



London Environment Strategy

Sadiq Khan has published the London Environment Strategy (LES) ^{LONDON}. It aims to make the capital the greenest city in the world by 2050 through a series of targets to improve air quality, boost renewables investments and halve food waste. The consultation had received almost 3,000 responses and Mr Khan said:

"I'm delighted that so many Londoners have got involved and given their feedback on the future of London's environment. In order to protect it for future generations... we need all Londoners, and the government, to play their part."

Targets. With the goal of the capital becoming carbon-neutral by 2050, the LES sets out ambitious targets to increase London's current solar photovoltaic capacity 20 fold by 2050 and reduce CO2 emissions by 40% against a 1990 baseline by 2020. The mayor will introduce zero-emissions zones in some town centres by 2020, five years earlier than proposed in the draft strategy, to encourage businesses to use electric vehicles. Food waste will be cut by 50% by 2030.

National Park City. The mayoral commitment to the designation is restated with London becoming:

Greener in the long-term than it is today and where people and nature are better connected.

A city which protects the core network of parks and green spaces and where buildings and public spaces are not defined only by stone, brick, concrete, glass and steel.

Rich with wildlife where every child will benefit from exploring, playing and learning outdoors.

A city where all can enjoy high-quality green spaces, clean air, clean waterways and where more people choose to walk and cycle.

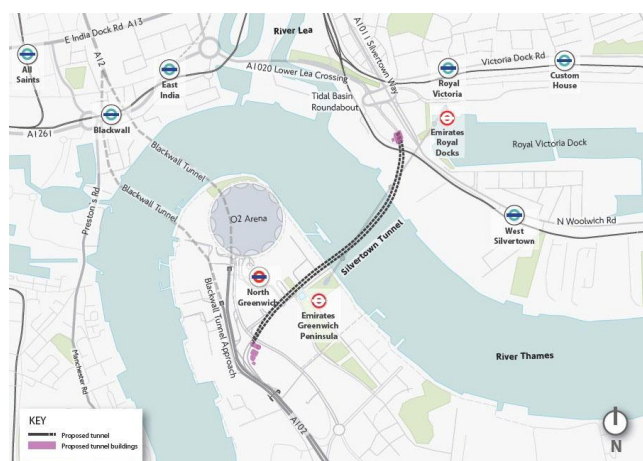
A new definition of green infrastructure will ensure rivers and wetlands are recognised as critical components of the green infrastructure network.

Caroline Russell, chair of the Assembly environment committee, said:

"It's good to see stronger proposals on reducing waste and increasing recycling, as well as some targets on weather and climate resilience. However, key asks not included in this final document [include] stronger ambitions in carbon reduction up to 2025, for the Ultra Low Emission Zone to be extended to more vehicles London-wide and for boroughs to be pressed to offer a minimum level of recycling to flats."

Silvertown Tunnel Approved

Consent. Transport secretary Chris Grayling has approved plans by Transport for London for a new road tunnel under the River Thames. The 1.4 kilometre tunnel will link the Greenwich Peninsula with Silvertown. The tunnel will include a dedicated bus, coach and goods vehicle lane. Both the Silvertown and Blackwall Tunnels will have free flow toll charges. Construction could begin in 2019, with completion expected in 2022/23. However, the tunnel cannot open until safety concerns about the Brenntag chemicals site on the Greenwich Peninsula have been resolved ^{National Infrastructure Planning} ^{Evening Standard} ^{Transport}



Air quality. Throughout the examination of the plans, concerns have been raised both about the increases in NO2 emissions and the modelling used to predict them. In his decision letter, Mr Grayling said: "Whilst some receptors will experience a worsening in air quality as a result of the development, overall the development should have a beneficial impact on air quality." He said that if more vehicles use the tunnel than anticipated, "being able to vary the user charge could provide a robust mitigation mechanism."

Sadiq Khan said: "I'm delighted that the green light has been given to progress with the Silvertown Tunnel. New river crossings are vital for the future prosperity of east London... I've been determined to ensure the Silvertown Tunnel doesn't have a detrimental impact on our environment."

Green Party AM Caroline Russell called the decision "plain wrong": "Some of the most deprived communities in east London, who do not drive, will have their lives and health blighted by this zombie road for decades to come" ^{Evening Standard} ^{Transport}

Assembly transport committee. Caroline Pidgeon said: "It won't tackle congestion but will worsen the environment. Tolls will also divert traffic into Rotherhithe."

No to Silvertown Tunnel said: "We're disappointed, but we are proud to have spoken up for communities on both sides of the Thames who objected to having more traffic imposed on them. We still believe that this will ultimately make the congestion problem worse, by adding to traffic jams elsewhere. The environmental mitigation suggested – such as running a cycle bus through the tunnel – is a hollow joke, while tolls will just punish those who need to use the tunnel" ^{National Infrastructure Planning}

CPRE London AGM

The 2018 AGM of the London Branch of CPRE will take place from 6.00-8.30pm on Thursday 24 May at The Gallery, 70-74 Cowcross St, Farringdon, London EC1M 6EJ. Please sign up to attend [here](#).

Patrick Feehily, the GLA's Environment Director, will be the keynote speaker.

Tranquil London. A panel discussion on how we can improve our green and public spaces for health and wellbeing. With Ben Bost (Transport for London), Lisa Lavia ([Noise Abatement Society](#)), Jake Tibbets (City of London Corporation), Grant Waters ([Tranquil City](#)), Steve Potter (psychotherapist) and others.

Green Priorities

CPRE survey. In April, CPRE London asked voters across the capital to pick the three environmental issues they would like their council to tackle or promote. Reduction of traffic on streets and backstreets topped the 493 responses. Control of litter came second. Alice Roberts of CPRE London said:

"Reducing litter has always been a major issue for local voters so it was a surprise to see traffic reduction beating it to the top of the list. We were also surprised that enforcing recycling could be a vote winner. It's something that would dramatically increase London's shockingly low recycling rates but councils have traditionally seen it as a vote loser. Perhaps recent publicity on plastics pollution has shifted people's views."

Rank		%response
1	Reduce traffic on streets and backstreets	34%
2	Reduce and control litter	33%
3	Green streets with trees and planting	32%
4	Protect existing trees (halt tree felling)	31%
5	Enforce recycling to reduce landfill	30%
6	Make our parks the best in the world	28%
7	Create a wildlife-friendly borough	26%
8	Promote renewable energy	18%
9	More pedestrianisation of streets	13%
10	Reduce light pollution	9%
11	Promote responsible dog ownership	8%
	Other	24%

Open and Green

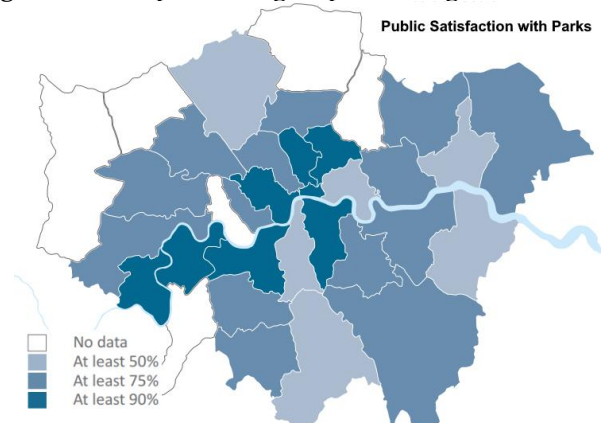
Manifesto. Ahead of the local elections, CPRE London issued a manifesto calling for candidates to pledge to improve parks and public spaces, protect green belt and open land, and build genuinely affordable housing on brownfield land. Neil Sinden said: "We're extremely concerned about the pressures facing green spaces. London is a space for nature not just business, bustle and buildings." The plea gained extensive media coverage and support from candidates from across the political spectrum. [CPRE Re Re Re](#).

Parks. More than 200,000 people have signed a petition to retain the Parks for People fund run by Heritage Lottery Fund [chan get.org](#). A new 32-acre park at the St Andrew's Park housing development in Uxbridge has been handed over to Hillingdon Council [get west](#).

Green benefits. New research from Fields in Trust demonstrates that parks and green spaces across the UK provide people with over £34 billion of health and wellbeing benefits. Londoners are highly satisfied with their nearest green spaces and think it would be worth paying more than £4 a month to visit them. That's twice the national figure [🌳](#).

Protecting trees. After a national outcry, rail minister Jo Johnson called on Network Rail to suspend tree felling. He is to review the plans for fell that millions of trees close to tracks between 2019 and 2024. [🌳](#) [g Matt](#) [City of](#) [Bromley](#) council has issued two tree preservation orders (TPO) on area of mature oaks, sycamores and ash trees alongside a line in the borough [g](#) [T](#).

Parks for London for London launched *The Good Parks for London* report. Boroughs are scored on ten criteria and the report shows that despite funding cuts, the boroughs are working hard to protect and enhance the capital's parks and green spaces. Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark were all ranked joint first [🌳](#). Horticultural Week examined how Lambeth gained high scores despite having its parks budget [Lambeth Week](#).




Protecting green space. Rohan Silva, a fellow at LSE Cities, said: "For our own good, we must revive the drive for new green spaces" [Even](#) [Stam](#). The Spitalfields Neighbourhood Planning Forum agreed to try to get little parks like Allen Gardens listed as protected public greens [Ad](#).

Tranquility. Researchers for a housebuilder used crowdsourced noise level readings from a phone app to identify the quietest boroughs in London. Tower Hamlets was the quietest neighbourhood followed by Sutton, Waltham Forest, Croydon and Ealing [🌳](#) [T](#). The number of readings across the capital is very uneven and that may have distorted results.



Green Belt

Green belt brownfield. Garages, wasteland and refuse plants are being wrongly designated “green belt” land, Siobhain McDonagh, MP for Morden said. She cited the example of a garage in Tottenham Hale where “Not a blade of grass is to be seen.” She has lodged an Early Day Motion (EDM) calling for recognition that “the scattered plots of Green Belt land within a 45 minute travel time of London’s Zone 1 and less than a 10 minute walk to a train station to be ill-fitting to the purpose of the green belt.” Ms McDonagh wants a presumption in favour of housebuilding on this land to allow one million homes to be built. The EDM has gained nine signatures, a total that includes the six sponsors .

Review. The Landscape Institute said the government should undertake a review of green belt policies as a part of its revision of the National Planning Policy Framework .

“Our politicians frequently reconfirm their commitment to preserving the green belt. This is very misleading to the public because the periodic reviews of local plans are constantly eroding the green belt, through ‘death by a thousand cuts’. The public deserve a system for protecting the green belt that they can trust.”


Around the Capital



Barking and Dagenham. The council leader unveiled ideas to reinvent Barking’s run down town centre as a “mini Manhattan” .






Concept for Barking town centre


Barnet. A second application has been submitted to construct a playing field for St Vincent’s School in the green belt. The plan involves levelling the site with 30,000 tonnes of landfill at Drivers Hill Nature Reserve, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation within the Mill Hill Conservation Area .





Bexley. RIBA has launched a competition for a design for a brownfield site in Abbey Wood .


Bromley. A decision on a new football stadium in the green belt at Chislehurst for Cray Wanderers will be made by Sadiq Khan. The plans were approved by 11 to three votes. Mr Khan turned down a previous application for the site because of its impact on the green belt . Friends of Havelock Recreation have submitted a Deed of Dedication to protect the recreation ground from development .

Croydon. The borough’s planning committee passed revised plans to redevelop Crystal Palace’s Selhurst Park stadium. Construction will not start before planning approval for replacement housing has been gained. Sadiq Khan must also give his approval .

Ealing. The appeal court has rejected a legal challenge against Queens Park Rangers football club’s plans for a training facility on metropolitan open land at Warren Farm. Lord Justice Lindblom said he could not fault the council’s view that there were very special circumstances justifying what would otherwise have been inappropriate development of metropolitan open land . Hanwell Community Forum is appealing the judgement to the Supreme Court .

Enfield. A planning inspector approved redevelopment of a pub for 58 flats, despite only 20% being affordable and an absence of communal external space .

Greenwich. The 20th Century Society has condemned plans for the “Spray Street Quarter”, which would require demolition of the 1936 Woolwich Covered Market and locally listed Victorian and Edwardian shops . More than 800 people have signed a petition to save the East Greenwich gasholder . A petition to lobby for cruise ships to use on-shore power instead of generators at the Enderby Wharf terminal has reached nearly 7,000 signatures . The Friends of Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park are objecting to plans for three towers which will overshadow the wildlife site .

Hackney. Plans have been published for 132 homes on the now demolished Tower Court Estate .

Havering. London’s deputy mayor has called in plans to build nearly 3,000 homes on the former Dagenham car plant. Havering council refused the scheme saying the plans to build 2,900 homes, 50% affordable, were not good enough. Neighbouring Barking & Dagenham council had already approved the scheme .



Plans for the former Dagenham car plant

Hounslow. Sadiq Khan has called in plans to build 427 homes on the Citroen Site in Brentford after Hounslow council refused permission. He said the council was failing to meet its affordable housing targets and the proposed development would be 40% affordable . The council refused the application in February, citing concerns from Historic England that the development would have a negative impact on local heritage sites, including Kew Gardens . Air Quality Brentford is planting around the area to help make the area greener .

Islington. The high court rejected a developer's bid to redevelop Holloway Territorial Army centre with just 10% affordable housing **P** **LOI**. Islington council has announced the winning ideas for redevelopment of Old Street after the roundabout is removed in 2019 **de zee** **FT**.



The Iris: a proposal for Old Street

Kensington & Chelsea. Sadiq Khan has called in the council's decision to refuse redevelopment of 1960s Newcombe House in Notting Hill Gate saying the council is "significantly underdelivering against its annualised housing completion targets and the borough's affordable housing targets" **LON DON** **P**. Ideas have been published for regeneration of the Lancaster West Estate, of which the Grenfell Tower was a part **bd de zee**.



The Walkways, Lancaster West Estate

Lewisham. Residents are objecting to plans to build affordable apartments for elderly people on a green space on Bampton Estate **THIS LOI**. Councillors rejected a **365 home mixed use development**, citing a lack of public benefits. The scheme would have included a 34-storey block including a rooftop viewing gallery open to the public on at least ten days per year and 20% affordable housing **P** **News Shop**.

Lambeth. The Open Spaces Society has objected to plans demolish the Spinney Centre on Clapham Common to build an educational centre **south london press**. It is also objecting to the common being used for events for more than 100 days a year **Open Space Soc.**

Newham. Plans for the first phase of the **Sugar House Island** development will include three acres of open space and a riverside walk **Ad** **bd**. Sadiq Khan will need to approve the 15-storey redevelopment of The Shopping Hall. The proposed 277-home block is taller than the local plan allows and has only 28% affordable housing **P**. The Essel Group is trying to buy Silvertown Quays. It aims to build a £1 billion Indian cultural centre, a hotel, museums, a theatre, shops, restaurants, a botanical garden and 3,000 new homes **Evening Standard** **Con Eng** **mail** **27/10/18**.

Redbridge. Former housing secretary Sajid Javid approved a 700-home housing scheme by the supermarket chain Sainsbury's in Ilford, which includes just 4% affordable housing. Redbridge council said the scheme would "deliver much needed affordable housing for our residents" **g** **INS** **P** **HO** **FT** **FT**.

Richmond. After more than 4,000 public comments, supporters of plans to build retirement apartments on the former Imperial College playing fields at Udney Park in Teddington outnumber objectors by 2 to 1. However, London Scottish FC, which had encouraged supporting letters, has now distanced itself from the application. **Ric** **Richn** **Richn** **Richn** **Twic** **Twic** **Twic**.

Southwark. An Old Kent Road retail park is to be redeveloped for 1,200 homes, 35% affordable, retail space, offices and a new park and square **N**. Plans for the regeneration of the 53-acre Canada Water area have been submitted to the council. They include 3,000 homes, 35% affordable, a new high street, town centre and leisure centre **N** **FT** **FT**.



Proposed park at Canada Wharf

Tower Hamlets. An examination hearing has been held into the Isle of Dogs neighbourhood plan. Reports suggest the area faces a nearly £1 billion shortfall in infrastructure funds **Ad**. The draft plan wants to encourage developers to release empty land on a temporary basis for community use, for example as a pocket park or market pending the start of construction. If the plan is approved, residents would get a vote ahead of any estate redevelopment that involves demolition of homes or loss of green space **Ad**.

Waltham Forest. After a major oil spillage into the River Lea which covered swans in oil, Save Lea Marshes wrote an open letter calling on Defra to investigate "inadequate" clean-up operation **Evening Standard** **Ga**. Protests continue against plans to build tower blocks in Walthamstow. The proposal will build on more than a third of town square, remove 81 mature lime trees and move a children's playground closer to traffic **Gu**.

Wandsworth. Residents are opposing plans to build on green space during the redevelopment of Winstanley and York Road estates. A new, larger park is planned but residents say that will be decades away **South London Press** **chan ge.org**.

Westminster. As developers plan to begin work on the Paddington Cube, Save Britain's Heritage has been given a date of 19 July for an appeal court challenge **bd** **bd** **SAVE**. Save has also called for the Haymarket cinema to be listed **SAVE**.

Planning

London Plan. In its response to the consultation, CPRE London said it was encouraged by many aspects of the draft plan and particularly its focus on making the best use of land ^{CPRE}.

"We are delighted it recognises the importance of green spaces in London but we believe the policies need to be strengthened to give them adequate protection and to help deliver the commitment to make more than 50% of London green by 2050."

Parks for London said the London Plan policies for open and green space were weak and should aim to protect all green space of under 20 hectares in size ^{PfL}. The Heath & Hampstead Society said that housing targets in the draft plan are a threat to the future of historic Hampstead and the surrounding area ^{Ham High}. The CBI called for further clarity on how housing density is increased across all London boroughs ^{CBI}.

Land Assembly Zones would simplify the process of bringing together parcels of land to form a single developable site. The proposal, along with a call for the mayor to have stronger compulsory purchase powers, is contained in a report to the GLA ^{LON Mayor DON}.

Density. Britain's most densely populated square kilometre is in west London with 20,477 people. This is much lower than other European cities ^g.

Town and city centres. The Assembly's regeneration committee published "Centres for Excellence? Good Growth through town centre regeneration." The report says policies should create space for communities as well as commerce and councils should engage communities in shaping development ^{LON Mayor DON}. The Centre for Cities has published a report on balancing the need for housing and office space in cities ^g.

Futures. Writing on the capital's future, architect Sir Norman Foster said: "I have no doubt that London, like cities worldwide, stands on the verge of a new era of greener public spaces, cleaner energy and an even better quality of life" ^{Norman Foster}.

Permitted development. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said that the government's plans to further relax permitted development rights for office to residential conversions will lead to more poor quality housing ^{bd}. The planning inspectorate has received more than 1,000 appeals for phone kiosks around the country, delaying other appeals. The kiosks can be erected under permitted development rights but need council prior approval. They are widely seen as a trojan horse for on-street advertising and the Local Government Association has called for the removal of permitted rights ^{PP Local Gover}.

Architects are debating whether the layout and design of all developments should be landscape-led ^{AU L D A}. Will Alsop, the architect of the prize winning Peckham Library, has died aged 70 ^{g bd}.

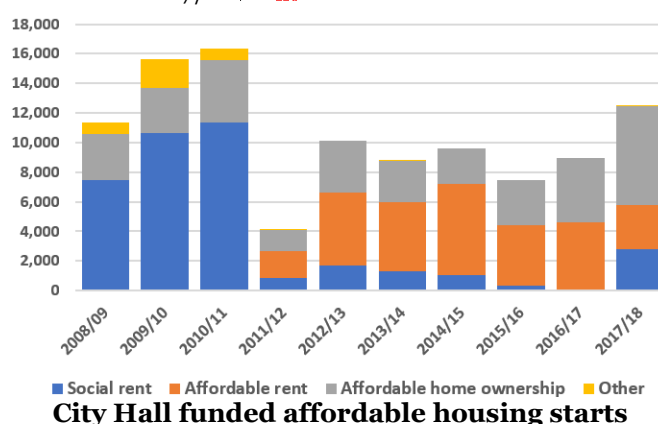
Heritage. The National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing and Charles Jencks' Thematic House in Holland Park have been given Grade I listed status. Several other London buildings have been listed Grade II, including China Wharf and the Belvoir Estate ^{W&A}.

Housing

James Brokenshire has been appointed Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government following Sajid Javid's move to the Home Office ^g.

Jasmine Whitbread, chief executive of London First, said Brokenshire's top priority must be to fix the capital's broken housing market ^{AM}. Between 2012 and 2016, there were 177,590 too few homes built in London, the highest regional shortfall in England according to the National Housing Federation ^{NHF}.

Affordable housing. Former housing secretary Sajid Javid surrendered £65 million intended for affordable housing in London to the Treasury in 2017/18. He said it was "no longer required" ^{INS HO}. The Labour Party has published its manifesto for social housing ^{RED}. City Hall has purchased most of the former St Ann's Hospital site in Haringey to build 800 homes, 50% affordable ^T. Sadiq Khan pledged to build 10,000 new council homes in London over the next four years. Since Right to Buy was introduced in 1980, 306,000 social homes have been sold by councils in London but only 62,000 new homes have been built at social rent ^{LON Mayor DON}. Mr Khan said work began on 12,500 "affordable" properties in London in 2017/18 ^{INS HO}.




Greening the Streets








Cars or plants? The Guardian reported on a Dutch scheme to green streets by using parking permits to take over on-street spaces for planters and other greening projects. The reaction from car owners has initially been hostile but the promoters are determined to continue with their experiment ^g.




The Debatmobiel in The Hague ^f


Transport







River Thames. Atkins has won the contract to develop proposals for the Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf pedestrian and cycle crossing scheme .





Walking and cycling. The Assembly transport committee said that Cycle Superhighways had been largely successful but the jury was out on Quietways . Ministers have urged people to respond to the government's walking and cycling consultation, which closes on 1 June . TfL has refused to reveal levels of support for the controversial CS9 between Olympia and Brentford . Westminster council has branded Sadiq Khan's plans to pedestrianise Oxford Street "unacceptable"   . A new cycleway is to be created between Raines Park and Merton .

Travel modes. Government statistics show a drop in people walking for travel in London – getting to work, the shops, etc. But cycling for travel is increasing. Both walking and cycling for leisure are also increasing . The table below shows the percentage of residents that walk or cycle at least once a week.


Purpose	2014/15				2015/16			
	Leisure		Travel		Leisure		Travel	
Locality	Eng	Lon	Eng	Lon	Eng	Lon	Eng	Lon
Walking	43%	36%	53%	67%	47%	41%	42%	48%
Cycling	5%	4%	5%	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%

Tube. Passenger numbers on the Tube have fallen creating a funding gap that threatens plans for improvements and upgrades. Despite population growth, daily travel has decreased across all transport modes, a pattern reflected across England. Flexible working and reduced shopping trips are among the factors driving the trend .

Rail. The media have been previewing Crossrail stations along the Elizabeth Line   . Network Rail has taken control of Clapham Junction station ahead of a major redevelopment   .

Aviation. Passenger numbers at London City Airport remained static at £4.5m last year . Stansted is hoping to lift its annual passenger limit from 35m to 45m  . The commons transport committee said more work is needed to resolve environmental concerns before the airports national policy statement is approved by parliament .

The London Elections


Summary. Labour failed to take control of any boroughs. There was a swing towards Labour in some councils. The Conservative majority was reduced from 41 to 33 councillors in Wandsworth. The Conservatives regained Barnet from no overall control. The Liberal Democrats took control of both Richmond upon Thames and Kingston upon Thames from the Conservatives. The Lib Dems lost 12 councillors in Sutton but remain in control .

Councillors. Labour: +61; Lib Dem: +35; Green: +7; UKIP: -12; Other -13; Conservative: -102.

Mayors. Labour retained its mayors in Hackney, Lewisham, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Boroughs. Labour now hold: 21 boroughs; Conservative: 6. Lib Dem: 3. Havering remains under no overall control.

Barking and Dagenham	Lab hold
Barnet	Con gain from no overall control
Bexley	Con hold
Brent	Lab hold
Bromley	Con hold
Camden	Lab hold
Croydon	Lab hold
Ealing	Lab hold
Enfield	Lab hold
Greenwich	Lab hold
Hackney	Lab hold
Hammersmith & Fulham	Lab hold
Haringey	Lab hold
Harrow	Lab hold
Havering	No overall Control, no change
Hillingdon	Con hold
Hounslow	Lab hold
Islington	Lab hold
Kensington and Chelsea	Con hold
Kingston upon Thames	Lib Dem gain from Con
Lambeth	Lab hold
Lewisham	Lab hold
Merton	Lab hold
Newham	Lab hold
Redbridge	Lab hold
Richmond upon Thames	Lib Dem gain from Con
Southwark	Lab hold
Sutton	Lib Dem hold
Tower Hamlets	Lab hold
Waltham Forest	Lab hold
Wandsworth	Con hold
Westminster	Con hold

Barnet Conservatives promised to keep weekly bin collections. They pledged to bring an end to over-development by "resisting the mayor's plan to build in gardens and green spaces" and opposing an increase in housing density .

Kingston. In their manifesto, the Liberal Democrats promised to co-design development masterplans with residents and to challenge the London Plan which doubles the borough's housing targets. "There should be no large-scale developments on the green belt or metropolitan open land" .

Richmond Lib Dems promised to "halt the unpopular Conservative plans for Twickenham Riverside pending reports from the Environment Agency and the planning inspectorate" .

The CPRE London eBulletin

Editorial. The CPRE London eBulletin is issued several times a year. Any views expressed are those of the editor and contributors, not of any part of CPRE. Andy Boddington, Editor, cprenews@andybodders.co.uk.

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