed that this is very much about deprivation, and this is why the partnership approach is about Public Health being part of housing and planning health interventions focused on those areas, including council housing and specific programmes. Public Health is very much focused on the wider determinants of health and inequality.
- There was a discussion on poverty and cultural sensitivity. Public Health spoke about delivering culturally specific activities, so for example programmes tailored to the Latin American community and older black men, which provides

tailored information on diet and exercise. Public Health are also working with black majority churches and have co designed a programme as it is recognising these are community leaders. Public Health have also worked with pregnant women. The approach is focused on keeping in mind what is suitable with different groups, for example people living with food insecurity and how to provide culturally appropriate information on diet and meal preparation. There is also work with schools.

- Members commented that some demographics are less likely to walk and cycle, and there can be cultural as well as practical barriers. One issue is that if people in a small flats and cannot store a bike. The Public Health director said there are lots of barriers based on gender, class, age, ethnicity etc. The approach is to work with groups over time to find out what they want. One example was that an older group of men wanted a dedicated gym class so they would not feel self-conscious.
- Public health were asked if there was a causal relationship between obesity and deprivation or are there other underlying factors. Officers referred to diagrams in the presentation and how different factors interacted. Deprivation is a strong factor , but it is possible to be wealthy and obese.
- Members asked about the School Superzones and how these can be enhanced and increased. Officers said that the Superzones is being formally evaluate by GLA, and the council expect to get feedback in terms of what is working well and not so well. Public Health also draws on national research.
- One member commented that some people are exhausted from working and in those situations cycling and walking is the last thing on their minds. Another member spoke about how active travel has the advantage of being possible to integrate in people's lives in a way that a visit to the gym or swimming cannot be.
- Public Health spoke about the importance of working with people not doing any exercise at all as these are most at risk of poor health outcomes.

7. **SCRUTINY REVIEW: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH-THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPACTS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO NATURE**

The chair explained that this item will consider the proposed scrutiny review topic of 'Environmental Health: The health and wellbeing impacts of active travel and improved access to nature and how these can be extended through our borough'.

Members were invited to make any comments on the review scope, listed under item 10.

Lime

The chair welcomed Jack McKenna, Senior Public Affairs Manager UK and Ireland, Lime, and invited him to provide a summary of the paper circulated with the agenda.

Members were then invited to ask questions and the following points were made:

- Lime is seeing a 50% growth in routes in Southwark, and that is in large part because of the flexible street parking policy.
- The majority of journeys are by commuters and consistent users – these are early morning on office days and last mile journeys, including to train stations. Many users are using passes.
- There are two types of parking for Lime EV E-Bikes and scooters: considerate street parking (Flexible Parking Zone) and set bays (Mandatory Parking Zones). Different boroughs have different rules. In Southwark parking is on bays in high use areas but in other areas people just need to park considerately on the street. The users have to provide a photo to show how they have parked.
- Inconsiderate parking is dealt with by Lime through progressive sanctions. Lime has to comply through a Service Level Agreement with Southwark Council's conditions. Lime meet with officers to discuss performance. 92% of bikes are considerately parked.
- Members spoke about the pros and cons of street parking. The impact of bikes discarded on pavements and bad parking can mean cluttering the pavement up and reducing accessibility for the mobility impaired, buggies, and wheelchair users. However, the advantages of flexible street

parking are that women in particular feel safer being able to start and finish a journey close to home.

- Lime said that park-ability is key. Mandated bays are very expensive to provide full coverage. The problem is that an inadequate number of bays also can lead to overcrowding, and this can result in swapping one problem for another, but reduce usability. Data shows that people will not take a bike if they cannot locate one close by.
- A member spoke about e-bikes becoming a disincentive to walkers in parks or concern about danger of collisions with children. Lime said it is possible to look at limitations being imposed in certain areas via Geo Fencing. Elephant Park and Burgess Park were mentioned as problematic areas. The geo fencing technology is very flexible but must be mandated by officers. The max speed 15.8 Km / hour, and this can be reduced. Lime encouraged members to get in touch regarding concerns.
- There was a problem about hacking Lime Bikes; a hardware upgrade had addressed this. Lime work closely with the police and will hand over details and help identify people committing crimes.
- The electric source is fully renewable, and it is possible for Lime to change batteries on location which improves use.
- There was a discussion on the cost of bays and if this ought to be borne by Lime as a commercial provider or the council in pursuit of its ambition of moving more journeys out of cars and towards active travel. Lime said that the costs are very much the time and the consultation process.
- Members asked how the wealth was shared and Lime explained that they are a low margin high volume business. Lime have set up a million pound infrastructure fund to work with London Boroughs to increase use. Two competitors have exited the market. Lime said that they are looking for long term partnerships.
- Lime have offered to assist with the provision of bays using the infrastructure fund for London Boroughs and made offers to the council. Lime have offered to provide dual parking for regular bicycles and Lime e-bikes. Lime said they believe this is the best option as bike racks as easier to deliver. This is subject to ongoing discussion with officers and TFL.

- There are concerns that removing flexible on street parking without adequate bay provision will impact on usage. Paris have moved to a bay on every street though making a big commitment and considerable investment.
- The Streets for People has a target of increasing active travel journeys. This is in part about reallocating parking spaces used by cars to provide more parking, including parking bays. To provide sufficient parking bays to enable take up of shared e-bike schemes under Mandatory Parking Zones a density of 25 bays per sq. km) would need to be achieved, which would be expensive, although conceivable with significant investment in high density areas.
- Lime has teamed up with the London Cycling Campaign and Loud Mobility to launch a new £100,000 'Share the Joy' fund to increase cycling within underrepresented groups and deliver equitable access to its benefits. Lime have partnered with local organisations to increase participation amongst lower income groups including refugees and certain ethnic groups, young people plus people exiting prison.

8. BIODIVERSITY POLICIES PLANNING BRIEFING

A briefing has been provided by Planning officers, to note. This was requested to provide clarity for the Biodiversity review.

9. SCRUTINY REVIEW: BIODIVERSITY DRAFT REPORT

The chair explained that the first draft of the report is enclosed, with a final draft report due to come to the next meeting, in order to give adequate time to hear from the commission and officers, as it is a large report.

The chair invited members to provide comments or suggestions on how to improve the report, and the recommendations, in particular, and to send these by email.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

This was noted.



ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Environment Scrutiny Commission held on Monday 14 October 2024 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Margy Newens (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Anna Colligan
Simon Saville
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Hamish McCallum

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Clean Air, Streets & Waste

OFFICER & PARTNER SUPPORT: Temi Lateef, My Choice/ Black Riders Association
Tim Long, Team Leader Transport Policy
Hedley Mellor, Transport Policy Officer
Julie Timbrell, Project Manager , Scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bethan Roberts and Leo Pollak.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. MINUTES**5. TEMI LATEEF, MY CHOICE/ BLACK RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

The chair welcomed Temi Lateef and invited him to speak about his work and then invited members to ask questions. The below is a summary of the discussion.

Temi Lateef explained that the Black Riders Association sits under My Choice. The initiative originally started when Temi decided to cycle to Nigeria, to encourage people to participate in social cycle rides. As part of this he realised that there is a lack of black and women cyclists. Temi therefore changed the name to the Black Riders Association, which led to much more diversity. The initial call out generated 800 people signing up for cycle rides integrated with social activities. The rides were social and fun. Bit by bit Temi explained that the rides moved out of the borough along parks and canals. During Covid it was very quiet, and this helped make it safer to go further as there was lower traffic.

More recently Temi has been working with schools and community organisations including cycling organisations. He said he has learnt that if his organisation can identify a sense of belonging in the activities amongst communities and participants, alongside improving access to the outside, generate a sense that barriers are coming down, and include skill sharing, then people want to participate. More recently he has started working with communities with different languages and developed leaders who would organise fun events and conduct low-key easy engagement to find out what people would like to do. There is a process of developing cycling captains and coaching to build capacity.

Temi said he discovered that often people did not know of major sports events because of lack of representation or reach into demographics who are not part of cycling communities.

In response to a question on what more the council can do Temi suggested using the materials and organisations in the borough already. He advised there are existing community social and sports groups in Peckham and Southwark. He observed that there can be a disconnect between the council and local groups - often it takes a while to build connections and realise a shared agenda. He therefore recommended looking for these groups and contacting them to see how the council can help.

Temi said there are range of groups - e.g. Turkish, African, Caribbean, with different cultures. He explained that when he

organises with groups he would first link with leaders from those communities. A starting point might be a sport that is already well liked e.g. Cricket in South Asian community. It is then possible to introduce new activities and start building projects and groups.

Temi was asked what can be done to encourage safe cycling. Temi noted that cycling infrastructure is variable, with some boroughs having a good network of cycle lanes, which will increase safety. However, Temi said that London is a safe place as long as people have the tools and confidence. He works with people including young children and teaches them in a quiet space the skills to enable them to manage traffic. Temi noted that people do not have to cycle everywhere; it is possible to use the train to visit places, or avoid major traffic. He emphasised the importance of about getting on a bike and enjoying the ride.

There was a discussion on the popularity of cycling among young black boys, and why this can drop away as boys become adults. Temi commented that there is a media image that encourages car use when older. It is perceived as culturally acceptable for children and young people to cycle, whereas for adults it can be seen as less acceptable amongst certain communities. Cycling can be perceived as indicative of failure to be economically successful and reaching responsible adulthood. The limited exception to this is wearing Lycra and riding an expensive racing bike, which is associated with professional success, however this type of cycling is not appealing or possible for many people. Temi was asked how cycling can be made more acceptable to a wider demographic. Temi said it is in part about representation in images of cyclists, whether leisure or sporting. It is also about linking this with professional success, social recognition, and economic position – for example linking cycling to sports science, becoming a physiotherapist, a coach, engineer, or entrepreneur.

A member asked about the accessibility of cycling, for example up hills, which could be physically exhausting. Temi said that there are cycling sessions over hills in the Caribbean, as an adventure, however there are lots of social sessions in cities which are much easier, and include fun cycles using trikes and tandem cycles, and so very accessible.

The Commission thanked Temi for his time and input.

6. STREETS FOR PEOPLE: WALING AND CYCLING PLANS

The chair introduced the item by explaining that as part of our Streets for People strategy the council have now agreed plans to

make walking and cycling quicker, easier and safer for everyone in the borough. The purpose of this item is to discuss these plans with reference to the scrutiny review on Environmental Health.

The following officers were invited to provide a summary of the Walking and Cycling Plans:

- Tim Long, Team Leader Transport Policy (online)
- Hedley Mellor, Transport Policy Officer (in person)

The chair then invited questions and the following points were made:

- Members asked how safety can be improved. Officers said design can help. A large proportion of new work on the highways is the responsibility of TFL. Officers talk to TFL about improvements.
- Officers were asked what more can be done to decrease bike theft and increase cycle parking. Officers said that the council had rolled out of thousands of cycle hangers and will be providing more. Officers are expecting more provision for lock ups and storage in transport destinations and around housing.
- Officers were asked about the consultation for Street for People plans. Officers remarked that the council got very high levels of engagement. The consultation asked about problems, which proved a good way of engaging people and got a very high response rate. The information can be used to deliver several improvements. For example a common issue was that speeding is a problem. In addressing this the council can also deliver other priorities, such as greening.
- A member asked what lesson can be learnt from the consultation around Lower Road, where there is a Cycleway provided and high traffic volumes. Officers were asked if there could have been more joined up thinking. Officers said they are presently monitoring traffic with a view to evaluating the scheme and looking for learning.
- Officers were asked about tackling cycling on the pavement, and if there could be more demarcation on shared spaces. Officers said that cyclists should give way to pedestrians. Often cyclists on pavements are the more vulnerable users - younger people and older people. As there is more provision of dedicated cycling lanes this ought to help. Officers gave an example of Peckham Road. Officers worked with TFL on this

cycle route, however unfortunately only a small amount was delivered. The council want to build a change on our streets and encourage TFL to do the same.

- Officers were asked to what extent streetscape schemes delivered by highways can deliver on climate change by reducing flood risk and increasing space for nature. Officers said their priorities are linked to the dis-benefit of car use and impact on population and increasing active travel. For example, car use is lowest in places like Walworth and Peckham, but the air quality is worse, so these may be areas that are priorities for change. Highways land is very complex as many other people want to use this finite amount of land in various ways. Streets for People set out these wants and identified that more space is needed for walking and cycling due to our growing population and to create better facilities for people with protected characteristics. It has also identified that reducing driving and encouraging active travel is the most effective way for Highways to reduce pollution, tackle climate change and improve people's health. Highway's has pioneered a generous approach in our schemes to provide planting on 10% of the space involved.

7. INTERVIEW WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS & WASTE

The chair welcomed Councillor James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Clean Air, Streets & Waste, and invited him to briefly introduce his portfolio. Following this members were invited to ask questions.

The following themes were covered:

- School Streets
- Streets for People- consultation, online portal , visiting streets , school engagement
- Waste and cleaning
- Fly tipping - moving to more proactive practice
- Graffiti
- Food waste
- Air pollution and wood stoves

- EV charging
- Soft lighting
- Cycling hangers
- Equalising parking charges - highways / housing estates / leisure

8. BIODIVERSITY SCRUTINY REVIEW

The revisions agreed to the Biodiversity review are provided as an appendix.

The co-optees , Anna Colligan and Simon Saville, were thanked for their highly valued contribution to the review.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

This was not covered.

Biodiversity report recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Priority Actions	Amendments agreed
	<p>Vision: Adopt 30x30 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).</p>		
1	<p>Adopt the Biodiversity COP 15 commitment known as 30x30, which calls for the effective protection and management of 30% of the world's land, fresh waters and oceans by the year 2030, as a strategic local aim. Adopt also, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which aims to “catalyse, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action”. This calls for action at an international, national and local level and, as such, will align local ambition and pride to national and global ambition. This is a proven way to increase commitment to pro-environmental behaviour changes¹.</p>	<p>Develop the updated SNAP with the GBF and 30x30 aims.</p> <p>Build the 30x30 aim into the development of Ecological Networks and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Include a commitment to 30x30 and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in the Climate Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Update the Thriving Nature theme referred to in the Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Strategy and Climate Change Strategy, to ensure the Climate Change Action Plan includes sufficient provision for biodiversity, including a delivery plan for Ecological Networks, measurable objectives for habitat protection, habitat creation, and de-paving as default, wherever possible.</p> <p>Incorporate a commitment for the Council to see all areas of council policy not only through the prism of a Climate Emergency but also through</p>	<p>Develop the updated SNAP with the GBF and 30x30 aims.</p>

¹ See section 5

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2023.1103635/full#:~:text=In%20particular%2C%20the%20present%20study,national%20pride%20have%20higher%20PET>

		<p>the prism of a Biodiversity Emergency.</p> <p>Communicate the 30x30 and GBD as a global and local ambition to stakeholders and residents, and encourage civil society to adopt the GDF and 30x30 alongside Net Zero by 2030.</p> <p>Review Southwark SINC with view to increasing size and number.</p> <p>Identify other ways to protect habitat by working with communities, landowners, householders and other stakeholders.</p>	
	Strategy: Ecological Networks		
2	<p>Prioritise development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy to map out a coherent Ecological Network for Southwark, which</p> <p>(i) Maps current SINC and green and blue spaces</p> <p>(ii) Identifies opportunities to increase the size of current SINC.</p> <p>(iii) Joins up or enhances connections between wildlife SINC, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'.</p> <p>(iv) Aids the creation of new wildlife SINC</p> <p>(v) Reduces the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffer-zones around wildlife SINC (amended from Lawton, 2010)</p>	<p>Account must be taken of the full range of semi-natural habitats needed by wildlife. Gaps must be identified (e.g. ponds, absent in many areas of Southwark) and plans developed to address these gaps.</p> <p>Consider designing nature-friendly crossings of major barriers to nature, such as Jamaica Road at Southwark Park/King's Stairs and Old Kent Road. Consideration should be given to reducing traffic, noise and artificial light, and to increasing vegetation at key locations, including overhead "canopy bridges".</p> <p>Several of Southwark's existing major wildlife corridors end just short of Peckham's Rye Lane area. Consider designating Peckham as a Missing Link / Biodiversity Connectivity Zone, and implementing special measures to</p>	

		<p>encourage the development of wildlife affordances in this area.</p> <p>The Ecological Network, and Green Infrastructure Strategy, should be co-designed and monitored in conjunction with the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership (the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) reference group), and other local groups/stakeholders, recognizing and building on existing greening efforts by community groups and landowners.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy should be led by the council's Planning department, as part of a cross departmental initiative that recognises the interrelationships between Planning, Climate Change, Parks, Housing, Flood Management, Highways, Air Quality and other departments, while maintaining a co-design approach with the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership.</p> <p>Link the development of Southwark's Green Infrastructure Strategy and local Ecological Network with the development of the citywide LGIF and LNRS, working with the GLA as an active and informed partner.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. identify geographically specific opportunities for cross-borough collaboration, ensure existing green infrastructure is optimised and existing barriers to wildlife movement are reduced, and consider green infrastructure in an integrated way as 	
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		<p>part of a wider network connecting to neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>II. recognize a buffer zone around SINC boundaries, with attention to reducing artificial lighting, noise, height limits for tall buildings (overshadowing) and traffic and increasing habitat for wildlife through de-paving, and installation of green roofs.</p> <p>III. Look to use development and redevelopment opportunities to provide new green spaces and extend and link existing greenspaces and parks.</p> <p>IV. Integrate Food Growing</p>	
3	<p>Improve the engagement, governance and oversight of the SNAP by putting forward a Terms of Reference document, for the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership to consider and adopt, as it sees fit. Ensure , as far as possible, that the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership has a clear remit to report on delivery of the SNAP through the agreed Terms of Reference, including providing the SNAP annual report to Cabinet as part of a wider report on Biodiversity performance.</p>		<p>Update to make clear it is ultimately for the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership to decide it's own remit as an independent body</p>
	<p>Planning and Construction</p>		

4	<p>Explore methods of delivering biodiversity improvements through the Planning process, beyond the minimum 10% BNG specified in the Environment Act 2021 when undertaking the 2027 review of the Southwark Plan. This should be combined with more ambitious Urban Greening Factor (UGF) targets. Improvements to both, taken together, are most likely to deliver better outcomes for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Having adopted the London Plan guidance on UGF of 0.3 for predominantly commercial and 0.4 for predominantly residential developments, the council must ensure that, in accordance with the guidance, these targets are treated as the minimum benchmark rather than the maximum required.</p> <p>Ensure the UGF is adopted into the current SPD on Climate and Environment, currently being consulted upon.</p> <p>Monitor BNG and UGF for compliance, with a view to achieving at least the required 10% BNG on-site as well as the UGF floor targets.</p> <p>Ensure continued monitoring and spot auditing of BNG delivery throughout the 30 year period.</p> <p>Explore the following in the review of the Southwark Plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the BNG to above the present 10% improvement on baseline; • Applying a minimum 0.4 UGF to all major commercial as well as residential projects; • Applying UGF targets to smaller projects as well as major sites; • Adopting higher targets for BNG and UGF at strategic locations, as defined by the Green Infrastructure Strategy/ Ecological Network, such as SINC buffer zones or in areas with poor 	<p>Adopt a planning policy on UGF</p>
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		existing wildlife connections.	
5	Wherever possible new major residential developments should be conditioned to include grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting, including providing for storage of rainwater in water butts or similar to support community gardening and food growing.		
6	Explore how domestic planning applications could be conditioned or, at least, applicants could be encouraged to include wildlife friendly features such as green roofs, flow-through planters, rain gardens, swift bricks, insect houses (for example in cases of loft conversions) and water butts, and to minimise impermeable hard surfacing	<p>The council should develop and make available on its website a mini-guide for homeowners and developers applying for planning permission for minor developments or home improvements, with information on the benefits of these nature-friendly features.</p> <p>The council's climate change team should engage with Thames Water to explore how more residents can be encouraged to install water butts at their homes, for example, by Thames Water managing the subsidised delivery of water butts to residents. (This could be modelled on the existing composting scheme, where residents can buy compost bins at a subsidised rate and community groups, places of worship and schools are able to claim 2 free bins each.)</p> <p>Update the New Homes Design Guide to take account of the recommendation on the right</p> <p>Update the draft Householder SPD to take account of the recommendations outlined on the left</p>	That the Southwark Plan be updated with a Biodiversity SPD incorporating the review recommendations, as well as the New Homes Design Guide be updated to reflect its recommendations, making a requirement of bird boxes bat boxes and insect houses in all new development as part of the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements; (alongside Swift Bricks)

	<p>Update the draft Climate and Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Householder SPD to incorporate the review recommendations .</p> <p>Where this is not possible bring forward a Biodiversity (SPD) and update versions of the Southwark Plan</p>	<p>Consider this report in part as a response to the consultation on the Climate and Environment SPD and Householder SPD</p>	
	<p>Adopt the full dark sky recommendations from APPG Dark Skies Policy Plan (appgdarkskies.co.uk) including standards on the setting, brightness, colour temperature and density of lighting.</p>	<p>Encourage adoption in the new London Plan.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity scrutiny report require the full dark sky borough recommendations from the Dark Skies APPG Policy Plan — APPG for Dark Skies (appgdarkskies.co.uk) including standards on the setting, brightness, colour temperature and density of lighting, and encourage its adoption in the new London Plan.</p>
	<p>More and Bigger</p>		
7	<p>Conduct an ecological audit of our parks, estates, verges, schools, sports fields, and pockets of land in order to increase habitat for wildlife, and adopt wildlife friendly practices.</p> <p>Conduct this in conjunction with the development of Ecological Networks.</p>		<p>Update Execute Summary to note that the new additional mandatory targets for housing in the draft National Planning Policy Framework will increase these pressures on land further. It is therefore particularly important that land for nature and resident recreation is preserved, as far as possible.</p>
8	<p>Undertake a mapping exercise with ward councillors and community stakeholders (as recommended by Southwark Land Commission) to identify further land that is currently or can potentially be enhanced for biodiversity. Consider how undesignated</p>		

	open space, such as land currently used for parked vehicles, estate lands, schools, sports field borders, and rooftops, could be transformed and/or managed as places for nature as well as people.		
	When allocating funding for Council projects – i.e. CGS, DHB and others,, ensure that the budget covers the costs of the appropriate number of council officers, including experienced project managers and others who are trained in biodiversity improvements (see recommendation 22).		When allocating funding for projects identified to be managed by the Council, ensure that appropriate levels of staffing are allowed for, including experienced project managers and other individuals who are trained in biodiversity improvements (see recommendation 22).
9	<p>Depaving has the potential to be a powerful tool against the biodiversity and climate crises and in support of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy, particularly with regard to flood risk management. In recognition of this, the Commission recommends the following:</p> <p>a) Adopt de-paved as default, wherever possible, in all new Streetscape or housing schemes.</p> <p>b) Increase our greenspace by de-paving the many unused areas of existing hardstanding to make room for ‘pocket parks’, new street trees, hedgerows, rain gardens, food growing spaces and other forms of new planting.</p>	<p>Integrate de-paved as default with the BNG and UGF approach</p> <p>Employ an internal design review process to ensure that any new streetscape or housing projects incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • green wildlife habitat • SuDS and other permeable spaces to facilitate water attenuation to the maximum extent possible; <p>All projects to redesign our Streetscape and other public realm must be treated as opportunities to improve the borough’s biodiversity and flood risk management, rather than purely as functional and/or traffic engineering solutions. Proposals should be flagged as a matter of course with the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership, to ensure that they benefit at the design phase from a wide range of input from landscape architects, horticulturalists, ecologists, urban food growers and community leaders</p>	<p>The Council mandate (or strongly advise where powers are limited) permeable materials, or require permeable materials to be the first consideration, and for non-permeable to only be accepted if technical justification given for permeable materials not being suitable.</p> <p>Highways and Planning work together to bring forward a new policy on VFCs, including greater enforcement, and that this incorporates the below points: .</p> <p>Do everything possible in current and future legislation to prevent further loss of planting and permeability in front gardens and encourage depaving</p>

		<p>As part of this, ensure that the Streetscape design, Climate Emergency Action plan, SNAP, Streets for People strategy, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Southwark Plan and the Tree Management Policy 2020 are updated to provide a coherent approach to adopting de-paving as the default, wherever possible. Ensure that teams engaged in design and execution of the above, as well as the teams handling the design and execution of Cleaner Greener Safer projects across the borough, are updated and working in accordance with the ambition to de-pave.</p> <p>Highways department should routinely consider applications from utility companies involving excavation of public space in the light of possible green infrastructure projects. Where possible, any scheduled infrastructure projects which involve digging or de-paving to access underground utilities should be coordinated with permanent improvements to improve permeability, increase public green space and improve bio. Where possible, de-paving should be designed to be integrated with stormwater management at area drains, to “slow the flow.”</p> <p>The council should explore all possible sources of funding for the various depaving initiatives described, including DEFRA, Thames Water, GLA, insurance companies and environmental NGOs like the London Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Establish a strategic approach to de-paving linked to the Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure Strategy recommended above.</p>	
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		<p>Aim for 30% minimum planting for streetscape schemes.</p> <p>Encourage and enable interested local residents to adopt de-paved sites and contribute to management and maintenance. Work closely with local community to sensibly design de-paved areas in keeping with local needs, and form maintenance agreements for planted areas.</p> <p>Make a program of technical guidance and support available to any residents wishing to de-pave their own private land.</p> <p>Where the budget is limited, deliver green spaces with high biodiversity value, and acceptable aesthetic value, by providing an initial seeding of wildflowers, encouraging tolerance of volunteer plants, delivering annual mowing, and ongoing litter picking.</p> <p>The Council must mandate (or strongly advise where powers are limited) the use of permeable materials for ground cover wherever possible. Non-permeable materials should be accepted only if there is a technical justification given for permeable materials not being suitable</p>	
10	<p>The Council should adopt a default position that recognises installation of Vehicle Footway Crossovers (VFCs) and associated hard standings as an environmental and social ill which stands at odds with council policies including the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Climate Emergency Resilience and Adaptation Plan, the Streets for People strategy and the Equal</p>	<p>Highways and Planning work together to bring forward a new policy on VFCs, including greater enforcement, and that this incorporates the below points:</p>	

	<p>Pavements Pledge (as the repetitive undulation of pavements due to installation of VFCs can be an obstacle to disabled pedestrians and wheelchair users). For these reasons, the council should actively discourage and take steps to reduce the rate and extent of this loss of front gardens and installation of new VFCs wherever possible, publicise its reasons for doing so and ensure that legal obligations relating to hard standings are enforced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There should be a presumption against the installation of VFCs where there is a CPZ in place and/or high parking stress. b. The minimum depth of front garden required for a property to be granted a VFC should be immediately increased to 6m, to ensure that it is large enough to accommodate a modern vehicle without obstruction to the public footway. c. Council tenancy agreements should specifically prohibit tenants from paving over front gardens and there should be a presumption against the granting of a VFC. This could be reviewed in exceptional individual circumstances. d. In an effort to inform the public and discourage further loss of front gardens, details of the adverse environmental impacts of loss of planting and permeability from front gardens should be posted on the council's website under the section where residents apply for a VFC and sent to residents in response to their application. (This could be done by setting up a dedicated email address for applications with an automatic response.) Residents should be asked to confirm that they read and understood the information provided before confirming that they wish to go ahead with their application. e. In the event that an application for a VFCs is granted, applicants should be routinely provided with guidance on minimising the adverse environmental impact of the associated front garden conversion, 	
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		<p>including advice on paving the minimum area required and maximising permeability and planting based on best practice as described by organisations such as the RHS and National Park City Foundation. Applicants should also be informed of their legal obligations in respect of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008 which requires front garden hard surfacing of more than five square metres in area “to either be made of porous material or, if an impermeable surface, to direct runoff to a soakaway area or rainwater storage within the property’s boundary”</p> <p>f. Increase the application fee and installation charge for VFCs. The increased charge for installation of the VFC will include all existing costs associated with planning, maintenance and implementation, as well as the cost of 2 mandatory checks – 6 months and 1 year after installation – to determine that any associated hard standing conforms as a minimum with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008. The upfront charge should also include a deposit sufficient to cover the costs of remedial action should this be necessary to render any installed hard standings compliant.</p> <p>g. The council should enforce against vehicles crossing the public footway where a VFC has been refused.</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. The council should speed up the process for delivering disabled bays outside homes of disabled residents to respond to the need for adjacent parking. i. Explore becoming an early adopter of Pavement Channels to facilitate home charging of EVs parked on the kerbside and join a pilot if there is an opportunity to do so or if the government provides the appropriate assurances and planning guidance. j. Do everything possible in current and future legislation to prevent further loss of planting and permeability in front gardens and encourage depaving 	
	Better		
11	<p>Make Southwark a pesticide free borough, to protect biodiversity and to protect our residents from the inherent harms of pesticides. Take a staged approach to eliminating pesticide use from our streets and estates, following on from the elimination of pesticide use from our parks several years ago.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Draw upon the Pesticide Action Network's (PAN) Toolkit for Local Authorities to smooth this transition and, in particular, to understand the alternatives to pesticide use, the relative costs and the challenges; II. Consider replicating Lambeth Council's Community Weeding Scheme . III. To best understand and manage the challenges involved in this change of practice, including obtaining value for money and stakeholder buy in the Cabinet Member and officers should 	

		<p>actively engage with counterparts in Lambeth and other councils that have already undertaken this change and gone pesticide free</p> <p>IV. Publicise to residents and landowners the reasons that Southwark is taking this approach, explaining the harms associated with the spraying of pesticides, and use this position to discourage residents and landowners from private use of pesticides.</p>	
12	<p>Proactively encourage and enable the installation (including retrofitting) of well-designed, wildlife-friendly green roof systems on buildings and structures. Projects vary, but on average green roof systems have many of the ecological benefits of de-paving, at approximately half the cost per m2, sometimes less.</p>	<p>Recognize the significant biodiversity benefits of well designed green roofs can deliver, and particularly encourage their use through Planning in priority locations identified through the Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Promote the use of green roofs for agroecological urban farming.</p>	
13	<p>New trees should be considered as part of a larger habitat design and more priority given to their contribution to local ecology and the wider Ecological Network. Where possible, trees should be co-located with other trees and planting, in larger pits or schemes, and in conjunction with SuDs, wherever possible.</p>	<p>Amend the existing criteria for choosing trees to include the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) benefit to the wider ecology, with a preference for trees that feed pollinators, other invertebrates, and birds, and which takes account of the advantages of native trees to the ecosystem b) placement within the wider Ecological Network, including wildlife corridors and proximity to SINC (to be set out in the forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy and London LNRS) <p>Planting should be in as large tree pits as</p>	<p>New trees should be considered as part of a larger habitat design .</p>

		<p>possible within the constraints of the site, preferably with at least two trees to support a mosaic habitat designed to sustain the whole life cycle of insects. Where as possible, trees should be integrated with in SuDS,</p> <p>Encourage and support community trees groups such as Herne Hill Tree Watch and Trees for Bermondsey.</p>	
14	<p>Mandate biodiverse-friendly planting and maintenance in all new schemes including pocket parks, larger park planting schemes and SuDS.</p> <p>All new contracts approved through Trees, Housing, Parks, Planning or Highways should be chosen to explicitly enhance and maintain biodiversity.</p>	<p>All planting must be managed to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That herbaceous planting is with wildlife-friendly species, with due consideration given to all phases of invertebrate lifecycles, and majority UK native, • that Trees are selected according to the amended biodiversity focused criteria (above) • resilience in case of drought and excess rainfall and the extremes of UK temperatures. <p>Council officers including those managing Cleaning Greener Safer and Devolved Highway Budget projects should be made aware of these criteria.</p> <p>Where contractors/sub-contractors are responsible for the choice of plant species, these criteria should specified in contracts.</p> <p>This is a useful resource https://www.lbp.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Management/making-contracts-work-for-wildlife.pdf</p>	

15	Improve the active management of SINCS.	<p>Ensure the SINC and management plan for each habitat type is in place and well-communicated to all relevant staff.</p> <p>Explicitly include sections for biodiversity-appropriate first response to Anti Social Behaviour (such as community policing, community engagement in activities such as litter picking, CCTV, fencing off sensitive habitat).</p>	
16	Conduct systematic and periodic ecological audits of our parks, estates, verges pockets of land and SINCS, using targeted trial applications of AI-based bioacoustic monitoring devices. Use the information collected to develop more targeted biodiversity protection and support practices and policies.		Use the information collected to develop more targeted biodiversity protection and support practices and that policies that increase wildlife.
17	<p>Increase blue habitat, especially in areas where there are gaps by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. expanding the areas of marginal habitat around the borough's rivers and ponds; ii. increasing the number of ponds and wetlands, including temporary ponds. 	<p>Explore whether and how existing underground rivers could be used in some areas of the borough to achieve this ambition.</p> <p>Create River Basin Management Plans for the catchments of the Rivers Peck and Neckinger, including Earl's Sluice.</p>	Create River Basin Management Plans for the catchments of the Rivers Peck and Neckinger, including Earl's Sluice
18	Southwark should pursue the Water Framework Directive "Good Ecological		

	Status” for all remaining above ground waterways, such as the Peck.		
	Joined Up		
19	Provide, recognise, and protect routes for use by wildlife only, as well as for use for active travel, with reference to the work SNAV have done on wildlife corridors for nature and people, as part of the broader piece of work on Ecological Networks.		
20	Southwark should work with the GLA to adopt clearer definitions and requirements for nature-friendly “green” corridors, for example including guidelines for minimum widths, sizes, spacing, target species, and types of soil and planting.	Consultation must first take place with Planning and Ecology Officers and the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership.	Update to refer to Planning policy , Ecology officers, and Southwark Biodiversity Partnership
	More animated		
21	Encourage, enable and support community and volunteer management of nature, wherever there is interest. As well as reducing costs, this will increase social benefit, educate and enhance the sustainability of wildlife friendly habitat.	Encourage, define and develop Public-Common Partnerships, as suggested in the Southwark Land Commission Report, where local community organisations share responsibility for land management with Southwark as the landowner	
22	Develop a training programme on biodiversity and wildlife friendly management of green and blue space, targeted at officers and contractors across all relevant roles and grades, suited to their job roles. This should be an integral part of the staff training already required to ensure that all areas of council policy are seen through the	Ensure that all teams, including Planning, Climate Change, Sustainable Growth, Parks, Housing, Flood Management, Highways, Air Quality and other departments are aware of our ambitions to address the Biodiversity Emergency. Ecology officers to support / collaborate in developing cross council positive biodiversity	Ecology officers to support / collaborate in developing cross council positive biodiversity training Reference training for the grounds maintenance and cleaning team Add Sustainable Growth

	<p>prism of the Climate Emergency and extended to include the Biodiversity Emergency.</p>	<p>training</p> <p>The training ought to be developed for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managers and leaders Staff managing delivery of projects under the Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways Budget funding streams, 2. Operational staff including Grounds maintenance team Cleaning team Supervisory staff <p>The training must ensure proper management and that wildlife friendly practices are embedded into operations.</p> <p>Training should be repeated at regular intervals for existing staff and embedded in any induction training for new staff.</p> <p>Contractors and sub-contractors should be obliged to adopt the same commitments to biodiversity across their areas of responsibility, including in respect of training their staff.</p>	
23	<p>Proactively promote Southwark’s ambition to address the biodiversity emergency and explain steps that the council is taking and plans to take to achieve that end. This will include information explaining decisions taken in response to the recommendations contained in this document, such as going pesticide free and other changes in management of green and blue spaces across the borough.</p> <p>Develop a programme to engage residents in the appreciation of and connection to</p>	<p>Use social media and publications such as Southwark Life to explain highlight our ambitions and paths to achieving them. These should include recommendations as to how residents, schools, places of worship and other stakeholders can help to protect and improve biodiversity in their own gardens and local green spaces.</p> <p>Facilitate an exhibition in the Tooley Street Atrium of Insectinside.me and encourage links to Southwark schools.</p>	

	nature.	Consider developing livestream wildlife webcams to increase resident involvement in and awareness of Southwark's wildlife.	
24	Actively promote wildlife gardening to residents.	Promote water butts to households including as recommended above. Deliver this in partnership with the Centre for Wild Life Gardening and other members of Southwark Biodiversity Partnership	
Bolder			
25	Develop ambitious cross borough Ecological Networks , and particularly consider the ecological and social potential of daylighting more of Southwark's Rivers (eg. the River Peck in Peckham Rye Park and River Effra in the south of the borough) and increasing marginal habitat.		
Food and biodiversity			
26	Make Southwark a "Right to Grow" borough, taking a motion to Southwark Council Assembly adopting 'The Right to Grow'.	A ' <i>The Right to Grow</i> ' motion along the lines below would be appropriate: <i>This Council notes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>that the cost-of-living crisis and the continued efforts to recover from the pandemic bring a new focus on ensuring that residents have access to enough fresh food for day to day living;</i> • <i>The increasing need to put the health and well-being of residents at the heart of our corporate strategies;</i> • <i>The powerful evidence which demonstrates the link between people's health and wellbeing and the availability</i> 	

		<p><i>of fresh locally produced food.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That the cost-of-living crisis is creating real hunger, reinforcing the need for healthy fresh food at an affordable price.</i> • <i>That communities coming together to grow food can radically reduce costs to NHS and social care budgets by reducing loneliness and providing healthy food.</i> • <i>That there is plenty of under used publicly owned land which could be used for community food growing while also improving the public realm.</i> <p><i>This Council agrees (or to the extent that the below concern executive functions, recommends to the executive) to adopt a Right to Grow on council owned land which is suitable for cultivation.</i></p> <p><i>As a result, this Council will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify and produce a map of all council owned land suitable for community cultivation.</i> • <i>Make this land available for cultivation by a simple licence to community organisations at no cost.</i> • <i>Consider community food growing on sites awaiting development for other uses on a fixed term basis.</i> • <i>Write to Southwark's MPs and ask them to support the Incredible Edible campaign and national right to grow.</i> <p><i>In addition the Council will work with partners through the Land for Good delivery process and encourage anchor institutions and civil society</i></p>	
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		<i>to join the council in the above endeavor .</i>	
27	Map food growing plots	<p>Undertake this mapping as part of a larger piece of engagement work with community stakeholders to release more land for community good (see recommendation X).</p> <p>If there is insufficient capacity within the council to carry out this task, mapping will need to be commissioned externally.</p> <p>Include as a minimum a public facing element that helps residents to discover ownership of land that could be used to grow food, and also invites local landowners to submit potential food growing plots for community use under license, for a minimum of 5 years.</p>	<p>Note additional capacity is required, under point 2</p> <p>Amend so that there is some leeway on 5 years.</p>
28	Update the SNAP to include a community garden plan, which includes the right for residents to have a garden, orchard, or food growing plots on their estate. Include details on how Southwark can support urban agriculture to increase biodiversity.		Develop a Community Gardening / urban food growing policy
	Develop a Community Gardening / urban food growing policy, and include links to creating local markets (see recommendation 33)		
29	Include a Food Growing Policy in the next update of the Southwark Plan (and /or Environment & Climate SPD) that requires	Create a cross service working group consisting of officers from Planning Policy, Community	Recommend cross-team working group to look into this – with Community Gardening service to advise and give examples of best practice/case

	developers to include spaces for urban agriculture, allotments and community gardening.	Gardening and Public Health to bring this forward, with the Community Gardening service to advise and give examples of best practice/case studies.	studies.
30	Undertake to support Agroecology through all urban agriculture initiatives and in future iterations of the Southwark Plan and food procurement.	Create a cross service working group to bring this forward consisting of Planning Policy, Community Gardening Coordinators, Regeneration, Public Health , Climate Change and Ecology teams.	Include recommendation for a working group
31	Work with the Capital Growth network to monitor and measure how food growing projects in Southwark are improving biodiversity and helping to tackle the ecological emergency.		
32	Create new urban farming and community food growing zones alongside new developments (roof tops, schools and new parks and green land).	Old Kent Road would be a good test site for an integrated and inclusive food growing system. Create a cross service working group to bring this forward consisting of Planning Policy, Community Gardening Coordinators, Regeneration, Public Health , Climate Change and Ecology teams.	Include recommendation for a working group
33	Support local market initiatives, such as cooperative grocery stores, farmers' markets and other community hubs, in collaboration with food growing projects in the area and initiatives such as the Walworth Neighbourhood Food Model.		

DISABILITY, CYCLING & WELLBEING



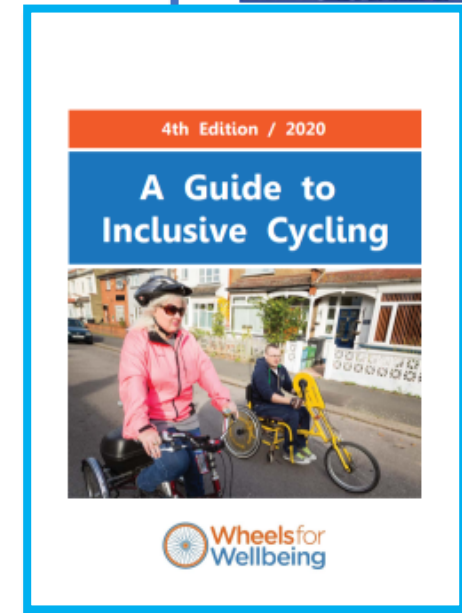
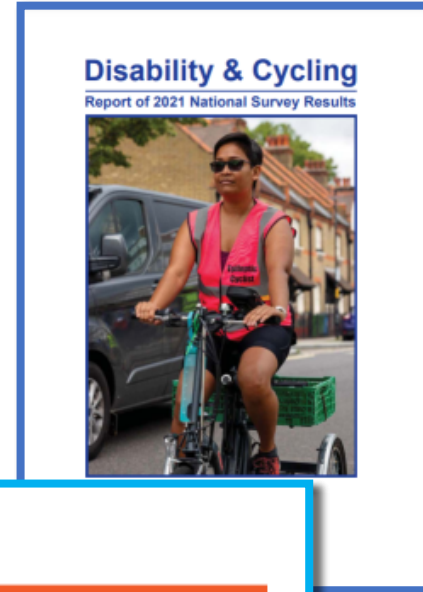
Isabelle Clement MBE
Director





Wheels for Wellbeing (WfW)

- **DPO:** est. 2007
- **Access to cycling:** inclusive cycling sessions; led rides; hire scheme.
- **Campaigns & Policy:** training & consultancy, publications [Guide to Inclusive Cycling](#); [Report of National Survey](#); campaigns #MyCycleMyMobilityAid #BeyondtheBicycle; #BashtheBarriers
- **Mobility Justice:** targeting resources towards those who have least access to transport and mobility rather than those with the most mobility privilege.

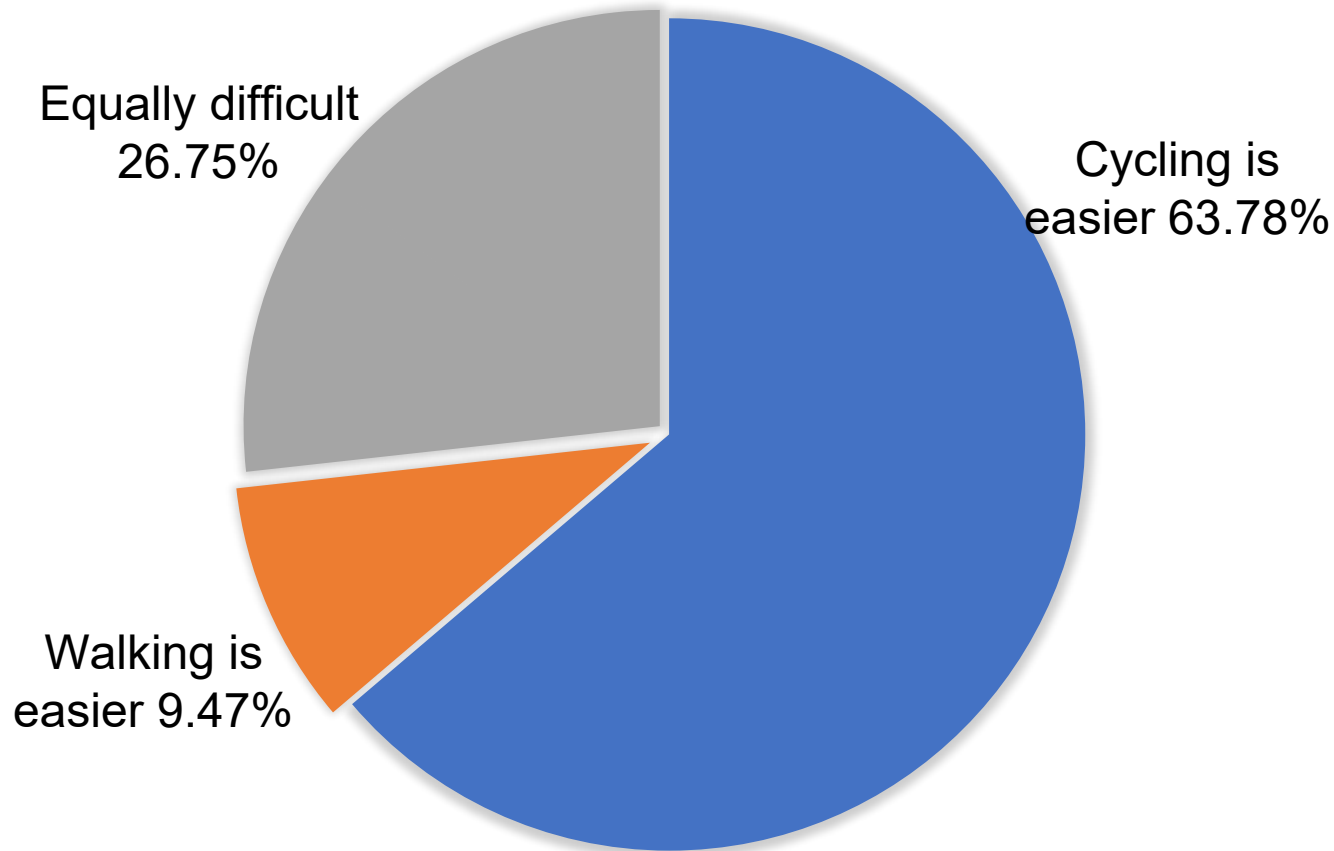


Cycles as Mobility Aids

Data & citations from WfW 2021 National Survey (WfW 2022)



Which is Easier: Cycling or Walking?



- *“I have spinal issues and can't walk any real distance. But I cycle on a normal bike without problem. [It] gives me my independence.”*
- *“I have had MS for 30 years and wish I had realised earlier that I could cycle much better than I could walk!”*

No cycle = No mobility

90% of mobility impaired Disabled people don't have a suitable mobility aid to complete a 1km journey (Disabled Ramblers, 2022)

Cycling also Provides



- Transport/mobility
- Social contact
- Physical exercise/activity
- Access to nature and greenspaces
- Autonomy
- Fun!



Photograph from recent “nature ride”
organized by WfW

....all of which are **essential** for good **mental health**

Barriers to cycling for Disabled people

1. Infrastructure (53%)
2. Parking / storage (35%)
3. Cost (33%)
4. Unable to hire a suitable cycle (30%)
5. Abuse (24%)
6. No inclusive cycling opportunities (23%)

Data from 2021 National Survey (WfW, 2022)



Photo credit: WfW, Harrie Larrington Spencer



Cycling and Wellbeing



- ‘What the trike has done is it as actually given me freedom’ (Eric)
- ‘Just that feeling of *being* out on the road, it was like freedom’ (Rosie)
- ‘I find it gives me the independence’ (Michael)
- ‘It’s the *independence*, which I haven’t said. I think that’s the other thing, you’re not *relying* on transport you are relying on your own transport: you are relying on *yourself* and I think that is a big boost to anybody with a disability. You rely on yourself, and wherever you are when you are on your bicycle, you rely on yourself. And wherever you are you can dictate what you do, no-one’s dictating to you what you can do.’ (Nasia)
- (Inckle, 2020)

Cycling & Mental Health



- “Being a Disabled person who can get out and cycle has been a lifesaver for me, when cycling I feel less disabled, it is the best treatment for my mental health.”
- “I find it hugely enabling to cycle around for transport and my commute. It keeps me active and mobile, prevents degenerative decline in my muscles and makes me feel good about myself.”

(in WfW, 2022)



Photograph from WfW photobank

Cycling, Mental Health & Recovery following “Life-changing” Injury

- Michael: **“It’s better than counselling”**
- “To my mind you can go one of two ways if you have an accident – obviously for people who are already disabled they have grown up with that – but when something *happens* to you like this you can go one of two ways: you can sit in a chair and go, “Oh my goodness this is terrible, what am I going to do?!” Or you can try and get on with life, and I think that if you can stay positive and do what you could do *before* then that certainly [helps]. I think if I hadn’t had *that* [e.g. cycling], that would have been a very different story *for me.*” (Paul)
 - (in Inckle, 2020)



Our regular cycling sessions take place at three locations in South London; Croydon, Herne Hill and Ladywell.

Croydon Sports Arena.
Outdoors.



Albert Road, South
Norwood, SE25 4QL.

Train: Norwood Junction.
Elmers End. Arena
(Tramlink 2)

Herne Hill Velodrome.
Outdoors.



104 Burbage Road, Herne
Hill, SE24 9HE.

Train: Herne Hill or North
Dulwich.
Bus: P4, P13, 3, 37, 68, 196,

Ladywell Day Centre.
Outdoors.



148 Dressington Ave,
Lewisham, SE4 1JF.

Train: Ladywell
Bus: 284, P4, 122
Car: Collect free permit at



References

- Disabled Ramblers (2022) [Not Enough Wheels to Go Round](#). Ware: Disabled Ramblers
- Health Foundation (2021) [Unequal Pandemic: Fairer Recovery](#). London: The Health Foundation.
- Inckle, K (2020) [Disability, Cycling & Health: Impacts and \(Missed\) Opportunities in Public Health](#), *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*
- Wheels for Wellbeing (2022) [Disability & Cycling: Report of National Survey Results](#). London: WfW
- Wheels for Wellbeing (2020) [Guide to Inclusive Cycling](#). London: WfW.



Questions/further info

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Item No. 11	Classification: Open	Date: 3 December 2024	Meeting Name: Environment Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Cover report for the Environment Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2024-25	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Project Manager, scrutiny.	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Environment Scrutiny Commission note the work programme attached as the Work Programme, plus appendix.
2. That the Environment Scrutiny Commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues

- f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
 - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items that have been or are to be considered in line with the commission's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5. Set out in the Work Programme and review scope appendixes are the issues and reviews the Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission is due to consider in 2024-25.
- 6. The work programme is a standing item on the Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Environment Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Julie Timbrell Project Manager
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=518		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
	Work Programme 2024-25 Appendix A Appendix B

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Report Author	Julie Timbrell, Project Manager, Scrutiny.	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 December 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	2 December 2024	

Environment Scrutiny Commission 24 /25 Workplan

Reviews :

- Review: Biodiversity **Appendix A**
- Review: Environmental Health: The health and wellbeing impacts of active travel and improved access to nature and how these can be extended through our borough. **Appendix B**

Topics

- Topic: Cleaner, Greener , Safer fund
- TfL delivery of infrastructure in the borough

Standing item – cabinet member interviews (tbc):

- Councillor James McAsh: Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets
- Councillor John Batteson: Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business
- Councillor Emily Hickson: Deputy Cabinet Member for Green Finance

TBC

Councillor Helen Dennis : Cabinet Member for New Homes and Sustainable Development

Councillor Evelyn Akoto: Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Councillor Portia Mwangangye: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Young People

Meeting	Date	Items
1	Monday 22 July	Draft Biodiversity report Review Environmental Health: Public Health Lime bikes
2	Monday 14 October	<p data-bbox="676 1034 1384 1070">Temi Lateef, My Choice/ Black Riders Association</p> <p data-bbox="676 1109 1057 1145">Walking and Cycling Plan :</p> <p data-bbox="676 1184 1890 1257">As part of our Streets for People strategy we have now agreed plans to make walking, wheeling and cycling quicker, easier and safer for everyone in the borough.</p> <p data-bbox="676 1295 1939 1364">Building on significant work already underway, the Walking Plan prioritises pedestrians. It sets out how we will improve streets and paths for everyone, young and old, including:</p>

		<p>people with mobility issues people who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters the visually-impaired people with children or pushing prams</p> <p>The Cycling Plan sets out to create a network of safe and accessible streets and routes for all types of cycles, ensuring Southwark is a borough in which everyone who would like to cycle, can.</p> <p>Interview cabinet lead James McAsh</p> <p>Agree Biodiversity report</p>
3	Tuesday 3 December	<p>Sustrans</p> <p>Wheels for Well-being</p> <p>JoyRiders</p> <p>Supplementary Planning Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and Environment SPD • Householder SPD <p>Cabinet Response to the Sustainable Freight scrutiny review</p>

5	Tuesday 28 January	<p>Environmental Health review : Encouraging Food growing - Dee Wood tbc Food Ethics Council , GLA Capital Growth ; plus possibly Black Farmers Market and recommendations by Community Gardener Coordinators</p> <p>Environmental Health review : Officer report from Parks, Leisure, Highways and Biodiversity leads on review including development and delivery of wildlife corridors and intersection with active travel (tbc)</p> <p>Councillor Portia Mwangangye: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Young People (tbc)</p> <p>TfL to contribute to Review: Environmental Health TFL – with reference to infrastructure updates to increase active travel, working relationships, and improvements to cycling safety (with particular reference to safety hotspots) Confirmed</p>
6	Wednesday 30 April	<p>Draft report Environmental Health</p> <p>Other topics: tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood • District Heating Network / Energy review and planning • Climate Finance <p>Cleaner, Greener , Safer fund</p>

Environment Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024-25

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Julie Timbrell Tel: 020 7525 0514

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		Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Team SPARES External	10
<p>Electronic Copy</p> <p>Members</p> <p><u>Councillors:</u></p> <p>Councillor Margy Newens (Chair) Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair) Councillor Sabina Emmanuel Councillor Bethan Roberts Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Reggie Popoola Councillor Hamish McCallum</p> <p><u>Coopted members:</u> Anna Colligan Simon Saville</p> <p>Reserves Members</p> <p>Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Naima Ali Councillor Youcef Hassaine Councillor Esme Dobson Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Rachel Bentley Councillor Adam Hood</p>			<p>Total: 10</p> <p>Dated: July 2024</p>