



Heathrow Legal Challenge Fails

Legal challenge. Late last year, Hillingdon, Richmond, Wandsworth and Windsor and Maidenhead councils, together with Greenpeace and a resident of Hillingdon, served legal papers on the government for unlawfully supporting the expansion of Heathrow. The claimants argued that the government had failed to recognise the project's unlawful air quality impacts and that the consultation held to make the decision was fundamentally flawed. In addition, the legal challenge sought to hold government to the promise that a third runway would never be built . The councils argued their residents had a "legitimate expectation" the project would not be approved. They identified 19 "broken promises" to scrap the third runway made by David Cameron, Theresa May and other political leaders . Former Richmond Park MP Zac Goldsmith, was been appointed as spokesman and organiser for the four-council anti-Heathrow expansion campaign . Sadiq Khan has directed TfL to support the challenge .

No jurisdiction verdict. On 30 January, Mr Justice Cranston ruled the court had no jurisdiction to hear the claim. Lawyers for the secretary of state had argued that the judicial review should not be heard until after the consultation on the government's National Policy Statement (NPS) on aviation. The NPS is expected to be published later this year. The judge agreed and said: "Once the Secretary of State adopts and publishes an NPS the court will have jurisdiction to entertain the challenges the claimants advance. For the present this claim must be struck out" .

Reaction. Ravi Govindia, leader of Wandsworth council said :

"The country is now going to waste more time developing a scheme that will never pass a simple legal test on air quality. Nothing is going to change between now and 2018 to make this scheme any less polluting so they should face this challenge now or abandon the third runway."

Ray Puddifoot, leader of Hillingdon Council agreed: "People right across London have repeatedly voiced their opposition to any expansion at Heathrow. Today's ruling is not the end of Heathrow's problems, it is just the first step in what will be a losing battle for them and the government, neither of which can get around the problem of unlawful air quality impacts, let alone all of the other issues it faces."

NPS and Aviation Policy

Consultations. Following the high court ruling, the government published the national policy statement on aviation – a document that has been described as "long awaited" for the last few years. . Ministers have also published a consultation on reforming policy on the use of UK airspace . Both consultations end on 25 May. The Civil Aviation Authority has launched its own consultation on regulating an expanded Heathrow and ensuring the development is value for money .

Planning permission. The consultation document confirms that an Airports NPS, and a development consent application made under the Planning Act 2008, is the most appropriate route to deliver the government's preferred scheme – a new northwest runway at Heathrow. The application will be for full planning consent but different components of the scheme might be given permission in phases.

Sustainability. The government's sustainability appraisal of Sustainability shows that, subject to mitigation, "whilst there will be inevitable harm caused by a new [runway] in relation to some topics, the need for such a scheme, the obligation to mitigate such harm as far as possible, and the benefits that such a scheme will deliver, outweigh such harm."

Health. The government published its health impact assessment of the three shortlisted options. The assessment says that a new runway will increase health inequalities, including for vulnerable groups and children . A project level health impact assessment will be required before the scheme is approved.

Compensation. Heathrow Airport will be expected to provide up to £2.6 billion to communities affected by the expansion including noise insulation for homes and schools, improvements to public facilities and other measures. It will establish a community compensation fund and a community engagement board.

Transport. The NPS requires that landside airport-related traffic will be no greater than today. It notes that increased emissions from air transport movements (both international and domestic) because of increased demand will have the largest impact on climate change. This must be mitigated. Half of passengers must travel to the airport by public transport

Regional routes. Heathrow currently serves eight regional airports. The DfT said it expects Belfast, Liverpool, Newquay, Humberside, Prestwick and Durham Tees Valley to be added by 2030 .

Design. The NPS says the project "should include design as an integral consideration from the outset of a proposal. Visual appearance should be an important factor in considering the scheme design as well as functionality, fitness for purpose, sustainability and cost."

Air quality. Chris Grayling told the Commons: "I am clear that the environmental impact of expansion must be minimised. Industry leading measures will be required to mitigate air quality impacts and Heathrow Airport will be required to demonstrate that the scheme can be delivered within legal air quality obligations" .

Noise. The government says it takes the issue of noise “very seriously”. It says it “wants to strike a fair balance between the negative impacts of noise (on health, amenity, quality of life and productivity) and the positive economic impacts of flights.” Measures will be required to mitigate the impacts of noise, including legally binding noise targets and periods of predictable respite. Ministers are insisting on a ban of six and a half hours on scheduled night flights. The government will establish an Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise. The function of ICCAN will be to:

Advise on airspace change, providing assurance that noise has been considered and mitigated where possible.

Advise on planning decisions and ongoing noise management.

Promote and publish best practice guidance.


Review or commission research to present new evidence.

Monitor noise measurements and how these are reported, to build trust and improve transparency and credibility.

The government is proposing that noise controls at the designated airports – Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted – such as departure noise limits, continuous descent approaches and noise-preferential routes will become the responsibility of the airports. Operating restrictions, such as the number of flights, will still be set by the government.

Airspace. The government says the UK airspace system is inefficient. This means passengers face longer journeys and delays as airspace becomes more congested, leading to more emissions and noise. It says airspace operators must prepare different options for airspace changes and consult communities. The government aims “to limit and, where possible, reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise, as part of a policy of sharing benefits of noise reduction between industry and communities in support of sustainable development.”

Green belt. The NPS reiterates national policy on the green belt and metropolitan open land, saying it should not be developed except in “exceptional circumstances”. It says the secretary of state will attach substantial weight to the harm to the green belt and “the secretary of state may require the provision of replacement green belt land, which should be secured by the applicant.”

CPRE reaction. Tom Fyans, director of campaigns at CPRE said :

“As well as increasing carbon emissions, wrecking tranquillity under new flight paths and adding to dangerous levels of air pollution, a third runway at Heathrow will entrench the north-south economic divide and create extra housing pressure in the already overheated South East.

“Feelings around a third runway are at boiling point. The government must drop its mantra of economic growth and heed the environmental warnings that matter so much more over the long run – both to our countryside and to people’s health. There is still time to invest in alternative and sustainable travel options that pursue a better and healthier future.”

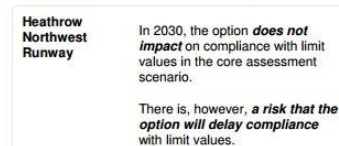
Reaction. Sarah Olney, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond, accused the Government of being so desperate to reassure businesses about its Brexit plans that it is “willing to steamroller over those communities opposed to Heathrow expansion” . Labour’s transport spokesman, Andy McDonald, said progress was “welcome after years of dither and delay” but questioned whether air quality mitigation measures would be sufficient. The Unite union also welcomed the move. John Stewart, chair of HACAN said: “The stark fact remains that a third runway will mean almost a quarter of a million extra planes using Heathrow each year. That will turn countless lives upside down.” ClientEarth said: “It seems they are still clinging to the idea that Heathrow can meet air-quality standards in an area already blighted by illegal air pollution. This would be a huge undertaking” . The Aviation Environment Federation said: “These proposals tinker at the edges in terms of how noise is measured, communicated and spread out, and the government still maintains that we will somehow have London’s air quality crisis resolved before a new runway makes it worse again” . Friends of the Earth said: “It’s simply pie in the sky to think we can build a third runway at Heathrow while keeping UK targets for slashing emissions. These short-sighted plans will also add to London’s pollution crisis” . Greenpeace’s chief scientist tweeted:






Doug Parr
@doug_parr

 Follow




From the revised [#airpollution](#) modelling on [#heathrow](#) new runway. Looks like Govt will have a serious legal problem getting it built



Heathrow Roundup

Opinion. A poll for Hounslow council of 1,207 residents, found 44% support a third runway, which includes 18% who strongly support it. The survey found 29% oppose expansion, of which 21% who strongly oppose it . A new campaign group, h&fnothirdrunway, has been set up to fight plans for expansion  .

Emissions. Transport secretary Chris Grayling has suggested that the government will ignore advice from the Committee on Climate Change on dealing with aviation emissions. Committee chair, Lord Deben has warned that other sectors of the economy will need to cut emissions by 85% to meet the UK’s carbon reduction targets if a third runway goes ahead   .

Noise. The government has published its proposals for changes to the night flights regime for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. It says that night noise at the airports will be cut   . The plans for lower quotas for night flights will make no practical difference at Heathrow and Gatwick as the airports are already below the quota. Stanstead will see an increase in permitted night flights.

Noise... The Aviation Environment Federation said: "We are particularly concerned that the government appears unwilling to prioritise action to protect public health over the incessant demand for growth from the aviation industry." Hacan said the proposed changes would make "little difference" ^{even} ^{oe/} ^{amp} ^{get} ^{swis} ^{.com}. The Department for Transport has published noise contours for the three airports ^{the} ^{the}. The DfT also confirmed that it is ending [the 60-year old agreement](#) that reduces flights over Cranford, immediately east of the airport, at the expense of Colnbrook and other settlements west of the airport. The plans involve erecting a noise barrier partly in the green belt ^{the} ^{the}.

Costs and benefits. The chair of the treasury select committee has questioned the "rarely used" financial model used by the government to show that Heathrow expansion will deliver a net benefit ^{amp}. Transport Minister John Hayes said the government does not accept TfL's potential costs for surface access provision for a third runway at Heathrow Airport. The [estimate of £18bn](#) was produced during Boris Johnson's tenure ^{the} ^{the}.

Transport. Val Shawcross, deputy mayor for transport, said Heathrow expansion risked 'log-jamming' west London transport links. She warned that proposed Crossrail links and a planned upgrade to the Piccadilly line would not be enough to ensure a smooth flow of traffic to an expanded Heathrow airport as they were designed before a third runway was agreed ^{amp} ^{even} ^{stam}.



Green Belt & Metropolitan Open Land

London must build on its green belt. Umbrella group South East England Councils has told Sadiq Khan that it wants him to create a level playing field and consider green belt release within Greater London to help meet housing needs. SEEC says Kahn "must not assume the South East has capacity to meet London's additional unmet needs on top of existing high levels of growth". It says that any plans for extra building in the South East must be planned collaboratively and be supported by stronger infrastructure ^{the} ^{the}. A 38 Degrees petition to protect the green belt has reached 2,700 signatures ³⁸.

Hounslow Heath. CPRE London is campaigning to save [Hounslow Heath](#), where a children's play company wants to create an adventure playground on a golf course. Hounslow council [rejected the application](#) last March and the company appealed. CPRE told the planning inspectorate the green belt site is a unique, irreplaceable space that hosts extraordinary biodiversity and wildlife and is one of the very few genuinely wild spaces left in London ^{the} ^{the}.

Open Space

Mapping the green. Satellite maps produced by Esri UK rank Edinburgh as the leading UK city for green space, with 49% of its area used for green space or vegetation. Greater London comes fifth with 23% green space ^{the} ^{the}. A recount may be needed. Data on GiGL suggests Greater London has 48% green space ^{the} ^{the}.

Parks. Campaign group 38 degrees has launched a crowdsourced investigation aiming to find out how many of England's parks and green spaces are at risk ^{the} ^{the}. **38.** Beckenham Place Park in Lewisham is to receive £5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for improvements ^{the} ^{the}. Friends of Finsbury Park has won the right to appeal a high court decision that allows the Wireless Festival and other music events to be held in the park ^{the} ^{the}. Bexley council is to exhibit plans to build housing on part of Old Farm Park in Sidcup ^{the} ^{the}.

Pocket parks. Two more Fresh Air Squares have been added to the London Bridge area. The brightly-coloured modular mini-parklets temporarily introduce seating and planting, while monitoring air quality. It is hoped they will promote the need for more permanent green spaces and improve connectivity around the area for pedestrians ^{the} ^{the}. London is to have its first floating park after planning permission was granted for a 45-metre long pontoon in Paddington Basin ^{the} ^{the}.



Proposed floating park in Paddington Basin

Trail. Team London Bridge has created a Greenspace Trail that explores green spaces through the historical, cultural, or gardening connections they share ^{the} ^{the}.

Trees. Sadiq Khan has allocated £750,000 for more than 40,000 new trees across the capital ^{the} ^{the}. Further north, the City of Trees project aims to plant three million trees in Greater Manchester over the next 25 years, one for every person in the city ^{the} ^{the}.

Public realm funding. London is to get a new park at Alfred Place, Fitzrovia. It is one of several grants being made under TfL's £220 million Local Implementation Plan ^{the} ^{the}. Most of the money is for safety, pedestrian, cycling and public transport improvements. Specific public realm funding projects include new parklets and pocket parks in Hammersmith and Fulham. Street clutter will be reduced in Kensington and Chelsea, Norwood and Battersea High Street. In Havering, a makeover of Romford Market Place will include public realm works, re-paving, tree planting and the introduction of play equipment for children.



Alfred Place, Fitzrovia

Gardens. The Royal Horticultural Society and University of Sheffield are conducting a survey of gardeners and non-gardeners to examine the social case for gardens and what impact they have on health and well-being ^{100%}.

Housing

White paper. Theresa May's government has yet to set out its policies on housing. A housing white paper due before Christmas was delayed until January. Now it is expected in mid-February ^{Pro City AM.} City AM suggests that the delay may be down to Tory MPs concerned about the impact on rural areas ^{City AM.}.

Westminster. Nickie Aiken, the new leader of Westminster council pledged to "get a grip" on affordable housing by developing more homes on top of existing buildings and on public land ^{West End Extra.}. Sadiq Khan had warned that Westminster's policies to move households out of the borough could lead to the "hollowing out" of London and risk the capital becoming like Paris where segregation between the rich and poor is more stark ^{West End Extra.}.

Second homes. The government has announced a £60 million fund for communities affected by large numbers of second homes. Around 150 local authorities will share the funding, including several London boroughs. The funding will be targeted at bodies such as community land trusts ^{100%}.

Regeneration. The mayor is consulting a draft good practice guide for regeneration of estates. The guide says that there should be no loss of affordable housing during regeneration and this will be a firm rule when regeneration is supported by funding from the GLA. Communities must be consulted. Estate regeneration which seeks to make a positive contribution to the appearance of the site as well as the surrounding public realm will be supported. The importance of green space is only mentioned in passing in the guide. Closes 14 March ^{LON DON P.}. A report by London First calls for redevelopment of London's public housing estates to help solve the capital's housing crisis. The report's authors argue empty space on estates could be used for thousands of homes, helping cross-subsidise improvements, improving the quality of existing homes and building new community facilities ^{LON DON P.}.

Garages. There are 22,000 empty council-owned garages in London. These could be converted into 16,000 one-bed flats, according to research by a property crowdfunding company ^{get it right.}.

Bungalows. Conservative London Assembly member Andrew Boff has called for a new wave of bungalow building to help ease London's housing crisis. He argues that greater availability of bungalows would encourage older people to downsize. Current approaches to housing development in London emphasise densification to make more efficient use of land. Boff argues that two bungalows would occupy an area less than 70 sq metres using the [Papworth Trust model](#) ^{100%}. Architects criticised the proposal saying bungalows would do nothing to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing in the capital as they are relatively expensive to construct and would not achieve sufficient density of development. There are also doubts about whether the Papworth approach would meet minimum space and energy efficiency standards ^{AJ}.

Affordable viability. A study led by the Royal Agricultural University for 13 London boroughs has found that viability tests – used to determine whether developments should provide affordable housing and how much – are failing to deliver enough affordable housing ^{100%}. Since 2009, average London house prices have nearly doubled from £245,000 to £472,000 but annual affordable housing delivery in London has dropped by 37%. The authors say:

"[National] policy requires that economic development return be maintained. This circularity means that viability testing can be manipulated to the developers' benefit, leading to inflated land values, a reduction in the level of affordable housing and what is, in effect, a transfer of risk from the developer to the community."

Planning

Planning petition. A petition to parliament calls for a Commons debate on government housing and planning policy over building on greenfield land. It also seeks a community right of appeal on planning decisions and the removal of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The petition has gathered more than 14,000 signatures but needs 100,000 to secure a debate ^{100%}.

Budgets. The mayor is consulting on his budget and that for TfL ^{LON DON P.}. Among the recommendations of the London Finance Commission are using vehicle excise duty to improve major roads in the capital, devolving air passenger duty raised in London to the mayor and a "modest" tourist tax ^{LON DON P.}.

London Plan. The leader of Richmond council has urged the mayor not to lose the unique character of London boroughs. In response to the *City for all Londoners* consultation, Lord True said: "Mr Khan does not recognise that all areas in London are different. If the mayor fails to give this due regard, his proposals could risk irreversibly damaging the local character of our historic neighbourhoods" ^{Ric.}. The leader of Ealing council upset neighbouring Hillingdon by proposing that RAF Northolt is closed and 10,000 homes built on the site ^{get it right.}. Earls Court developer Capco said it had made representations to London mayor Sadiq Khan as part of his consultation on the London Plan about increasing the number of homes at Earls Court from the consented 7,500 homes to 10,000 ^{Built ding.}.

Richmond council is consulting on its local plan to 2033. Closes 15 February ^{Ric}. The plan adopts the London plan target of 315 homes a year for the period 2015-2025. It pledges protection of the green belt and metropolitan open land (MOL) along with improvement and enhancement of its openness and character. It says areas designated as Other Open Land of Townscape Importance (OOLTI) “form an important part of the multi-functional network of Green Infrastructure and they can include public and private sports grounds, school playing fields, cemeteries, allotments, private gardens, areas of vegetation such as street verges and mature trees.” Harroldian School in Barnes is removed from MOL designation. Udney Park Playing Fields, Teddington is designated as a local green space (LGS). The gardens of St Michael’s Convent, Ham Common will become an OOLTI. Five new sites are classified as Other Sites of Nature Importance.

Call ins. Sadiq Khan approved two developments rejected by boroughs. Haringey council had rejected an application for up to 505 homes in Tottenham, including a 21-storey tower at **Hale Wharf**, over concerns that it would be too tall and would adversely impact green belt land. An application for 186 homes in Palmerston Road in Wealdstone was rejected by Harrow Council because the 17-storey development was deemed too high. Approving both schemes, Kahn said he wants to protect the green belt and ensure affordable housing is delivered ^{LON} ^{BON} ⁿ ^{hol} ^{FT} ^{INS} ^{HO}.



Proposals in and around Hale Wharf

Heritage and Conservation

St Paul’s views. Friends of Richmond Park has written to Sadiq Khan urging him to halt the construction of Manhattan Loft Gardens, a 42-storey tower in Stratford described as “Europe’s most ambitious residential tower” ^{THIS IS LONDON}. They say it damages the view of Sir. The charity said:

“The new development substantially compromises the profile of the whole of the dome of St Paul’s and, for almost the entire east side of the building, the clear sky background is obliterated. It is a tragedy that such a wonderful and iconic protected view, between two of London’s most historic landmarks and created over 300 years ago, should be destroyed not just for today but for many years to come.”

The Friends call for an urgent investigation into how GLA officers allowed the proposal to win planning permission, in contravention of the **London View Management Framework** (LVMF).

Sadiq Khan told AMs more distant boroughs should be included in protected views of St Paul’s Cathedral ^{LON} ^{BON}. Khan said that, while the skyscraper was visible under certain conditions from King Henry’s Mound, it did not “fall within any of the areas where specific additional consultation was or is required in order to safeguard the view of St Paul’s cathedral from this point.” He said:

“Specifically, this view was first identified and given planning status in 1991 and, although the strategic view management framework which regulates this view has changed seven times since then, it appears no one ever anticipated a building so far away from Richmond – and more than 7km behind the dome of St Paul’s – might be visible in that way.”

Historic England said it would have objected strongly if it had been consulted on the Manhattan Loft Gardens building. The agency’s London planning director, Emily Gee, said: “It is now essential that the GLA openly acknowledges that this tower is a mistake and should not ever be treated as a precedent” ^{AU}. In a letter to the Friends of Richmond Park, Kahn said he was seeking devolution of powers over protected views and he would review the LVMF in the revised London Plan. He said greater care should be taken on “whether schemes fall within the wider setting consultation areas or not.” GLA planning officers are producing a map of extensions to the protected viewing corridors, with the intention of helping borough planning authorities identify schemes that may impact on safeguarded views ^{SE} ^{RECTO}.



Heritage planning vital. A report from Historic England says heritage must be recognised in the forthcoming London Plan as a vital part of the capital’s ability to grow. It says heritage should be at the core of planning not an add on. A pan-London strategy is needed for the city’s future to avoid damage such as that caused by Manhattan Loft Gardens “which spoils a protected view of St Paul’s Cathedral” ^W.

1 Leadenhall. City of London councillors granted planning permission for a 36-storey office tower at 1 Leadenhall. The plans include a free public terrace overlooking the roof of the historic Leadenhall Market ^{UK}. Alex Bowring from the Victorian Society, said: “The proposed skyscraper would mark an absolute break in the skyline and therefore significantly harm the streetscape and leave the lively Leadenhall Market looking like a lost relic” ^G. Historic Royal Palaces objected to the impact on views of the Tower of London. It said it was “extremely alarmed by the steady build-up in both density and height” of the City’s eastern tall buildings cluster, which it said was becoming “visually dominant in iconic views of the Tower”, which is a World Heritage Site ^{bd}.




The lower stories of 1 Leadenhall

No 1 Poultry has been listed at Grade II* after a campaign by the Twentieth Century Society .

Piano's Cube. The Victorian Society called on Westminster council to reject demolition of a former Royal Mail sorting and delivery office to make way for Renzo Piano's Paddington Cube. It says there are parallels between this scheme and an application in 2013 by King's College London to demolish a small group of historic buildings on the Strand. That application was rejected on the grounds that the loss of a single building could be seriously damaging. The society wants the council to use Paddington's architectural heritage to enhance local redevelopment rather than to undermine it  **SAVE Britain's Heritage** condemned the new scheme .










"The Cube is outrageously and gratuitously overscaled and will be one of the biggest blots on the London townscape for years. It will overwhelm both Brunel's station and the handsomely restored Great Western Hotel, as well destroying the handsome Edwardian Post Office sorting office. For years Westminster's enlightened policies focused on conserving the character of the borough. If this proposal is passed the borough will be trashing its own once-fine reputation."

The objections from heritage campaigners failed to convince Westminster council, which approved the plans in December  . The Victorian Society and SAVE have since campaigned for the plans to be called in for determination by the secretary of state   **38**.

Harker's Painting Studio is one of just six surviving theatrical scene-painting workshops in London. At the end of last year, Southwark council approved controversial plans for apartments and an office last month, despite the building's listed status and the loss of many original features  **38**.


At risk. The Twentieth Century Society named Holborn Library in its latest top-10 buildings at risk list. Central Hill, a high-density low-rise estate in Lambeth also makes the list, as does the Corbusian-style house at 60 Hornton Street, West Kensington .







Garden Bridge

Financial woes. Westminster council has called for the Garden Bridge Trust to demonstrate that it has raised enough money to complete the structure before construction work can begin  . The Garden Bridge Trust says that the project's cost could "substantially exceed" the previously stated £185 million budget    . The trust raised just £13 million in private donations for the bridge last year. The trustees said "we are determined to make the project happen" but accepted that if problems cannot be resolved, "they will need to consider the future of the project"  . Labour London Assembly members called on the mayor not to guarantee the bridge's running costs .

Comment. Comedian David Mitchell said the struggling project has become far more hassle than it's worth. The Guardian's London correspondent, Dave Hill, said: "Don't rule out the Garden Bridge being built"  .



Toxic Air








Dementia. People living near busy roads have a higher risk of developing dementia, according to a Canadian study. The researchers said around one in 10 cases of dementia among those who live within 50 metres of a major road could be attributable to traffic exposure .




Pollution. Nitrogen dioxide limits for Brixton Road were breached for the whole of 2017 just five days into the New Year  . In Putney High Street, it took until 7 January . On 23 January, Sadiq Khan issued a "very high" pollution alert urging people to stop indoors and use public transport rather than cars   . He said:




"Today the shameful state of London's toxic air has meant that I am forced to trigger the first 'very high' air pollution alert under my new comprehensive alert system. We're delivering the strongest emission measures to clean-up our bus fleets, charging for the dirtiest most toxic diesels, and bringing forward and then extending the Ultra Low Emission Zone."


"The government urgently need to do their bit. They need to devolve more powers to London and introduce a national diesel scrappage scheme to rid our streets of the dirtiest vehicles. They also need to reform vehicle excise duty and bring in a new Clean Air Act that finally tackles this problem and means that Londoners don't have to be afraid of the air we breathe."



Friends of the Earth said the alert was a "scandal" and called on the mayor to restrict traffic before restricting outdoor play  .

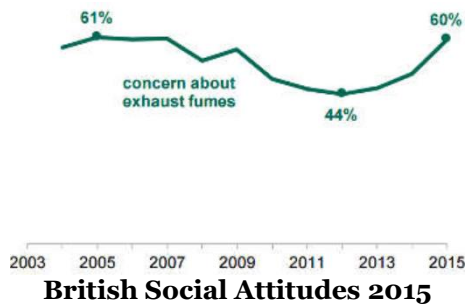
Mayoral mitigation. Sadiq Khan announced £250,000 funding for air quality audits in 50 London primary schools. Among the range of measures expected to result from the audits are green infrastructure components such as barrier bushes along busy roads and in playgrounds to "block out" toxic fumes  . Mr Khan also announced 10 new Low Emission Bus Zones to tackle toxic air  . He also gave funding for low emission projects in six Neighbourhoods of the Future. They include a zero emission zone, "electric streets" with a high concentration of vehicle charging points, ultra-low emission lorry trials, sustainable urban drainage and a rapid-charging "green" taxi rank  . Friends of the Earth said the mayor's plan did not go far enough .



Borough mitigation. Westminster City Council is to become the first local authority to introduce a parking fee for drivers of diesel cars and vans. The trial, to begin in April, will see diesel drivers of such vehicles pay an additional 50%, or £2.45, an hour in Marylebone. The extra income will be spent on boosting sustainable transport  . The City of London wants diesel private hire cars banned .

Comment. The assembly environment committee supported Sadiq Khan's proposals for a **T-charge**, a levy on older vehicles in the central zone . Doctors Against Diesel has urged the mayor to ban all diesel vehicles from the capital due to fears over air pollution  .






Opposition. The GLA Conservative group said the mayor's plans to extend the ULEZ is "a clumsy policy that will fail to tackle pollution hotspots and will penalise drivers and businesses in non-polluting areas." A report by Gareth Bacon AM argues that the budget for the ULEZ should be spent on low emission buses instead .



Opinion. Results from the British Social Attitudes Survey 2015 show the public is becoming more concerned about congestion and air pollution . Two out of three Londoners have considered moving away from the capital to escape toxic air, a report by a removals company suggests .








Poetry mitigation. In Sheffield, scientists have used poetry to remove over two tons of nitrogen oxide from the environment . Cornwall is considering relocating residents from high pollution areas .


Transport

TfL planning. Sadiq Khan has hailed the new Transport for London draft business plan, which aims to deliver his vision for transport over the next five years . The plan says that no more Routemaster buses will be ordered and only low emission buses will be used from 2018 . The Conservatives claimed the business plan would lead to a £37 billion budget shortfall . The mayor confirmed he has withdrawn £100million of ring-fenced funding for the proposed Sutton Tram extension. . The Metropolitan Line extension to Watford Junction may also have been dropped .


Rail. Sadiq Khan has rejected an offer from Chris Grayling for TfL to work alongside the DfT on the on South Eastern refranchising. Mr Grayling has rejected plans to devolve South Eastern suburban services to TfL . An attempt to block the passage of the HS2 bill in the House of Lords was defeated .




Roads. *London Stalling*, a report from the Assembly's Transport Committee, recommends piloting a local workplace parking levy, and replacing the congestion charge by road pricing . Sadiq Khan is consulting on removing dangerous lorries from London's streets . The GLA Green Party has called for Sadiq Khan to bring forward the proposed ban on dangerous 'off road' lorries . Croydon council is consulting on creating a 20mph borough, except for major through roads and roads where it is impractical . Greenwich blogger 853 reports that mayor Sadiq Khan agreed to continue with Boris Johnson's plans to build the controversial Silvertown Tunnel within weeks of taking office .

Walking and cycling. Will Norman, Global Partnerships Director at Nike, has been named London's first Walking and Cycling Commissioner . Sadiq Khan was criticised after delaying a decision until next summer on whether to partly close Regent's Park to rush-hour vehicles to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Initial work on CS11 will get underway in the autumn .


Map. TfL has produced an interactive map showing access to public transport and travel distances across Greater London .

Around the Capital

Barking council has approved plans for 900 homes along with retail and leisure facilities at Vicarage Field. Historic England had said the proposals would cause a "significant level of harm" to the Abbey and Barking Town Centre Conservation Area, particularly the loss of a terrace of early 20th Century shops in Ripple Road and a 1930's health centre. The officers' report described the absence of affordable housing as "unacceptable". Sadiq Khan will make a final decision on the scheme .


Camden. BT has submitted applications for 28 superfast broadband stands in the borough. The pavement pillars will be paid for by illuminated advertising and are based on the New York LinkNYC model . Architects have dismissed criticism of a proposed new community centre in Camden, north London, after residents attacked the scheme for being too big and for ignoring the potential refurbishment of existing facilities . Transport for London is consulting on proposals to build above a new Camden Town Tube station entrance. Closes 8 February .

City. Sadiq Khan has approved a 59-storey tower at 22 Bishopsgate and a 73-storey skyscraper at 1 Undershaft, which will be the tallest building in the Square Mile. The developers agreed to include free public viewing galleries, and to pay £6 million towards affordable housing and £14 million towards Crossrail .

Greenwich. A 28-storey tower is the tallest of 9 buildings proposed for the Charlton Riverside opportunity area, providing office space and 975 homes, 15% of which will be affordable .



Main park space in Charlton Riverside

Hackney council has approved the final phase of regeneration and 400 new homes for the Nightingale Estate in Clapton .

Hammersmith and Fulham. Chelsea have been given planning permission for a new 60,000-seater stadium at Stamford Bridge despite hundreds of neighbourhood objections [LIV NEWS](#) [HAMM](#) [T](#).



The new Chelsea stadium

Havering. The secretary of state for communities, Sajid Javid, has approved plans for a burial ground and pavilions in the green belt at Oak Farm, Romford. Mr Javid agreed with Havering council that the proposal would be inappropriate development in the green belt and would harm openness. In approving the scheme, he gave considerable weight to the need for more Muslim burial facilities in north east London and concluded that “there would not be any harm to visual amenity and that the character and appearance of the local area would also be preserved” [Re](#) [LIV NEWS](#).

Hounslow. Revised plans for 32-storey twin towers at Chiswick Roundabout have been unanimously rejected by Hounslow council’s planning committee. Planning officers had recommended rejection of the Chiswick Curve scheme due to its size and the “substantial harm” it would cause to local heritage sites such as Kew Gardens [get](#) [BREN TFORD](#) [SW6 COM](#) [W4](#). Abundance London is planning to transform the area under the railway bridges along Turnham Green Terrace with a tiled timeline of historic maps showing the development of Chiswick through the centuries [W4](#). The Northumberland Estate is pressing ahead with plans to move the Park Road allotments to an alternative site within Syon Park and redevelop the existing site with 120 flats and houses. Current allotment holders say the new site is not suitable [BREN TFORD](#).

The **Lee Valley Regional Park Authority** has approved a strategy under which the **Waterworks Centre** and car park, currently metropolitan open land, could be developed to pay for a new ice rink [LIV NEWS](#). Thousands have signed a petition against the plans [Gu](#).

Old Oak Common. The GLA Conservative group criticised the mayor for cutting the budget for regeneration of the area by 40%, saying the cut puts the building of thousands of homes at risk [LIV NEWS](#).

Olympic Park. East End artists have accused the London Legacy Development Corporation of sanitising the park by working with national arts institutions and not local smaller cultural producers [bd](#). Permission has been granted for 300 homes and landscaping as part of the 1,500 dwelling East Wick and Sweetwater development [AJ](#) [LIV NEWS](#).

Tower Hamlets. Planning has been granted for a 36m road and pedestrian movable bridge at Canary Wharf [bd](#).



East Wick and Sweetwater

Richmond council has complained to the planning inspectorate that inspectors are making inconsistent decisions on whether affordable housing contributions can be levied on small housing developments [PP](#). The council has published the results of a consultation into regeneration of the 1960s Ham Close estate. Residents favour more affordable housing and a garden link, but are less keen on taller buildings [Ric](#) [LIV NEWS](#).



Plans for Ham Close

Southwark. Sadiq Khan has approved a high-rise development at Skipton House, Elephant & Castle despite the site having no on-site affordable housing. He has ruled that the proposed roof terrace should be open to the public free of charge in perpetuity [Lond](#) [LON](#) [se1](#).



Skipton House roof Garden

Wandsworth. Work is underway on the Wandle Rain Gardens project, which aims to raise awareness of human impact on the environment and the role of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) [SW19 COM](#).

Campaigning

CPRE London is seeking a new director. Applications close 3 February [CPRE](#).