

6. The Place for the Future



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Context

Much of what we do in this theme will shape the borough well beyond 2030. Our vision is that by 2050 new neighbourhoods have been built as whole places from the start, with homes, green space, schools, transport and places to work, and that older neighbourhoods have been renewed without losing their character or their communities. It is also a borough where you can get around easily without relying on a car, and where streets and homes are ready for a changing climate.

Greenwich continues to see major regeneration across the borough. Woolwich, Charlton Riverside, Greenwich Peninsula, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood have been identified in the London Plan as 'Opportunity Areas' to develop new homes, jobs and infrastructure. The council will continue to play an active role in the regeneration of these areas and will work with local communities and partners to realise the significant potential in Charlton Riverside and the Thamesmead New Town, for new homes, green spaces, local schools, leisure facilities and transport, including the DLR extension. We will use the

Local Plan to ensure high-quality design, creating energy efficient homes and protecting important spaces and heritage assets to ensure regeneration respects its context.

Through resident engagement, we have heard concerns that development does not always have a positive impact on the local area. We will continue to secure contributions from developers to invest in essential infrastructure to ensure regeneration works for everyone – new and existing communities – and that local people are not priced out of their area.

We recognise that climate change is no longer about a hypothetical future but a new lived reality and that we must redouble our efforts to reduce emissions and pollution across the borough. We want Greenwich to be ready for the generations to come: a cleaner, healthier borough that is tackling climate change and building resilience to it. Climate change is the greatest long-term threat we face, and with miles of riverfront, the risk of flooding is especially acute in Royal Greenwich. In 2019, we declared a climate emergency, approved our Carbon Neutral Plan in 2021, and now have 75 commitments across seven themes, of which a third are complete

and a third are underway. The delivery record is real: operational emissions from council buildings, schools, street lighting and vehicles are 29% below their 2019/20 baseline, we have planted 5,695 trees against a target of 5,000 by 2026, and per-capita emissions are the lowest on record. Our commitment shapes how we power the borough and protect its natural environment: developing heat networks, strengthening the circular economy through better waste management, delivering a new sustainability and biodiversity plan and investing in flood and drainage infrastructure. Efforts extend to how we build and develop too, retrofitting council homes and putting sustainability at the centre of new development through our Climate Resilience planning guidance.

Council activity is only part of the picture; most of the borough's emissions come from homes, transport and workplaces. Real change will only be achieved if residents and businesses act on climate change with us. We will continue working with residents, businesses and developers to inspire and enable climate action, alongside advocating on the borough's behalf – pressing for the grid decarbonisation and retrofit funding the transition ultimately depends on. Over the next four years, working together,

we will continue to deliver our Carbon Neutral Plan, tackling climate change and protecting our natural environment.

Getting around Greenwich should be enjoyable, clean and safe. Transport is the second largest source of carbon emissions in the borough, making accessibility and connectivity of sustainable travel a priority. We want to encourage more journeys to be made on foot, by bike and public transport – helping to clean the air we breathe and support everyday wellbeing. Although Greenwich already has an established cycling network, only 37% of residents live within 400m of a safe cycleway – we're working to raise this to 72% by 2041, by expanding our strategic cycle routes and cycle infrastructure across the borough. We will support the next generation to travel actively too, with every eligible child offered a £150 voucher towards a bike or scooter and safety equipment. We will work to improve the pedestrian experience in the borough, not only through working to pedestrianise key areas like Greenwich Town Centre, but also by improving walking routes, pavements and crossings in the borough. Beyond cycling, we will support residents to travel in greener ways that suit them best, installing 2,000 public EV chargers and expanding car

clubs across the borough for those who need to drive. Connectivity across the borough is equally important: we're working with TfL and National Rail to invest in public transport, delivering infrastructure improvements and improving access – so that every journey, however the mode, is greener and easier.

Sustainable travel is also reliant on the safety and conditions of our streets and pavements – and residents have told us there's more to do. We are investing £8m in our Highways Resurfacing Programme

to improve pavement conditions, highways maintenance and potholes to create a safer and calmer travel network across the borough. We are also rolling out a borough-wide 20mph speed limit and increasing the number of School Streets across Greenwich to improve safety at school pick-up and drop-off times. These commitments will make our streets safer and calmer for everyone, whether cycling to school, driving to work, crossing the road or enjoying a walk to one of our wonderful parks or green spaces.



6.1 It is easier, safer and cleaner to get around

What this means

- We will make it easier, safer and cleaner to get around the borough — supporting more journeys on foot, by bike and by public transport, improving the air we breathe, and making our streets safer and calmer with quieter neighbourhoods, lower speeds near our schools, and well-maintained roads and pavements.
- We will open up new connections across the borough, so that getting around becomes cleaner and simpler for everyone, however they choose to travel.

Commitments

Street Quality and Safety

- Investing at least £8m in our Highways Resurfacing Programme to improve our roads and pavements, making it easier, safer and cleaner to get around
- Introducing School Streets across Greenwich to restrict traffic around the start and end of the school day, improving road safety and air quality for children attending school in the borough
- Delivering on-street improvements such as safe road crossings, secure cycle parking and storage hangars and rolling out dockless bike parking bays to ensure rental e-bikes are parked safely and provide better access to sustainable travel
- Deliver our borough-wide 20mph speed limit to improve safety on our streets
- Expanding our strategic cycle routes to create safe, sustainable travel options for all our residents

Sustainable Travel

- Installing 2,000 public EV chargers and delivering a pilot programme of EV charger installation for residents without off-street parking
- Develop and deliver a scheme to support carbon reduction and active travel to and from school by offering every eligible child in the borough a £150 voucher towards a bike, scooter or safety equipment
- Deliver more car clubs across the borough for residents to affordably and sustainably travel

Public Transport Investment

- Deliver upgrades to local train stations in Greenwich, working with National Rail and TfL
- Deliver infrastructure improvements and assess the feasibility of a second entrance for the Woolwich Elizabeth Line station, working with partners
- Work with our partner boroughs to upgrade the Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels, with new lifts, better lighting and restored heritage features, so both crossings offer reliable step-free access under the river

Indicators (5)

Public EVSEs (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment per 100,000 population) (Borough Indicator) The number of public electric vehicle charging points in the borough, shown as a rate per 100,000 people	Percentage of residents doing at least 20 mins of active travel per day (Borough Indicator) The proportion of residents who walk, cycle, or wheel for at least 20 minutes a day
People killed or seriously injured on Greenwich’s highways (Borough Indicator) The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on Greenwich’s roads in a given year	
Percentage of population within 400m of a strategic cycle route (Borough Indicator) The proportion of residents living within a short walk (400 metres) of a main cycling route	
Public transport trips per day in Greenwich (Borough Indicator) The average number of journeys made on public transport (such as bus, train, or the DLR) starting or ending in Greenwich each day	



6.2 Greenwich continues to realise its potential through inclusive regeneration

What this means

- We will shape the long-term regeneration of the borough's riverside, town centres and brownfield land, and lay the foundations for Thamesmead to grow into a thriving New Town with the transport links to match.
- We will make sure this growth is planned well and delivered fairly - bringing new homes, jobs and investment, while benefiting the communities already here, not only those still to come.

Commitments

Our Local Plan

- Publish the new Local Plan which will guide the delivery of thousands of homes for local people, while ensuring they are built to the highest quality standards. Our Local Plan will protect Greenwich's environment, heritage, and cherished community green spaces, making sure growth is inclusive and sustainable

Regeneration

- Deliver the Urban Regeneration Frameworks (URFs) — visions for Abbey Wood, Woolwich and Plumstead are being created that can be used to drive development
- Deliver multiple regeneration projects including Woolwich Exchange, Charlton Riverside and the Waterfront Masterplan
- We will work with the government to deliver the DLR extension and the New Town in Thamesmead, setting up a strategic delivery board to deliver on the promise of Thamesmead as a place and destination and work to explore how to establish a new Leisure centre

Indicators

Progress on this outcome will be reported through narrative updates on our major regeneration projects.



6.3 Continue to address the climate crisis, minimise waste and build a more sustainable environment for the future

What this means

- We will continue to play our part in tackling the climate crisis — working to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality across the borough, make our energy and travel cleaner and greener, and support residents and businesses to lower their own impact.
- We will protect and enhance our parks, rivers and green spaces, and make the borough more resilient to a changing climate — so that Greenwich is cleaner, healthier and ready for the generations to come.

Commitments

Waste

- Introducing separate collections for food and garden waste, so it can be treated in the most environmentally friendly way
- Expanding the food waste service to all households and flats

Environment and Biodiversity

- Deliver a sustainability and biodiversity plan, implementing a more holistic approach for local communities, and invest in re-wilding measures
- Invest in a new flood strategy and increase investment in gully cleaning and sustainable drainage systems
- Deliver a tree maintenance strategy to improve the health of our trees and plant thousands more by 2030, supporting urban cooling, nature and local biodiversity

Carbon Reduction & Air Pollution

- Continue to deliver the actions in our Climate Action Plan including retrofitting council homes, expanding the electric vehicle charging network, developing heat networks for the borough, and putting climate at the centre of new development through our Climate Resilience planning guidance
- Via our Housing Capital Programme we will make energy efficiency improvements to council homes to reduce the energy required to heat and cool them
- Roll out a new fleet of climate-friendly vehicles, cutting standard fleet emissions by 90%
- Supporting local organisations to deliver climate-friendly projects, such as home retrofitting and renewable energy installations, through our £1 million Community Energy Fund
- Continue to promote zero emission vehicle uptake through our emissions-based parking charging and offering more on street charging options
- Establish more School Streets to improve air quality around schools during busy drop off and pick up times

Indicators (6)

Percentage of total household waste that is collected separately as food waste (Council Indicator)

Percentage of total household waste sent for recycling, compost and reuse (Council Indicator)

Total local authority collected waste managed per 1,000 households in tonnes (annual) (Borough Indicator)

Deaths attributable to particulate air pollution (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter [PM2.5] (Borough Indicator)

A modelled estimate of the number of deaths linked to long-term exposure to fine particle air pollution, based on average PM2.5 levels across the borough. This is not a count of confirmed deaths - it estimates the mortality impact if air pollution behaves as expected based on established health evidence.

Total borough emissions (kt CO2eq/year) (Borough Indicator)

The total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced across the whole borough each year, measured in thousand tonnes.

Total operational (council) emissions (ktCO2eq/year) (Council Indicator)

The total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced by the council’s own buildings, vehicles, and operations each year, measured in thousand tonnes.

