

## Notes

### 1. The Mayor's Vision for Young Londoners

The Mayor and his team are producing a new vision for children and young people. It has been quite a long while in development. There has been 4 round tables discussion which took place in November 2017. They were discussing what next in various ways. It demonstrated the amount of work the Mayor is already doing with Children and Young people. What are the important and overarching messages?

There is a timing issue coming up to pre-election period at end of March. Not much will happen till after the elections on 3rd May.

One of the stands in this vision is around hearing children's and young people's voices. Here in the GLA there is the Peer Outreach Team. There is an opportunity to join up more with children and others working with children and young people, such as Children England.

Other strands of the Mayor's Vision are -

- A good start in life and the importance of early years and supporting early intervention.
- Opportunity for all, giving equal access to youth and children's facilities.

### 2. The Mayor's Fund for Young Londoners

The Young Londoners Fund is progressing and a short information note has been published <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/young-londoners/mayors-young-londoners-fund>

The fund is for £45 million across 3 years, £5 million a year to scale up current activity and £10 million for organisations to apply for.

Some things that may be scaled up are:

GLA - the THRIVE programme and Mental Health First Aid

Also various programmes at Team London around young people's volunteering

It is easier to expand that than start with something new.

### 3. The Obesity Task Force

Katie Hunter spoke about the Obesity Task force, which is a key priority for the Mayor who recognises that it is an issue. Colleagues visited Amsterdam where there is a fall in obesity in the most deprived group. It clearly does require lots of little actions in a wide range on actions.

Gary Palmer proposed that local authorities work collaboratively, for example with the recommendation of providing water in schools. What would make most impact from a public health perspective? There was a real drive to get water in schools. He suggested making effective use of the school canteen area to ensure that it's healthy.

There are cost effective interventions that schools could take. For example, combined purchasing power to buy water fountains.

There has been a good response from Local authorities, 29 have made the commitment. Another possibility is approaching the network of school bursars. Schools might be more motivated if the bursars suggested there's some money for this. Investment is going directly to schools instead of to the local authority. There is 1.4 million investment in each borough, giving the potential for a funding opportunity.

Healthy eating is being taught at schools. It comes under PSHE - Personal, Social, Health and Economics. Healthy Schools London has taken the lead on that.

Violence against girls is a key priority for the Mayor especially in the area of early intervention and prevention. There is a big focus on knife crime as incidents are going up. Some of that links in with PSHE - healthy eating and obesity.

Healthy schools London is a Mayoral programme. It's an awards programme. 50-80% of schools take part. Many boroughs have healthy schools London co-ordinators within the borough, funded by the local authority. There are bronze, silver and gold awards. There's a big team running the programme and a panel of people to decide who gets the award. There's a good take up in schools in deprived areas.

There's a fight for curriculum space so it's difficult to give it the credit it deserves and it needs to be embedded and embraced to drive the culture of the school, it's always fighting for its distinct place. Schools are also limited in their resources.

#### **4. The Mayor's Draft London Plan Consultation**

Planning inspector has to weigh up planning legislation and guidance and he/she will make a decision on whether that becomes policy. The general weight in the plan is towards density in development which means less play space. One of key focuses of policy is to promote economic growth. There is a tension between economic growth and healthy promotion (relating to preventing fast food outlets near schools)

There followed a discussion on policy wording to favour children and families.

Policy wording in GG1 chapter 3 design. Housing density. D3

The general weight in the plan towards density in development which means less play space.

Numbers of dwellings and habitable rooms have different consequences for density. It's a question of balance. The intention of London plan is to increase density because of the projected London growth and at the same time you have the aspiration of good growth. It's about how you bring it together. There will be a need for compromises along the way, which is what the London plan is attempting to do.

There are development plans to build on playgrounds and children's play areas, so how can they and also playing fields be protected? The policies are strong on green spaces. There isn't space to build new playing field, hence the text about shared space and facilities and community

access to schools and schools' facilities. One way of managing increased density is by not replicating provision. Therefore the only way we can get the facilities we need is by getting schools to open up their facilities to the community. Financial or other arrangements could be made between community and schools for sharing spaces and sports facilities. There are ongoing debates on schools and the use of public parks.

Suggested change to D4 - "to enable all children to travel actively to school."

There is a programme called Stars - School Travel Action Plan by TfL through their borough networks - encouraging schools to have a travel plan - walking or cycling to school. It was set up to change the culture of the school-run and traffic congestion around schools. There is a push on air quality from the Mayor, with an audit of air quality in 50 primary schools and a range of proposals developed for the schools and surrounding streets to see what can be done to improve air quality. More initiatives like that will be happening.

Developers and planners need to be very conscious that when they build new schools all children should be walking/cycling to school. That will be helpful as it sets that bar from the beginning.

All planning decisions should follow London Plan policies, and it sets a policy framework for borough local plans across London. (Taken from the London Plan page <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/what-new-london-plan>)

The Mayor has a number of statutory functions and has varying powers in relation to his statutory strategies. The Mayor has specific powers on planning, and delivery mechanisms through TfL and the police. The main powers of the Mayor are strategic, to set out a London wide vision and framework and encourage collaboration and co-ordination. For example to work with the health sector and boroughs. GLA generally doesn't have the powers to instruct.

It was suggested that there should be a point about consultation with children and young people in the design of new provision.

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HC7 Protecting public houses - Pubs are not considered social infrastructure. The proposal is to protect the existing culture of pubs. The social impact relating to protecting culture (pubs) and cultural infrastructure - physical buildings and how they're designed and currently used, which is worth keeping and difficult to describe in terms of development. Inclusion of cultural infrastructure is important. It requires a balanced look at pros and cons of people's concern about the loss of existing pubs with concern about alcohol problems.

There should be a mechanism in Policy S4 that protects playgrounds from people building on them.

This London Plan is much more directive than others which means local boroughs won't need as much detail in their local plans.

## **5. Children's Participation at the GLA**

We discussed the question of how to involve young people and children at a policy level at the GLA, for example having a Young Mayor which was something that came up at the Children England event. It was inspired by the Greater Manchester Youth Authority. The suggestion was to have a board of young people that would have representation in all the different departments of the London Assembly.

The Peer Outreach Team, POT for young people aged 16 to 25, have pioneered a lot of activity in City Hall and have worked with police, fire brigade and wider GLA family organisations. There is something in place.

There is no formal policy about how that work should be undertaken. The suggestion is to develop it further. That process presumably would involve working with children and young people. It did involve public consultation and stake holder organisation consultation like Children England.

The Manchester model has a constitutional basis for their Youth assembly. They've got structures in place that is youth led.

At the GLA, the POT linked up crew have helped shaped policy.

How do we move forward? By engaging internally with the GLA and defining what it is we're trying to move to, namely young people being represented. This process is generally supported so it can work over a period of time.

How we support young people's involvement in collaborative methods?

The Mayor is on board enough to make a general statement acknowledging the importance of children's and young peoples voices being heard. The challenge is turning that into something that is operational but giving a general commitment would be reasonable.

Feedback from the young people at the Children England event -

We discussed the benefits of listening to young people who at the Children England event had very clear ideas about what would make a difference to them. Their experience is local and they're looking for more social infrastructure where they can also spend time with older generations learning different skills.

#### **6. Next meeting of the London Forum**

Marion spoke about the next meeting which will be on the built environment and children's use of space. Susan mentioned how she and Dinah Bornat are working to support the delivery of the London Plan with regard to play and what that mean in design terms. They will present this at a future meeting.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 from 10 am to 1 pm in City Hall.

Notes by Emma Stow, with edits by Marion Briggs and Susan Crisp