

# Stimulating Green Cities: London's Experience

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# My agenda

- National Planning Policy Framework
- London Plan
- Croydon Local Plan
- Importance of Green Infrastructure to London

# The Policy Hierarchy in England

- National Planning Policy Framework
- London Plan
  - Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Local Plans
  - Supplementary Planning Documents
  - Neighbourhood Plans

# National Planning Policy Framework



National Planning Policy Framework



- Government's framework of planning policy for England
- Issued by Government (Department of Communities & Local Government) on 27 March 2012
- Condensed > 1,000 pages of Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements into a single 47-page document

# NPPF Green Policies

The NPPF:

- requires Local Plans to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure
- requires local planning authorities to take account of the benefits of green infrastructure in reducing the risks of climate change
- states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing landscapes and minimising impacts on biodiversity
- offers protection to open spaces by not permitting development on open space unless it is surplus to requirements or is replaced by the equivalent or better in terms of quantity or quality

# London Plan



- The planning policy framework issued by the London Mayor for the whole of London
- Published on 22 July 2011
- On 11 October 2013, Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan were published
- On 15 January 2014, Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan were published for a 12-week public consultation period

# London Plan Green Policies

- The London Plan aims to protect, promote, expand and manage the extent of, quality of and access to London's network of green infrastructure
- The London Plan also seeks to identify deficiencies and implement opportunities to address these
- Development proposals should seek to incorporate elements of green infrastructure which are integrated into the wider network and encourage links to wider public realm

# Supplementary Planning Guidance

- To support the London Plan, the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance aims to secure environmental, social and economic benefits by:
  - protecting, conserving and enhancing London's network of green and open natural and cultural spaces
  - encouraging a greater use of and engagement with green infrastructure
  - securing a network of high quality, well designed and multifunctional green and open spaces
- The Supplementary Planning Guidance assists in identifying and delivering improvements to green infrastructure across London and also sets out a vision and spatial framework for the infrastructure network



# Croydon Local Plan



- The local planning policy framework for Croydon
- Adopted 22 April 2013
- Supported by a suite of other documents such as Opportunity Area Planning Framework and Masterplans

# Croydon Local Plan Green Policies

- Croydon's Strategic Policies offer protection for the borough's Metropolitan Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and Local Green Spaces
- There is a network of multi-functional open space which forms a 'Green Grid'
- Croydon's Strategic Policies aim for:
  - the provision and creation of green spaces
  - improving access and links to and through green spaces
  - maintaining and improving the quality, function and offer of open spaces
  - enhancing biodiversity across the borough
  - supporting the role of productive landscapes

# Delivering Infrastructure

- The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out the borough's requirements for green infrastructure as well as its planned provision
- In relation to green infrastructure the IDP covers parks, public realm improvements, urban woodlands and trees, access to nature, allotments, the London Downlands Partnership, the blue ribbon network and the street tree programme
- This is funded in part through our Community Infrastructure Levy

# Why is Green Infrastructure Important

- **Increase access** to open space/nature/biodiversity through both protection and enhancement of green spaces
- **Urban cooling:** Green roofs and green walls can keep buildings cool, planting can provide shading and absorb CO2
- **Reducing flood risk:** Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in reducing flood risk, planting can reduce runoff
- **Healthy living:** Increase opportunities for exercise, promote cycling and walking, improve quality of life and mental well-being and provide opportunities for sustainable food growing
- **Improving urban environments:** Green infrastructure and open spaces can assist in attracting inward investment and increasing tourism