

All London Green Grid

Review of Implementation



CPRE London & Neighbourhoods Green

JULY 2014



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Glossary

AF	Area Framework (11 frameworks covering the entire ALGG)
ALGG	All London Green Grid
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CPRE London	Campaign to Protect Rural England, London branch
GI	Green infrastructure
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
TfL	Transport for London
NG	Neighbourhoods Green

Section 2: Executive Summary

This report outlines the findings from a three-stage appraisal examining the early policy uptake and implementation of the All London Green Grid (ALGG) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) agreed in 2012 by London boroughs and their partners. The review comprised a desk review of local authority policy commitments, an online survey of All London Green Grid (ALGG) stakeholders, 1-2-1 meetings and site visits with a smaller number of ALGG delivery organisations.

The research clearly indicates a positive message about the value and steady uptake of the ALGG by London boroughs and other organisations. The ALGG Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has provided greater emphasis on the multiple benefits and opportunities to be derived from green infrastructure, as well as a trend towards greater political uptake and strategic green infrastructure planning.

The report finds that the ALGG has been well adopted into over half of London boroughs policies. Roughly half of London boroughs make a specific policy commitment in relation to the ALGG, and show a robust understanding of, and commitment to, the ALGG principles. A number of London borough policy documents predate the launch of the ALGG SPG and consequently it is expected that additional policy commitments will be made when these are reviewed and updated. The level of on-paper commitment shows some variation, and three of the eleven green grid areas lack clear borough policies (the Arcadian Thames, Area Framework 09; River Cray and Southern Marshes, Area Framework 05; and Epping Forest and Roding Valley, AF02).

Due to there being no previous data regarding ALGG policy take-up and effectiveness of implementation prior to this assessment, this report is only able to provide early indicative findings in certain areas. In broad terms, the ALGG has undoubtedly made a difference to the way London boroughs approach green infrastructure but there is still much to be done.

Particular recommendations include:

1. Supporting local policy uptake: London boroughs should continue to integrate ALGG and green infrastructure policies within all relevant policies, including Core Strategies and Local Plans, development control documents, open space strategies and regeneration policies. The GLA should ensure all boroughs have clear ALGG policies and are implementing them effectively.
2. Strategic coordination: There is a need to strengthen collaboration within and between the boroughs and the ALGG Area Frameworks, and new partners e.g. local businesses and housing associations, to ensure it is delivered as effectively as possible, including through pooling resources and assembling of projects. The GLA should provide additional support for Area Framework coordination and review functions.

3. Strategic investment: The effective delivery of green infrastructure objectives requires further investment, particularly where less progress has been made (such as, blue/green space schemes along the Thames, food production initiatives (e.g. expanding the Capital Growth programme), and green infrastructure skills development. Strategic funding is particularly required to support:

- *Monitoring* - baseline and periodic green infrastructure audits to support strategic green infrastructure planning;
- *Innovation* - including to support 'big ticket' areas such as blue/green space improvement, as well as community-led initiatives;
- *Area framework coordination* - to support partnership working, skills development and pooling of resources and activities.

Identification of new sources of investment should include amending the 1966 Act of Parliament that created the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and its associated levy, to create a fund for other London regional valleys (e.g. the Wandle Valley, Crane and Colne Valley) and London-wide green grid requirements. In addition, foundations with similar green infrastructure objectives (e.g. Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery and City Bridge Trust) could be approached to form an innovation funding consortium with or alongside the GLA.

4. Baseline audits and tracking progress: there is a clear need for regular (e.g. biennial) review of policy uptake and delivery outcomes by London boroughs, green grid partners and the GLA. This is necessary to assess progress and identify future investment opportunities. As a relatively new policy much of the data gathered in **this ALGG review hasn't been assessed before and it would be valuable** for the GLA to create a standard review framework to monitor progress over time. Furthermore local green infrastructure audits should be adopted to create a baseline of data of those resources that are available for each ALGG area. The GLA should review the progress of the ALGG by supporting the creation of a robust dataset, including the current Key Performance Indicators, as well as tracking the progress of each borough and Area Framework in terms of policy uptake and implementation.

Later in 2014 the GLA will be producing a long term infrastructure investment plan for London, including a chapter on green infrastructure. We call on the Mayor to ensure that green infrastructure investment is not just referenced on a single chapter but thoroughly in embedded throughout the plan.

It is vital that the Mayor recognises green infrastructure as a productive asset, which, with **proper investment and coordinated support, can deliver considerable benefits for London's** economy, environment, long term resilience and community wellbeing. The ALGG model is starting to promote better planning, coordination and optimisation of green infrastructure functions throughout the capital. The Mayor should seek to build on the successes so far to take this work forward to the next level.

Section 2: Background

Aim

In February 2014 CPRE London and Neighbourhoods Green proposed a partnership project to independently assess local policy adoption and implementation of the All London Green Grid (ALGG) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and encourage its further and effective delivery. It was felt that as partners from across the political spectrum CPRE London and Neighbourhoods Green would, together, be able to deliver an unbiased assessment of the ALGG adoption.

Objectives

1. To assess London borough policy commitment supporting the uptake of the All London Green Grid in its eleven regions
2. To assess implementation of those policies according to its described functions
3. To examine the resourcing of ALGG implementation (human and financial) and identify potential options to promote further / improved uptake in the future

Rationale

The All London Green Grid (ALGG) was first proposed in the 2011 London Plan and its objectives further outlined in the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG, 2012). The overarching purpose of the ALGG is:

“To create a well-designed green infrastructure network of interlinked, multi-purpose open and green spaces with good connections to the places where people live and work, public transport, the Green Belt and the Blue ribbon Network, especially the Thames. This will provide a richly varied landscape that will benefit both people and wildlife providing diverse uses to appeal to, and be accessible by, all.” (ALGG SPG 2012)

CPRE London and Neighbourhoods Green believe that the ALGG has considerable potential to deliver a number of essential functions for Londoners, including air quality enhancement, climate mitigation and adaptation (including flood protection and urban cooling), biodiversity corridors, as well as local economic benefits (e.g. tourism generation, increased footfall for local businesses) and improvements to health and quality of urban life. We are therefore keen to review London Borough uptake since 2011 and assess opportunities to support its wider and improved delivery.

The Implementation Plan (2012) attached to the 2011 London Plan offered few specific resources to support the implementation of the ALGG. As a spatial planning framework the London Plan itself does not identify the specific resources needed to deliver the ALGG policy, except where there is opportunity to deliver green infrastructure interventions through the land-use planning process. However, to support delivery of the ALGG the Mayor has committed funding to support various targeted green infrastructure projects, including: Help a London Park, the Big Green Fund, Pocket Parks Programme and the Street Trees initiative. CPRE London and Neighbourhoods Green have sought to examine the delivery of those initiatives, to assess their progress and whether they are helping to deliver green infrastructure objectives.

This report reviews the early progress of the ALGG, highlights gains achieved and barriers faced, and identifies potential future opportunities and financial mechanisms that would help to deliver the aims of the ALGG SPG locally and regionally.

11 Green Grid Areas	Green Grid Functions
GGA1 Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge	1. Adapt to climate change and promote urban greening
GGA2 Epping Forest and Roding Valley	2. Increase access to open space
GGA3 Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne	3. Conserve and Enhance biodiversity and increase access to nature
GGA5 River Cray and Southern Marshes	4. Improve sustainable travel connections
GGA6 South East London Green Chain	5. Promote healthy living
GGA7 London's Downlands	6. Conserve and enhance heritage features, geodiversity and landscape character
GGA8 Wandle Valley	7. Enhance distinctive destinations and boost the visitor economy
GGA9 Arcadian Thames	8. Promote sustainable design, management and maintenance
GGA10 River Colne and Crane	9. Enhance green space and green infrastructure sector skills
GGA11 Brent Valley and Barnet Plateau	10. Promote sustainable food production
GGA12 Central London	11. Improve air quality and soundscapes
	12. Improve the quality of and access to the urban fringe
	13. Conserve and enhance the Thames riverside spaces

Source: ALGG SPG (2012)

Section 3: London Borough ALGG Policy Commitment

The All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance calls on London boroughs to establish clear policy commitments; in terms of planning decisions, development policy and open space strategies, to enhance green infrastructure, address deficiency and needs, and improve access (SPG Policy 2.8).

“Boroughs should:

- 1) Follow the guidance in PPG 17 and undertake audits of all forms of green and open space and assessments of need. These should be both qualitative and quantitative, and have regard to the cross-borough nature and use of many of these open spaces;*
- 2) Produce open space strategies that cover all forms of open space and the interrelationship between these spaces. These should identify priorities for addressing deficiencies and should set out positive measures for the management of green and open space. These strategies and their action plans need to be kept under review. Delivery of local biodiversity action plans should be linked to open space strategies;*
- 3) Ensure that in and through DPD policies, green infrastructure needs are planned and managed to realise the current and potential value of open space to communities and to support delivery of the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits;*
- 4) In London's urban fringe support, through appropriate initiatives, the Green arc vision of creating and protecting an extensive and valued recreational landscape of well-connected and accessible countryside around London for both people and wildlife.”*

ALGG, SPD, Policy 2.8, section F

This section reviews the degree of policy uptake by each of the 32 London boroughs, plus the City of London.

ALGG Area Framework	London Borough/s in area
AF01 – Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge	Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham forest (also Thames Gateway)
AF02 - Epping Forest and Rodding	Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, City of London land.
AF03 – Thames Chase, Beam, Ingrebourne	Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge (also Thames Chase community forest)
AF05 - River Cray and Southern	Bexley, (also Dartford Borough Council)
AF06 – South East Green Chain plus	Bexley, Bromley, Royal Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, Thames Gateway
AF07 – London's Downlands	Croydon, Bromley, Sutton, City of London (also Surrey Country Council)
AF08 – Wandle Valley	Croydon, Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth
AF09 - Arcadian Thames	Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton, Richmond Upon Thames, and Wandsworth
AF10 – River Colne and Crane	Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond Upon Thames
AF11 – Brent Valley and Barnet Plateau	Barnet, Brent, Camden, City of London, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow
AF12 – Central London	Camden, City of London, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster

3.1 Method

Neighbourhoods Green and CPRE London conducted a desk review of publicly available London borough policy commitments in relation to the ALGG. The review focused on reviewing Open Space

Strategies, Core Strategies, and Local Plans. Where relevant we also examined other documentation, such as Biodiversity, Parks and Green Space Strategies. The desk review was by no means exhaustive. Instead, it gives a broad indication of the clear policy commitments across London rather than focusing on individual boroughs. It should be noted that there may be policy commitments regarding the ALGG which were not covered by this review.¹

3.2 Observations

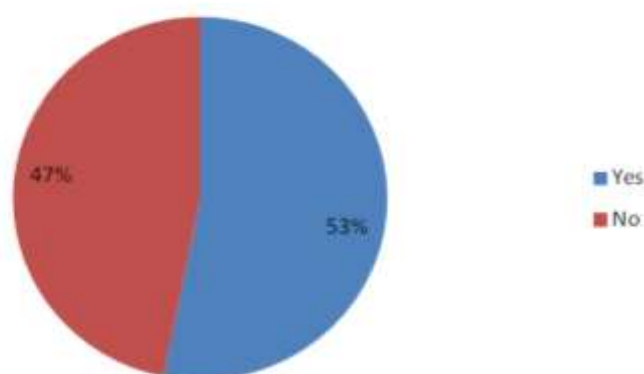
A specific commitment to the ALGG was identified in just over half of the boroughs. While this appears to be low, it should be noted that four fifths of those boroughs where no policy commitment was found had relevant policy documents that predate the launch of the ALGG Supplementary Planning Guidance in March 2012.

Seen in this context, uptake of the ALGG is reasonably high. Where there has been scope to incorporate the ALGG into new or revised policy documentation boroughs have, mostly, ensured compliance with London Plan policy. Of the seventeen boroughs that have ALGG policies, eight appear to have a robust understanding of the fundamental principles of the ALGG and indicate clear commitment to a strategic level approach to green infrastructure.

As an example, Newham's 2027 Local Plan and their earlier Open Space Assessment offer an example of a fairly comprehensive approach to delivering the All London Green Grid. Newham's policies recognise the importance of green connectivity – connecting up green spaces with town centres and transport nodes. They highlight the multiple benefits of managing green spaces in a more strategic way. In a deprived area of London it talks about how the green grid will help to create more sustainable neighbourhoods through creating new parks and improving existing sites.

Significantly Newham calls for a strategic approach to green infrastructure planning and management, cutting across planning processes, and explicitly prioritising green infrastructure investment as part of its wider infrastructure strategy. Their policies recognise the need to deliver outcomes in partnership with private and third sector organisations, as well as allowing for innovative 'meanwhile' uses including community food production. The policy also outlines how it will connect to the blue ribbon network (Local Plan policy INF7) – see summary policies outlined below.

Figure 1
ALGG commitment Identified in all 32
London Boroughs



¹ See Appendix 1 for a breakdown of borough policy references

Newham's Green Grid Policies (2010 and 2012)

Aim	Policy references
Enhancing green infrastructure connectivity	<p>[<i>Local Plan, para 6.261</i>] The East London Green Grid sets out the open space resource in East London, and provides a spatial approach to identifying locations for new publicly accessible open spaces, improving existing open spaces, and strengthening connections between spaces and destination points. This provides a strategic overview for improvements to Green Infrastructure that crosses borough boundaries, such as the Olympic Park, Lee Valley Regional Park, Lea River Park, Roding Valley linear green space and river crossings, and links to major open space to the north such as Wanstead Flats.</p> <p>[<i>Open Space Assessment: para 1.3.2</i>] The East London Green Grid Framework – Supplementary Planning Guidance to the London Plan is a sub-regional frame work which aims to create a network of interlinked, high quality open spaces that connect town centres with public transport nodes, the Green Belt, the Thames, and major employment and residential areas. It provides direction on where and how the Green Grid should develop and describes how to integrate open space networks into planning the regeneration of East London.</p>
Delivering multiple benefits	<p>[<i>Open Space Assessment: para 1.3.3</i>] The green grid will provide access to open space, routes for walking and cycling, nature conservation, opportunities for informal and formal recreation, healthy exercise, environmental education, flood risk management, adapting to and mitigating climate change, grey water treatment, improving urban micro-climates, moderating the impacts of heat, noise and air pollution, and improving landscape and townscape quality.</p>
Integrating with planning agendas	<p>[<i>Open Space Assessment: para 2.3.12</i>] The [East London] framework sets out six Green Grid Areas which provide the basic framework from which Green Grid development and enhancement projects can be delivered. The document highlights the strategic open space opportunities that should be used to inform the implementation of the Green Grid, such as through development planning, master planning, borough Open Space Strategies and projects.</p>
Reducing deficient access	<p>[<i>Local Plan: para 6.261-2</i>]...An open space assessment of the borough (which also took into account provision beyond the borough boundaries) found that there were areas of deficiency in the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces.... There are deficiencies in local open space in Manor Park, East Ham and Green Street. Canning Town is not within the catchment of a District Park; improvements are programmed to existing open spaces to improve the quality and functions of the space to address this deficiency.</p> <p>[<i>Open Space Assessment: para 2.3.16</i>] The framework recognises that East London has deficiencies in all the park categories identified in the London Plan. This shortfall results in a gap in the spatial character of London and the wider open space network. Through focusing Green Grid efforts to provide new open space and linkages a reduction in these deficient areas can be delivered. These efforts can include: expansion of existing parks; improving the quality, facilities and accessibility; improving the linkages between parks; and the provision of new parks.</p>
Investment and partnership	<p>[<i>Local Plan: para 6.268</i>] Areas of deficiency in quality, quantity and access to open space will be prioritised for investment. The Council will work with partners to address existing deficiencies in the Green Infrastructure network. The Council's priorities are set out in the Parks Development Plan 2009-14. The Council's Green Infrastructure investment plans and those of other private and third sector organisations will be included in annual updates of its Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p> <p>[<i>Local Plan, policy INF9 Infrastructure Investment: para 6.296</i>] PPS 12 requires that the deliverability of the LDF, especially the Core Strategy, is set out in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This comprises an infrastructure delivery strategy that covers the years 1-15, and a projects schedule which has more certainty for years 1-5/6. The IDP is included at Appendix 3, and was prepared in conjunction with other stakeholders who are responsible for implementing physical, social and green infrastructure schemes. This will form the basis of a Community Infrastructure Levy (see below) but in the interim will be used to inform the negotiation of planning obligations</p>

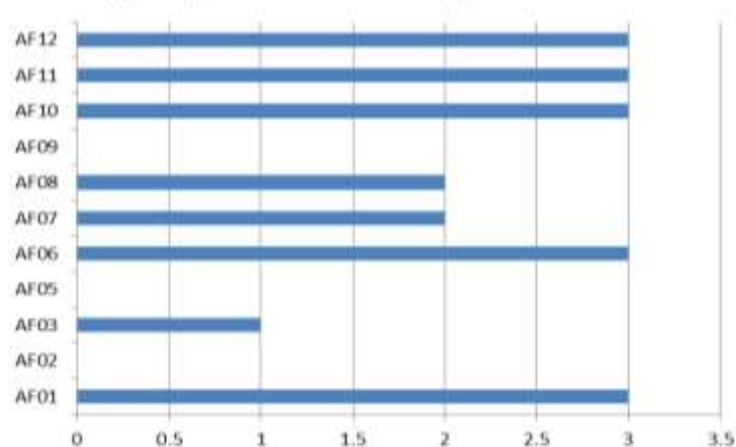
Creating new spaces and clarifying boundaries	<p>[Local Plan: para 6.269] Opportunities to secure new local open space will be sought through the development management process in identified deficiency areas (see also Policy INF9).</p> <p>[Local Plan: para 6.270] ‘Meanwhile’ uses, for example community food growing projects will be welcomed on appropriate sites including floating facilities providing they would not prejudice the longer term regeneration aspirations of the site.</p> <p>[Local Plan: para 6.271] Designation and precise boundary of the remainder of MOL to be defined through the Detailed Sites and Policies DPD.</p> <p>[Local Plan: para 6.272] New and enhanced open space of a strategic nature is included in the spatial designations schedule (OS designations). However, more detailed implications and local open space will be considered in the preparation of the Detailed Sites and Policies DPD.</p>
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Sources: LB Newham (2012) and Capita Symonds (2010)

The remaining nine boroughs, while showing some commitment, were more mixed in how they relate to the ALGG. In some cases the ALGG policy reference seems to simply be another term for business-as-usual and lacks an emphasis on the integrated, multifunctional and cross boundary green infrastructure systems thinking that characterises the ALGG. In most instances the documents refer to local or regional policy contexts but offer little evidence of understanding, or commitment to, the ALGG principles.

Cutting the data by region shows that some of the ALGG regions have stronger policy commitment than others. The inclusion of the AF01 Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge area in this group is not a surprise as it is the best established of the Green Grid areas. It is worth noting that of the Lee Valley’s four immediately neighbouring areas, three areas (AF06 South East London Green Chain, AF11 Brent Valley and Barnet Plateau and AF12 Central London) have a high level of identified borough policy commitment. This may in part be due to the same boroughs covering more than one ALGG Area Framework but does potentially show some bedding-in the principle of cross boundary working. We were unable to identify borough policies in three ALGG areas: AF09 (Arcadian Thames²), AF05 (River Cray and Southern Marshes³) and AF02 (Epping Forest and Roding Valley⁴). However, delivery on the ground in these areas suggests that the concept of green infrastructure is informing the design and management of projects.

Figure 2:
Number of London boroughs with
policy commitment by ALGG area



² AF09 Arcadian Thames: Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames, Merton, Richmond Upon Thames, and Wandsworth

³ AF05 River Cray and Southern Marshes: Bexley and Dartford Borough Council

⁴ AF02 Epping Forest and Roding: Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, & City of London land

3.3 Summary desk review recommendations

- As key policy documents are revised and replaced, boroughs should ensure the integration of the principles of the ALGG into these documents.
- The GLA should review relevant emerging London borough policy commitments and support wider uptake and understanding across all ALGG areas, to ensure consistent and effective application of ALGG policy across Greater London.

Section 4: Results of online survey

We were aware that many boroughs and delivery partners may be undertaking work in relation to the ALGG that has not yet been reflected in policy terms. Therefore we sought views from various actors to extract views on: policy uptake; partnership working; resources and funding; as well as key areas of progress and any gaps in delivery.

4.1 Method

An online survey was conducted in March 2014 to seek a more detailed understanding of the perceptions of ALGG take up by both local government and third sector delivery partners. The survey was run as an on-line study only. Findings were used to inform the selection of case studies in section 5.

4.2 Respondent breakdown

The response rate was high for this type of policy consultation, with 45 organisations completing the survey. Given the nature of the delivery partnerships established to deliver the ALGG, the respondents principally comprised of local authorities and NGOs. Despite the majority of responses coming from London boroughs, it should be noted there was some difficulty in locating a relevant local authority lead in relation to all the boroughs. It is possible that those local authorities who have completed the survey may represent those boroughs where there is a clearer delineation of responsibility in relation to the ALGG.

The spread of respondents across boroughs and Area Frameworks (Figures 4 and 5) was broad, and some organisations who responded work across a number of boroughs, with only Haringey and Barnet lacking respondents to the survey. All Area Frameworks were addressed by one or more respondents in the survey.

Figure 3: Participating Organisations

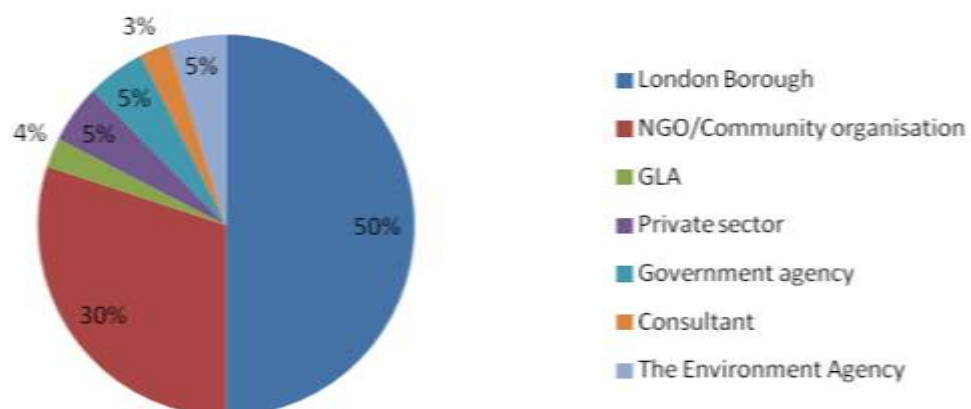


Figure 4: London Boroughs that survey respondents work in

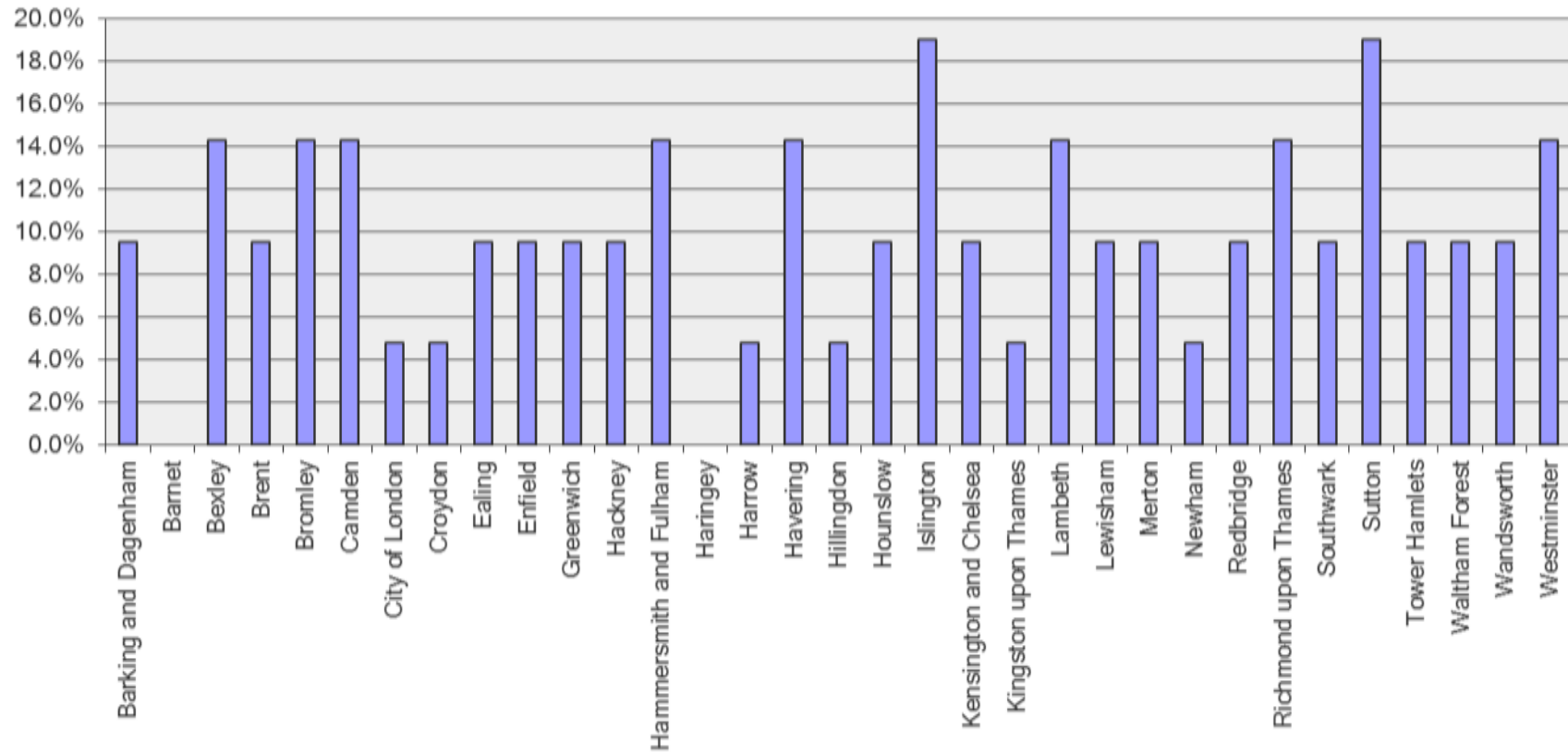
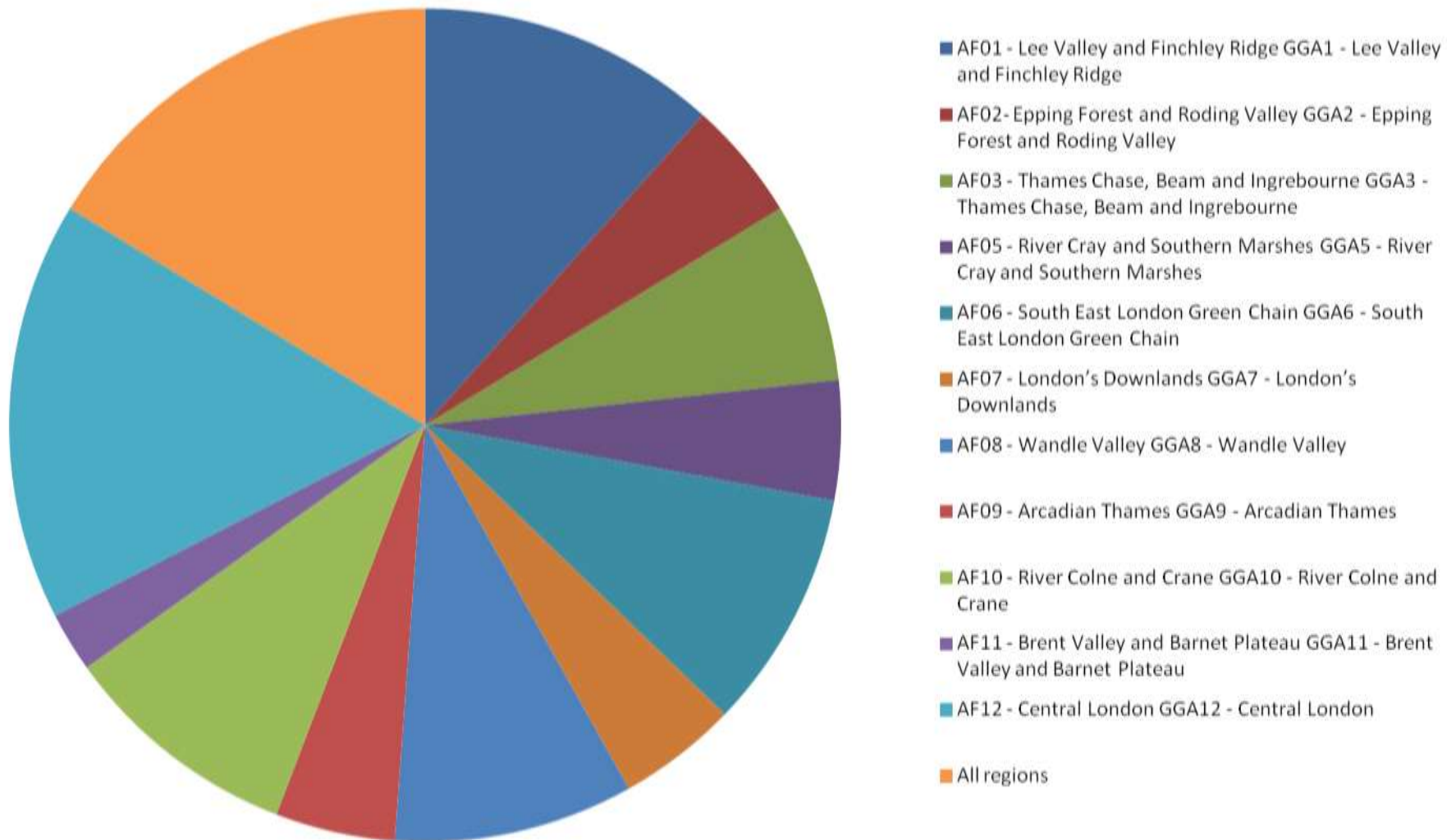


Figure 5: ALGG Area Frameworks covered by % of respondents



4.3 Policy and Partnerships

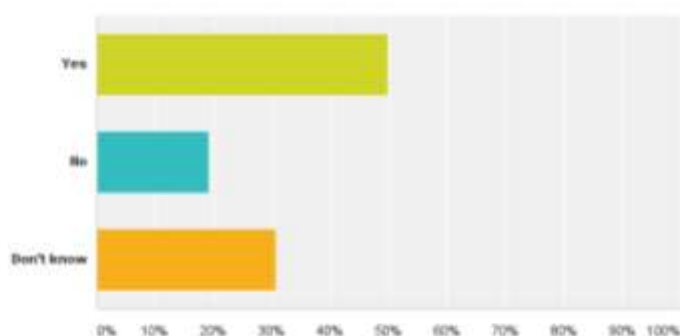
The survey findings regarding policy commitment by the boroughs mirrors the findings of the desk research, with roughly half of boroughs thought to have a clear policy that refers to the ALGG. Awareness of cross-borough working was surprisingly low, noted by only two fifths of all participants and just over a third of local authority respondents. However as there is no baseline for this question, it is impossible to assess whether this is an improvement to arrangements prior to the existence of the ALGG. A further point of note is that, when there was awareness of partnership working, it involved a minimum of three boroughs working in partnership.

One open question⁵ indicated that joint project-specific working, around a particular site or campaign, is the most common form of partnership model for the boroughs. While this is encouraging it may indicate a lack of more regular, strategic engagement between ALGG partners to help breakdown some of the barriers which can impact on the effective delivery of green infrastructure at a wider scale. This may be due to the need for Borough officers to demonstrate that their activities result in benefits to the Borough residents, as well as for other partners to respond to the specific demands of their funders, rather than to complement each others' work. It highlights the need for some strategic oversight and support.

While cross-borough partnership working appears to be relatively low, the number of boroughs working in partnership with other organisations was high. While charities and NGOs were by far the most typical partner, the parity of residents groups and housing associations with partnerships with schools indicates community engagement work is common. As touched on in Case Study 2, the involvement of housing associations represents an interesting potential partner for future delivery of green infrastructure improvements. The potential contribution of green infrastructure to a broad range of local community needs is clear, and not just for meeting traditional recreation and amenity requirements. This was highlighted by Steve Howlet, CEO of Peabody, who recently wrote about the potential for the housing association to enhance green infrastructure in as part of a wide-scale regeneration of Thamesmead (Peabody, March 2014)..

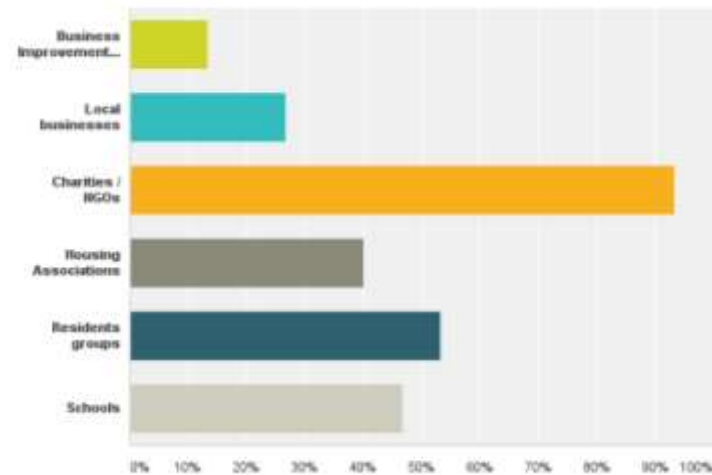
A lower but still positive level of engagement with local businesses indicates that green infrastructure activities are seen as of potential interest to local businesses. The GLA and boroughs and area deliver partners should consider how to enhance business engagement in future, in relation to the potential role of Business Improvement Districts (See Case Study 3), as well as more generally.

Figure 6: Policy Commitment
'Does your borough have clear policies to support the delivery of the ALGG?'



⁵ See Appendix 2

Figure 7: Delivery partners
‘Do ALGG activities in your borough/ALGG sub-region involve any of these delivery partners?’



4.4 Green infrastructure awareness

It is clear that most respondents found green infrastructure to be a useful term when promoting, communicating and planning the future role and purpose of London’s network of green spaces and open spaces.

The proposition in the ALGG policy framework that green infrastructure is more than just traditional parks and green spaces has clearly found traction with those that responded to the question in the survey. The overwhelming majority of respondents considered spaces outside of traditional parks to be part of green infrastructure networks. As with all questions in this study, we have no baseline against which to benchmark this response level but the high level of understanding shown regarding the broad components of a green infrastructure framework is certainly positive.

However, there was a more mixed response to the question about whether improving the quality or function of existing green spaces might sometimes permit a loss in the overall quantity of existing green space. Loss of green infrastructure (figure 11) was opposed by a small minority (16%) while the majority felt that in certain circumstances an increase in quality might compensate for a loss of volume.

4.5 Delivery

On aggregate, those delivering the ALGG felt confident that in all areas of their work at least ‘a little progress was being made’. In some areas, notably: healthy living; improving access; conserving and enhancing biodiversity; and improving sustainable travel connections, respondents indicated ‘good progress’ was being made. Lower progress scores were given to three ALGG objectives: the conservation of the Thames riverside; promoting sustainable food production; and in enhancing green space and green infrastructure skills. These objectives should be examined further to assess to what degree they require additional support to link activities in with ALGG delivery.

Figure 8: 'Is the term 'Green Infrastructure' helpful when discussing the future design, management, and funding of the network of parks and green spaces?'

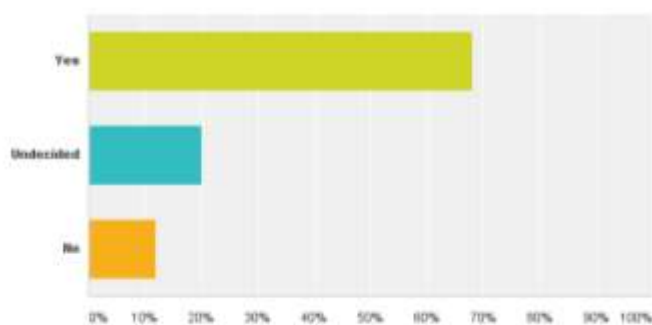


Figure 9: 'Do you consider green roofs, green walls, street trees, etc as part of the Green Infrastructure network?'

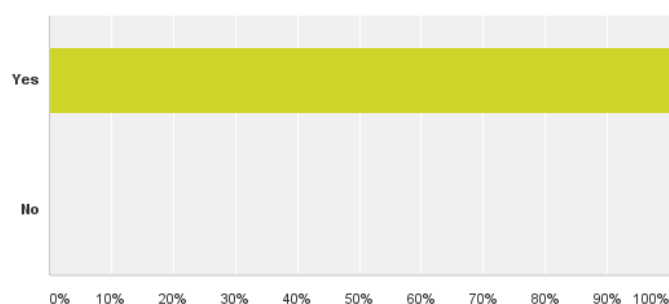


Figure 10: 'Do you consider land linked to housing (e.g. communal courtyards, housing estates, and domestic gardens) in relation to your work on the ALGG?'

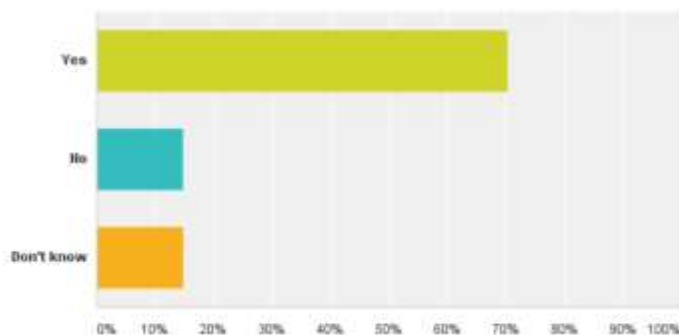
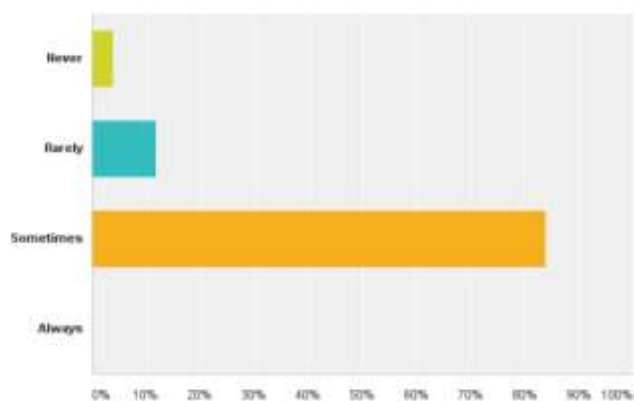


Figure 11: Quality vs Quantity 'Can a quantitative loss of green space be compensated for by an improvement in the quality and function of green infrastructure?'



When asked how the delivery of these aims could be improved⁶ the biggest ask was in relation to financing. This may go some way to explaining the areas of least progress which may be more costly activities or less easy to attract funds. While improving transport links is expensive, it is often funded by third parties such as Transport for London and / or the Department for Transport and, as such may be less in need of additional fundraising.

The need to increase food growing opportunities was also highlighted. The emphasis of developing on spare brownfield or open land and lack of space to convert into allotments makes this area more challenging. It is suggested that consideration is given to identifying opportunities in third party and private spaces, such as housing estates or school grounds for such activities. Other areas where improvements were felt to be viable included generating a stronger evidence base supporting the value of green infrastructure activities and also allowing more time for what is still a relatively new policy area to bed-in in practice (again echoing the desk research findings).

Figure 12: ALGG Progress



4.6 Funding and resources

Nearly two thirds of respondents were aware of having accessed external funding for projects. In the main this money was used for capital projects, in particular green infrastructure improvements which in 4.5⁷ we suggest are more challenging due to higher capital costs. All external funding accessed was felt by recipients to be effective, particularly the landfill tax, Natural England grants, Help a London Park and the Big Green Fund. The importance recipients have placed on all external sources of funding highlights the value and dependence upon varied external funding to help deliver a range of ALGG projects. A number of respondents indicated that different regions have different priorities and opportunities e.g. biodiversity protection, deprivation of access to nature and as such any dedicated funding streams need to allow for some regional variation in terms of their principal purposes.

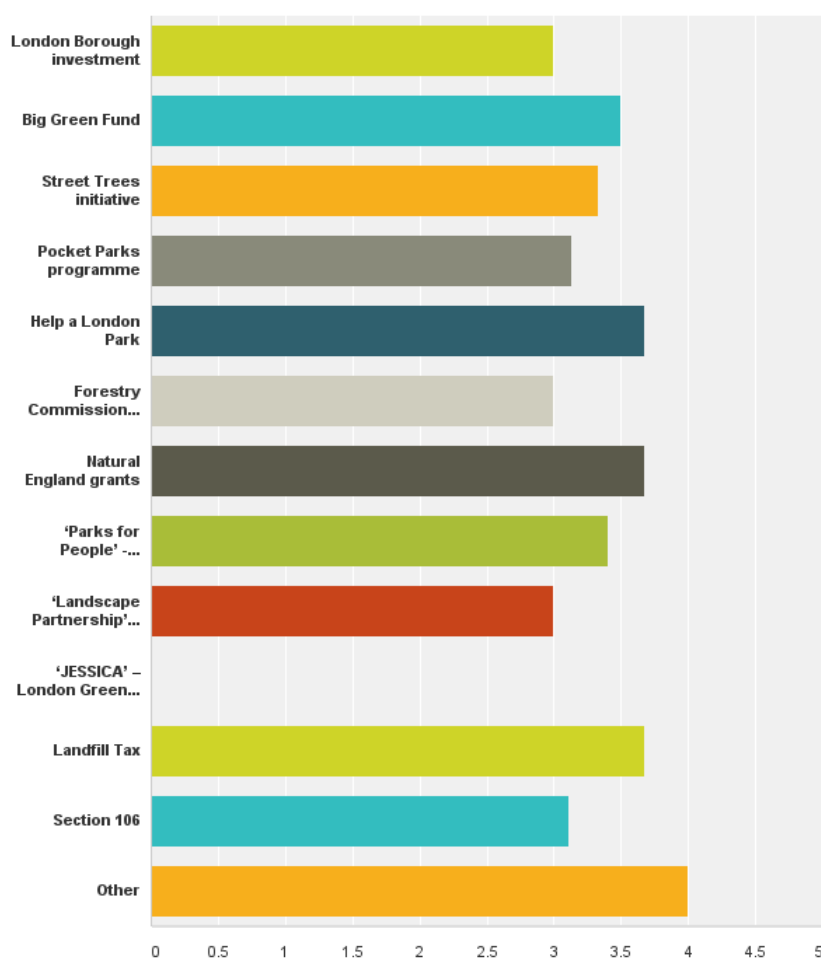
⁶ See Appendix 2

⁷ See Appendix 2

There was a broad range of suggestions⁸ for ways in which funding could be improved. A number of people identified the need for unrestricted income. Whilst this may seem attractive most funders are unlikely to provide this. Unrestricted income has to be generated by fees (e.g. car parking), membership income, trading profit etc. This is rarely applicable to local authorities. Hence there is need for alternative vehicles, such as the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (Case study 2), which can generate and allocate income strategically. Others commented on the need to be able to link funding streams to a particular project, such as funding for surface water management programmes. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was also felt to be an emerging opportunity. This highlights the need for green infrastructure projects to clearly demonstrate that they are delivering multiple benefits (including skills development and wider community benefits) in order to access regeneration and CIL funds.

Regarding human resources, the majority of organisations taking part in the survey had between one and five members of staff working on ALGG related areas. A small number had substantially more staff involved (20+) though with the caveat that they may not be working directly on the ALGG itself.⁹ Reported volunteer numbers working in ALGG areas were extremely varied (from 1 to 100+) and further opportunities to promote volunteer engagement should be examined in those areas where this is low.

Figure 13: Effectiveness of funding (0 = Very ineffective, 4 = Very effective)



⁸ See Appendix 2

⁹ See Appendix 2

4.7 Survey findings

The survey has revealed the following issues, regarding the definition of green infrastructure, cross-borough working, ALGG progress, and resourcing delivery.

Green infrastructure definition

- Green infrastructure is a useful term for policy makers in all ALGG areas.
- Respondents have a solid grasp of the many physical assets which can make up a green infrastructure network and the debates around quality vs quantity.

Cross-borough and partnership working

- Cross-borough working appears low to date but as there is no benchmark it is impossible to tell whether it has increased or decreased since the ALGG was established.
- Where cross-borough working is taking place it is likely to involve a number of different partners indicating a sophisticated and/or complex collaborative process.
- Partnerships within boroughs are varied and there is some evidence of local business starting to buy into the ALGG or green infrastructure strategies.
- There is less evidence of partnership working with housing associations, and this is an area that should be prioritised in the future
- Cross-borough working appears most likely to focus on specific projects rather than top level strategy.

Progress in delivery

- The ALGG SPG has helped prioritise and catalyse project delivery and encourage a more strategic approach to green infrastructure delivery.
- Progress is felt to be occurring at some level in all areas of the ALGG especially in relation to health, travel and access.
- 'Big ticket' (large scale / strategic) improvements, tend to be underwritten by dedicated funding streams and grants, such as Heritage Lottery Fund, which have conditions that don't always allow for a full range of green infrastructure objectives to be funded.
- Resourcing the delivery of larger scale activities needs to be further examined (see also bullet point below).

Resourcing delivery

- There is considerable variation in both staffing and volunteer resources attached to the delivery of the ALGG from one borough to the next, suggesting variation in the political priority attached to delivering green infrastructure.
- External funding is regularly accessed and always felt to be beneficial to delivery of the ALGG.
- 'Big ticket' (large scale) improvements are amongst those most commonly requiring external funding but are seen as progressing least. This suggests that there are a large number of potential large-scale projects that are applying for a complex mix of funding from a combination of smaller sources, including grants, Section 106 agreements, regeneration and programme funds.

- There is a broad range of suggestions for improving funding, with some convergence around supporting surface water management, the future use of Community Infrastructure Levy, unrestricted and joined-up funding mechanisms.
- There is need for a more joined-up approach within ALGG Area Framework partners, to assemble both projects and funding in support of more strategic interventions (see case study 2).
- The GLA, boroughs and area delivery partners should consider how the private sector can be further engaged in investing in and benefitting from green infrastructure delivery, including through working with Business Improvement Districts.

Section 5: Case Studies

Case Study 1: Fairlop Plain and Fairlop Waters, Redbridge (AF02) – Sustainable Resourcing and Cooperation

‘The All London Green Grid has been a helpful concept; it makes it easier to get commitment from partners as they’re signed up at a strategic level. It broke down barriers and helped us to communicate with each other.’ Dr Stefania Horne, Head of Business Development and Central Services, Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure

Background

Fairlop Waters Country Park is being designed and managed to deliver multiple objectives for the region and is developing a business model to fund a variety of activities to deliver these objectives. The business model is supporting more joined up working between partners and creating strategic links to other green space assets across the green grid area of Fairlop Plain.

The Country Park is currently managed by Vision, a charitable trust providing recreation, sports, leisure and green infrastructure services on behalf of London Borough of Redbridge. They manage around 40 open space sites across the borough and 25 play areas. Fairlop Waters is approx 90 ha site with golf, sailing, walking, running, children’s play centre, events e.g. the Fairlop Fair and weddings, and a cycle park. Vision identified opportunities to increase green infrastructure services in consultation with local people via an online survey (350 responses), public meetings, leafleting and a site walk.

Sustainable resources

The Fairlop Waters site has made considerable progress over the last ten years to establish a sustainable business and funding model. A golf club on the site was in decline until Vision took it over. The trust has increased the club’s turn over from £3.5m to £20m in 10 years and is now breaking even. Fairlop Waters/Plain still receives a subsidy from council as well as grant funding (£800k), plus Growth Area Funding (£1.4m in 2010), landfill tax funds from SITA, as well as revenue generation through parking charges (£80k) – reinvested into the site and leasing sites (events tent). The Owls Play Centre, an indoor children’s play centre, cost £1m to build and set up. It is making an annual surplus of £200k and will break even in 5 years. Vision are constantly looking at and making grant applications, with £800,000 applied for in the 13/14 financial year.

Coordinated approach

Vision has taken a strategic approach to managing the area’s green infrastructure assets. In particular, they have sought to understand how they can work better with partners and neighbouring bodies to complement rather than compete with each other. The ALGG is one driver behind this approach. Another driver has been the need to know what each site’s green infrastructure assets have to ‘offer’ in developing an effective overall business plan for the region.

Tracking progress

Vision reports to the council via its service level agreement on Key Performance Indicators, including the cost of managing open spaces per hectare, energy consumption of buildings, and the percentage of sites positively managed for biodiversity (a DEFRA indicator). Vision has reported a 3% increase in the number of sites managed to support biodiversity each year and already 70% of its sites are managed in this way.

Cooperation

The All London Green Grid has helped to break down barriers, build communication, and drive partnership and cooperation through raising the profile and political support for green infrastructure activities. This includes seeking links between the AF02 and AF03. The ALGG has helped encouraged strategic thinking about complementary use of land and helped to avoid unnecessary duplication between different sites. It also supports connecting up green infrastructure. For example Fairlop Plains is seeking to create links to Hainault and Havering Country Parks as well as the London Loop. This includes a proposal to establish a new cycle route to join up the parks. Vision also works in partnership with Corporation of London on shared sites e.g. Roding Valley – they have submitted a joint bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support their work. They also work with the London Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust.

Potential future opportunities

1. Integrated planning: Hainault Country Park (includes a Woodland Trust forest which is an SSSI and SAC) is looking to be regenerated, with various options for the site, to revitalise a small petting zoo/city farm and disused visitors centre. Vision is establishing a business plan for the whole park to make a comprehensive submission to potential funders. There needs to be better connections of the site to local areas through a better public transport system. It is crucial that transport planning is linked to green infrastructure investments to improve public access.
2. Multi-cultural engagement: The sailing centre has reached large numbers of ethnic minority people (over 7,500 per annum) but not all visiting groups live in Redbridge, so they have begun to offer alternative recreational sports e.g. rowing to try to improve wider uptake from groups interested in alternative water sports.
3. Skills and education: Vision is working with Redbridge Institute of Adult Education to establish a training and apprenticeship programme to create new jobs in green infrastructure sector. It is also working with Capel Manor Horticultural College supporting apprenticeships in Vision-managed open spaces.
4. Reporting benefits: It has been hard to capture data about health benefits of the open spaces. There is some anecdotal evidence but it would be helpful to have advice about ways to approach and quantify this.
5. Funding mix: **Regeneration funds have been crucial for Vision's work.** This suggests that clearer links between the aims of the ALGG and such funds could help strengthen the delivery of the ALGG elsewhere.
6. Housing and green infrastructure: A social housing site contacted Vision about improving their open spaces, which regularly flood. However, there were no resources to develop or maintain the green infrastructure on site once it was established. There should be greater clarity about the responsibility for the on-going management of green infrastructure within the borough and how Vision could support and deliver this.

Case Study 2: Wandle Valley – Working Strategically

‘The All London Green Grid documentation is fantastically designed and really helps to clarify issues around the public realm to those who don’t understand it.’ Sue Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust



Background

The Wandle Valley area (Area Framework 08) covers the boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton, Croydon, Sutton and also Lambeth. A charitable trust has been established to support the delivery of this Area Framework (AF), bringing together the boroughs to work together in a number of ways - governance, strategy, projects, finance, vision. The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust has a part-time CEO to deliver the AF, seek funding, further partnerships and provide strategic overview. The CEO provides an essential role in seeking to encourage partnerships and better linking of smaller initiatives to drive wider benefits from green infrastructure projects. The organisation itself currently has no fixed assets and focuses its work on strategic level development and approaching green infrastructure in an innovative manner. The Trust's primary function as one of driving forward and enabling the ALGG's aims contained in the regional Area Framework as opposed to physically delivering outputs on the ground. The trust recognises that project delivery can and should be carried out by existing partners/ organisations with relevant expertise and contacts, such as Groundwork London, London Wildlife Trust and Sustrans. Not all partners have the capacity or quality standards to deliver projects alone and the trust aims to support capacity building in areas such as tendering, project management etc.

It is important to note that the Living Wandle project has secured nearly £2m Heritage Lottery Funding, which is separate from the Trust and managed by LB Wandsworth. It makes strong Blue/Green Infrastructure connections, mixing restoration projects with public engagement and training opportunities.

Green infrastructure scope

The Trust's CEO has indicated that the ALGG helps clarify the broad remit of what is covered by the term 'green infrastructure', indicating that it covers not just green spaces but also landscaping of the public realm, around housing areas, high streets, and the hinterland. A key area of emphasis for its work is to support local authorities in making the transition from a more traditional parks and green space approach to a green infrastructure approach.

Building partnerships

The Trust recently began work on creating a shared outcomes framework to track progress in delivering the Area Framework projects. At a special partner workshop (May 2014) partners reported on the progress of project delivery and began to agree the Trust's strategic priorities and indicators to track delivery over time. They found nearly 80% of over 100 projects agreed in the original AF8 document have either already been delivered or are underway.

The Trust recognises it can play a role in identifying gaps, complementarity and help pool human and financial resources to ensure more efficient and effective project management and monitoring. Most of its current partnerships are with charitable organisations but it is looking to work with a broader range of organisations, including local businesses, as well as with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), in the region to encourage greater connectivity with green infrastructure

and private and housing association land. While Trust partnerships with housing associations are at an early stage it is felt that there could be particular scope for food production projects as a part of this work.

Project status	Number of AF08 projects
Finished	32 (29%)
In progress	54 (50%)
Not started	23 (21%)
Total	109

Potential future opportunities

- Policy guidance: The ALGG SPG and Area Framework Agreements provide clear and useful 'how-to manuals' for each area framework and list of project areas that need to be delivered. These will need to be updated periodically to reflect new projects and local changes however. It would also be valuable to ensure that new local councillors are provided with training and background to the ALGG to explain its benefit to the GLA, borough and council objectives.
- Resourcing: In seeking a sustainable financial model, the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust is making various grant applications and needs seed funding to test out and establish new funding models for the valley, pooling efforts in grant applications, as well as to secure core funding for the development of the Trust itself.
- Increasing access: A cycle path, from Croydon right up to the Thames, was nominated as a London 'quiet way' (through Sustrans and TfL). Although unsuccessful in becoming a formal 'quiet way' the Wandle trail is still an asset for potential investment - such routes are vital to encourage greater pedestrian and cyclist access in and around the Wandle Valley.
- Connectivity: The ALGG could still link more across area frameworks and delivery partners, in particular with TfL, to ensure a more integrated approach.
- New partnerships: to improve the scope and benefits derived by green infrastructure in the region there should be a move beyond working with the 'usual partners' to working with housing associations and local businesses, including communication and marketing experts, business developers, investment managers, and insurance companies.
- Sub regional infrastructure investment: There may be future sub-regional opportunities to use the London Enterprise Panel and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in a way that breaks through borough boundaries.

Case Study 3: Victoria Business Improvement District (BID) - Auditing Green Infrastructure

Background

The Victoria Business Improvement District (BID) in London Borough of Westminster conducted an audit of green infrastructure in 2010 in an attempt to address growing environmental challenges, including heat waves (2003 & 2006) as well as flooding (2009), and green space deprivation in central London. The audit was funded through a levy that is charged to all local businesses in the BID zone whose turnover is in excess of a minimum threshold.

Participants in the Victoria BID agree that the audit has been an invaluable step in delivering the All London Green Grid locally. This is because it creates a baseline of information from which to develop a vision and design for maximising the future benefits from green infrastructure in an area. The Victoria BID experience has inspired the GLA to fund ten further districts to conduct green infrastructure audits in 2011 and another five after that. There is a total of 32 BIDs in London and this is expected to reach 50 by 2015. There are a further 172 BIDs in England as a whole and so there is a real opportunity to promote wider uptake of green infrastructure through these groups. Recognising this growing need, the Victoria BID felt it would be valuable to share their experience and developed a green infrastructure audit guide.

What does a green infrastructure audit look at?

A green infrastructure audit typically has three aims:

1. To create an accurate map – outlining existing green infrastructure within an area;
2. To evaluate current functions – looking at what existing green infrastructure currently does, in terms of pollution filtration, biodiversity support, flood prevention etc;
3. To identify opportunities for improvement and new sites – this is the key stage resulting in a list of potential projects to enhance green infrastructure in the area.

The audit process involved five steps, of which the ‘audit’ element is a small part that should then lead to clearly planned actions (see diagram below).

Victoria BID’s audit revealed areas within the district suitable for new or improved greening. This included the installation of one of London’s largest living walls, designed to reduce urban flooding and enhance biodiversity. On the side of Rubens at the Palace Hotel, Victoria, the wall is 350sq metres with over 20 species of plant, including 10,000 ferns and herbaceous plants, selected to provide food for wildlife throughout the year.

Another example, the Diamond Jubilee Garden at Buckingham Palace, resulted in a worn-out patch of grass with little biodiversity being transformed into an attractive pollinator garden that allows rainwater to soak into the soil, reducing pressure on the drainage system.

Trees are a particularly valuable asset in Victoria and have removed an estimated 1.2 tonnes of pollutants from the air each year. A tree planting programme is underway to ensure there are sufficient trees to continue this role in the future.

Five step approach to green infrastructure audit

The average cost of a green infrastructure audit is £15k but Victoria BID argues it is worth this investment in a number of ways, including:

- Improved understanding of existing green infrastructure assets and identification of new opportunities;
- Development of partnerships: researchers and other businesses have come on board during the project;
- A catalyst for growth and attracting investment, as well as supporting green infrastructure income generation through grants and sponsorship;
- Environmental benefits, including to air quality, reduced flood risk, increased biodiversity, increased access to nature, climate change mitigation and adaptation services.

The process of undertaking an audit can support green infrastructure promotion in a number of ways, including increasing engagement, fulfilment of London-wide policy, improving an area's reputation, building up an evidence base for further investment and management, and encouraging the creation of an action plan by identifying which projects will have greatest impact and where. There are also good returns on investment from green infrastructure for flood prevention. A New York study of green infrastructure found that sustainable urban drainage systems, using trees, swales and green roofs, made a saving of £1.5m as compared to a grey infrastructure equivalent. As the Farrell Review of Built Environment and Architecture recently pointed out when designing places, green infrastructure and landscape can be the tipping point for what makes places work.

The key message from Victoria BID is that a green infrastructure audit document in itself is not the most significant element in the process. It is, however, a vital step towards clarifying assets, creating a plan of action and improving green infrastructure over time. It is a process that all ALGG partners should consider adopting and not simply for BIDs.

Section 6: Recommendations

In general, the research undertaken in this report indicates a positive message about the value and steady uptake of the All London Green Grid by London boroughs and other organisations. The ALGG SPG has clearly provided a greater emphasis on the multiple benefits and opportunities to be derived from green infrastructure, as well as a trend towards political uptake and strategic green infrastructure planning.

There are further opportunities to ensure political commitment by those boroughs that are still in the process of updating their Core Strategies and Local Plans. Furthermore, those boroughs with Open Space and/or Biodiversity strategies near the end of their current lifetime should ensure ALGG objectives are incorporated into these new strategies too.

The management of green infrastructure doesn't come for free. In the face of continued public sector cuts, there is a pressing need to review funding arrangements to ensure more effective delivery of the ALGG objectives throughout London. In a recent London Assembly enquiry into London's green spaces and biodiversity CPRE London called for a review of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act (1966) which supported the creation of a special levy (fee) to fund the park's creation and management (CPRE London, 2014). This levy is currently paid by council tax payers in London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Funds raised from the levy have made a valuable contribution to the development of the Olympic Park and sports facilities in the Lee Valley. However councils such as Wandsworth and Croydon (in the Wandle Valley) have argued that the proceeds of the levy should be paid to the relevant authorities in each of twelve green grid areas of the ALGG and not just the Lee Valley. We support this principle and invite the GLA to call for a revision of the 1966 Act.

This brief review of implementation of the ALGG has indicated the following recommendations regarding its future delivery.

1. Local policy commitment: The GLA should support boroughs in further integrating the ALGG into the relevant local policies as they are renewed, as well as supporting further exchange of good practice. All London boroughs need to incorporate a clear commitment to delivery of the ALGG within their Local Plans and open spaces strategies as they are updated, and in other relevant policies on development management and regeneration.
2. Green infrastructure audits: London boroughs, Area Framework partners and BIDs should undertake green infrastructure audits to establish a strategic baseline audit, along with regular updates to support effective planning and delivery, if they haven't already done so, with the support of the GLA.
3. Cross-borough working: There is inconsistency in the level and effectiveness of partnership working and therefore a need to improve links between boroughs and area frameworks. The GLA should encourage Area Framework partnerships and cross-borough working, including through site visits and learning events.
4. GLA support and infrastructural investment: The GLA needs to prioritise strategic investment in green infrastructural assets within the London Plan and forthcoming long term infrastructure investment plan. It should also call for an amendment of the

Levy attached to Lee Valley Regional Park Act (1966) to fund all ALGG area frameworks. Strategic investment is particularly required for:

- Monitoring: to support establishing robust baseline and periodic green infrastructure audits, to help the creation of strategic plans green infrastructure management, as well as to identify new opportunities to support blue/green connectivity and local community initiatives e.g. food production.
 - Area framework coordination: to resource the coordination of partnerships and pooling of activities, a 'grants plus' type of financial support should be developed. This could be used to build organisational capacity and expertise in order to develop genuine collaborative working amongst the delivery partners, leveraging additional resources, and move beyond piecemeal funding on a project-by-project basis. Paul Hamlyn Foundation is developing significant expertise in this area and would be a good port of call for discussions about how this could be implemented.
 - Innovation: there is a need for a small pool of innovation funding, particularly linked to 'big ticket' areas such as blue/green space improvement, as well as potentially productive activities, such as community food initiatives. It is suggested the GLA may be able to form a coalition with trust funding organisations who are already investing in the ALGG. In particular Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery and City Bridge Trust could be approached to form an innovation funding consortium with or alongside the GLA.
5. New partnerships: greater emphasis should be placed on engaging and promoting the benefits of green infrastructure investment to local businesses, including via BIDs, throughout London. Connections to housing associations, developers and ALGG leads should also be encouraged.
6. London-wide baseline audits and monitoring: there is a clear need for a regular (e.g. biennial) review of policy uptake and delivery outcomes by London boroughs and the GLA, to identify progress and future investment opportunities. As a relatively new policy much of the data gathered in this ALGG review hasn't been assessed before and it would be valuable to create a standard review framework to track progress in future.

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Appendix 1 – Summary of London Borough ALGG Policy references

Borough	ALGG Area	Key documents	Created	Expires	Secondary Doc	ALGG Ref
Kensington & Chelsea	AF12	Core strategy - CH32 -33	2014		Spatial strategy (from Core plan)	No
Bexley*	AF05 AF06	Bexley Core Strategy	Jan-08	2012		No
Brent	AF11	Core Strategy (also 2008 sustainability appraisal)	Jun-06			No
Bromley*	AF05 AF06 AF07	Local Plan draft policies and designations	Under consultation			No
Greenwich	AF06	Core Strategy with Development Management Policies (submission Version)	2013			No
Hammersmith and Fulham	AF12	Parks & Open Spaces Strategy	2008	2018	Core Strategy; Local Development Framework - Oct 2011; Part of local plan; Development Management Local Plan - July 2013	No
Haringey*	AF01	Haringey's Local Plan Strategic Policies 2013 – 2026	Mar-13		London Borough of Haringey Local Plan; Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal; Post Adoption Statement	No
Hillingdon*	AF10	London Borough of Hillingdon Open Space Strategy	2011	2026	Local Plan: Part 1. Strategic Policies (Nov 2012); Hillingdon Townscape Character Study Final Report, Nov 2013, Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners	No
Kingston upon Thames*	AF09	Core Strategy & Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy	Apr-12		Green Spaces Strategy 2008 - 2018	No
Merton	AF08 AF09	LDF Core Planning Strategy	Jul-11			No
Newham*	AF01 AF02	Newham 2027 Newham's Local Plan - The Core Strategy	Jan-12		Open Space Assessment London Borough of Newham Oct 2010 by Capita Symonds	No
Redbridge*	AF01 AF02	Core Strategy Review	2008		Redbridge Biodiversity Action Plan	No
Richmond upon Thames*	AF09 AF10	Core Strategy	Apr-09		Strategic principles for parks and open spaces	No
Tower Hamlets	AF01	Core Strategy/Local Plan	2010		An Open Spaces Strategy for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets 2006 - 2016 & Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy - 2010	No
Wandsworth	AF08 AF09	Core Strategy > Adopted Version	Oct-10			No
Barking and Dagenham*	AF01	Local Development framework, biodiversity supplementary planning document	Jan-08	N/A		Yes

Borough	ALGG Area	Key documents	Created	Expires	Secondary Doc	ALGG Ref
Barnet*	AF11	Barnet's Local Plan(Core Strategy)Development Plan Document	Aug-08	N/A		Yes
Camden	AF12	Camden Biodiversity Action Plan	2013			Yes
Croydon*	AF07 AF08	CROYDON LOCAL PLANS Strategic c Policies CLP1	Apr-13			Yes
Ealing*	AF10 AF11	Development (Core) Strategy DPD 2026 - Rough edit version	Apr-12			Yes
Enfield*	AF01	Local Plan - Proposed Submission Development Management Document (part of Local Plan)	Mar-13		The Enfield Plan Core Strategy 2010-2025	Yes
Hackney	AF01,	Local Development Framework (PJ52015) Development Management Local Plan	Jul-13		Core Strategy Hackney's strategic planning policies for 2010-2025	Yes
Harrow*	AF10	Harrow Local Plan - Green Grid	2012		Sustainability appraisal of Harrow core strategy	Yes
Havering*	AF03	Parks & Open Spaces Strategy	2013	2015	Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document Adopted 2011	Yes
Hounslow*	AF10, AF11	Open Space Strategy Final draft	Apr-13		Local Plan - Ch7 - Maximising benefits of our green infrastructure (consultation completed April 2014)	Yes
Lambeth	AF06	URS - Lambeth Open Space Strategy Addenda	Feb-13		The draft Lambeth Local Plan - Feb 2013	Yes
Lewisham	AF06	Open Space Strategy	2012	2017	Core Strategy Development plan document - June 2011	Yes
Southwark	AF06	Southwark Open Space Strategy	2012		Open Space Strategy -Appendix D Sustainability Appraisal Appendix D for the Cabinet Report: Open Space Strategy	Yes
Sutton*	AF07, AF08	Green Space Guidelines for Sutton	2011		London Borough of Sutton Local Development Framework Site Development Policies DPD - 2012	Yes
Waltham Forest*	AF01,	Core Strategy	Mar-12		Waltham Forest Council Borough Context As at March 2013	Yes
West-minster	AF12	Core Strategy - Local Development Framework - 2011			Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies	Yes
Islington	AF12	Islington's Core Strategy	Feb-11		Environmental Design Planning Guidance (supplementary planning doc, part of Local Plan)	Yes (in supp doc)

*Green Belt present

Appendix 2 – Open questions answers

Q: 'How does your borough work in partnership with other boroughs?'

I don't know
Through the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust - all four are company members of the Trust and work together in a number of ways - governance, strategy, projects, finance, vision
Joint projects
We are part of the West London Alliance. There is quite an active LECF group of Environmental Coordinators across London that sits quite nicely with this. There are some specific potential partnership projects being explored e.g. joint procurement of street lighting LED projects.
We are working on specific project of delivering the Leaway Walk, being steered by LLDC. We are also working with LB Hackney to deliver new open space at the site of Bishopsgate Goods yard.
Joint project owners for 2 ALGG projects
Through quarterly meetings

Q: Free Text Response: Staffing and Volunteers

Staff Numbers

None specifically but too vague a question. Lots of staff working on maintaining and improving parks and developing cycling and walking links. Needs a more specific question.
8 directly and indirectly
2
4
0.5 FTE
0.5 FTE
5
I don't know- presume this is a planning function and I don't know -I head up the Environmental Policy and Projects Team and it isn't listed in our overall Green Charter (but perhaps can be moving forward)
5 staff with varied time allocations work in area 7, some of their work supports ALGG delivery
About 20, mostly indirectly (i.e. work within an ALGG AF to the broad suite of objectives but not necessarily directly linked to a ALGG project)
1
7
4
20
10
20
We would need to do a targeted internal survey to know this. Catchment coordinators, biodiversity teams, flood management teams operating in London all may help support the delivery of ALGG projects
1
Probably about 1 FTE spread out over the organisation.

Volunteer numbers

6 if you include Board members
16
120
c.80 volunteers associated with the organisation
Depends on how you measure this, but about 40
10
I don't know.
Again there are over 30 volunteers who already work in the area

indirectly, over 50.
None
82
Unknown
None
Don't know
50
Not applicable
Difficult to measure this- perhaps 200 if Community Park groups and Green Gym are included
0

Q: How could ALGG delivery be improved

By the further development and coordination of the Wandle Valley Regional Park and the Trust
Still early days, but we have a business plan and dedicated staff to deliver it
Improved use of evidence base to identify need and opportunities for multi-benefits. Improved delivery through spatial planning process.
I guess we need more manpower to deliver this agenda and are currently having to make difficult decisions on what gets prioritised.
The work the ALGG region is undertaking and by the individual boroughs varies and can not be captured by Q12. We need funding above what the boroughs are still able to put in given the public cuts
Resources, improved co-ordination and recognition of breadth of delivery partners. (but this varies according to ALGG region and project as these questions are difficult to answer for pan-London organisations).
We need more ring fenced funding
Investment! More money is needed alongside coordinated and "driven" delivery.
Informed intellectual leadership at senior level
Financial resources
Fair to middling
- Clear facts sheets on what organisations should be doing

Q: What did you secure external funding for?

New play facilities at King Square and Graham St Open space and Union Sq improvements, phase 1 HLF for Caledonian Park.
Green space enhancements through the BGF
Thames Chase Big Green Destinations project, improving connections between strategic spaces between Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Thames Chase.
Staff costs, fixed costs and project costs
Various Greenway schemes
Improvement of access and variety of habitat
S. 106, HLF, BGF, Improve Park fund.
we applied unsuccessfully for BGF money and unsuccessfully for HLF money
a variety of habitat conservation and restoration projects
We have jointly bid for the Big Green Fund with LLDC and LB Newham to deliver the Leaway Walk. But we would like to see more of these initiatives
Pocket Parks Mini Holland

Feasibility studies and capital projects
Green infrastructure improvements

Q: Suggested improvements to funding

Improvements to current funding

More time to deliver and secure match funding More opportunities for long term sustainable revenue funding from business sources to ensure long term maintenance Funding offered to regional bodies to create more smaller scale projects
Too broad a question, but some focused funding on ALGG would be helpful - a continuation of the Big Green Fund, with some external match funding would be useful
Aligning funding time frames and streams with other funding opportunities so that projects can be more easily funded by a variety of opportunities and delivered in accordance with all the different requirements
Link to growth agenda, and water management.
Sorry, I don't know.
I think we're seeing in these questions a conflation of the ALGG (which is quite specific) with the breadth of green space activity that us and many organisations undertake. Yes, our work helps to meet some of the ALGG objectives, but some of it doesn't (as they're not clearly identified within the ALGG). The key issue for us is that funding should aim to be as broad in its eligibility /accessibility as possible, but be directed to key regional priorities (for example, Biodiversity Action Plan targets, Areas of Deficiency). We would be concerned if it became a free-for-all without reference to these priorities.
GLA should work with London boroughs directly to deliver specific projects that sit within the Green Grid.
The current funding is too little.
A specific programme can be allocated to specific priorities decided at regional level
Funding to support co-ordination i.e. revenue funding for the [ALGG] Chairs

Potential alternative funding routes

Offering funding to smaller regional bodies for local delivery
Asset transfer and recognising and capturing increase in land values - like the High Line - would be helpful
CIL, European infrastructure funds, link to LEP.
Centrally sourced money from the CLG/EU for example
Biodiversity off-setting, once we know how the Government intends to roll it out, may be support some nature conservation delivery.
The introduction of CIL may help matters in ring-fencing funds to deliver the Green infrastructure. Also, guidance/ good practice note can be prepared in what kind of green infrastructure can be delivered as part of S 106 conditions. 3rdly, the private sector should get involved much more in funding/ sponsoring GG projects.
It's not just funding. Centralised coordination and motivation are absent.
Surface Water Management Plans –
Regeneration pots i.e. ERDF, European funding channelled to London priorities
The plethora of green funding that is available through Lottery, and European- none of which deliver revenue funding and the maintenance of parks once capital improvements have been completed. An issue raised by the ALGG but not acted on or resolved.

About CPRE London: CPRE London is a regional branch of the national environmental charity, Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE London works at all levels to promote the city, protect London's green spaces and surrounding countryside. They are dedicated to conserving and enhancing London.

www.cprelondon.org.uk

About Neighbourhoods Green: Neighbourhoods Green is the National Housing Federation's partnership initiative which highlights the importance of open, green and blue space for residents of social housing and works with social landlords to raise the quality of their design, management and safe use.

www.neighbourhoodsgreen.org.uk

