

Draft London Plan 2026

*A Human-Centred Perspective on London's Long-Term
Spatial Strategy*

Prepared for Mayor of London, London Assembly

This publication is an independent strategic perspective by G.O.A.L., based on publicly available materials published by the Mayor of London and London Assembly. It has not been commissioned, endorsed or reviewed by the referenced organization.

Draft London Plan 2026

Shaping the future of one of the world's greatest cities

The Draft London Plan 2026 is the Mayor of London's long-term spatial development strategy to guide how London grows and evolves to 2046/47. Built on the principle of Good Growth, it seeks to balance housing delivery, economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, infrastructure investment and quality of life for all Londoners.



THE CHALLENGE

London faces a series of connected challenges that demand an integrated, long-term response.



POPULATION GROWTH

London's population is projected to exceed 10 million, increasing demand across all parts of the city.



HOUSING PRESSURE

Severe housing shortage and affordability pressures require more homes of the right type in the right places.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEMAND

Transport, utilities and social infrastructure must keep pace to support a growing and changing city.



ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE

Climate change, biodiversity loss, air quality and resource constraints threaten London's future resilience.



ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

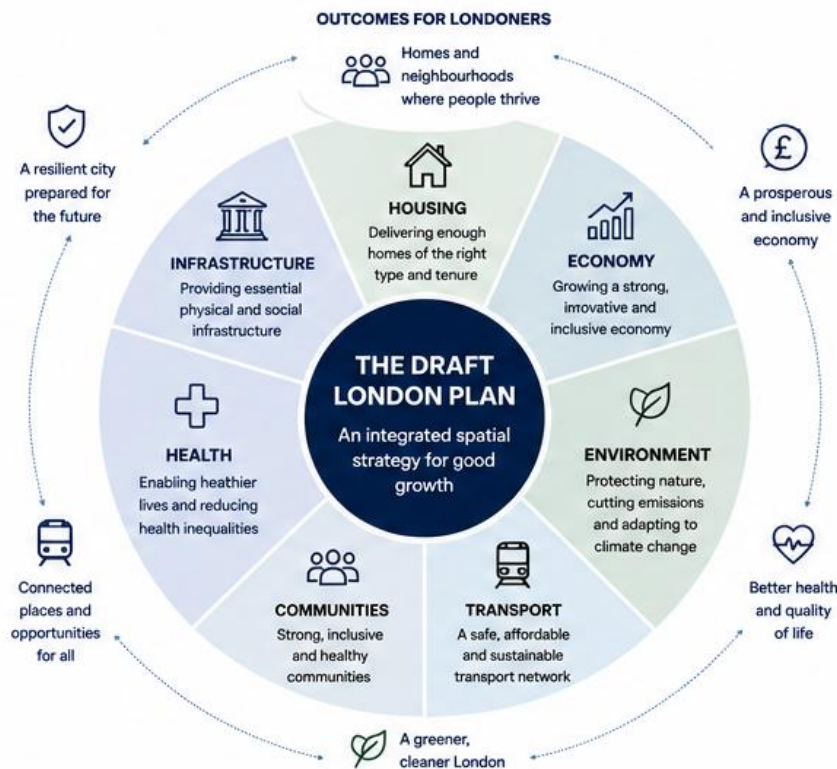
London must continue to drive inclusive economic growth and opportunity in a global competitive context.



LIMITED LAND

With constrained land supply, London must make the best use of every opportunity to create long-term value.

A COMPLEX SYSTEM REQUIRING BALANCE



THE GOOD GROWTH FRAMEWORK

The Plan is built around four Good Growth objectives that guide every decision.



MAKE THE BEST USE OF LAND

Using land efficiently and intensifying in the right places to create long-term value.



DELIVER THE HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS LONDONERS NEED

Delivering the right mix of high-quality, affordable homes and thriving places.



GROW LONDON'S ECONOMY IN A WAY THAT BENEFITS ALL

Driving sustainable economic growth and good jobs, supporting all Londoners and places.



CREATE A GREENER, HEALTHIER AND MORE RESILIENT CITY

Protecting the environment, improving health and well-being, and building resilience to climate change.

LONDON AT A GLANCE



10M+

PROJECTED RESIDENTS

London's population expected to exceed 10 million



84,884

HOMES NEEDED EACH YEAR

Government assessed housing need for London



558,000

HOMES OVER 10 YEARS

Draft London Plan housing target (2026–2036)



2046/47

PLANNING HORIZON

The Plan looks ahead over the next 20 years



Longer-term capacity identified across Opportunity Areas could deliver **850,000+** homes beyond the first decade.

The Draft London Plan 2026 is more than a planning document. It is a long-term strategy to balance growth, opportunity and sustainability, ensuring London remains a **great place to live, work and invest**—now and for generations to come.

DRAFT LONDON PLAN 2026

LOOKING BEYOND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A complementary perspective on long-term urban success

The Draft London Plan 2026 represents one of the world's most comprehensive approaches to integrated urban planning. By bringing together housing, transport, infrastructure, economic growth and environmental resilience, it establishes a strong foundation for London's long-term development.

TWO COMPLEMENTARY PERSPECTIVES



G.O.A.L. fully supports this systems-based approach. Rather than reconsidering the Plan itself, G.O.A.L. explores an additional question:

How do these urban systems ultimately shape the lives of the people living within them?

TWO WAYS TO MEASURE SUCCESS

	DRAFT LONDON PLAN (Spatial Perspective)	G.O.A.L. PERSPECTIVE (Human Outcomes Perspective)
 PRIMARY QUESTION	How should London grow?	How should Londoners flourish?
 FOCUS	Urban systems	Human systems
 MEASURES SUCCESS BY	Planning outputs	Human outcomes
 EXAMPLES	Homes delivered, transport capacity, green infrastructure, economic growth, jobs	Health, resilience, daily movement, knowledge, wellbeing, life satisfaction
 LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE	A well-functioning city	A thriving population

WHY THIS MATTERS

Great cities are ultimately measured not only by the infrastructure they deliver, but by the lives they enable.

The Draft London Plan provides an exceptional framework for shaping London's physical environment. G.O.A.L. complements this foundation by examining how planning decisions translate into long-term human outcomes, helping connect urban development with healthier, more resilient and flourishing communities.



Great cities are built through exceptional planning. **Exceptional societies are built when that planning consistently improves human outcomes.**

FROM GOOD GROWTH TO HUMAN OUTCOMES

A HUMAN-CENTRED PERSPECTIVE ON THE DRAFT LONDON PLAN 2026

The Draft London Plan 2026 presents a comprehensive vision for shaping London's future through integrated planning across housing, transport, environment, economic development and place-making.

Rather than reviewing the Plan from a conventional planning perspective, G.O.A.L. explored one central question:

The observations below are intended to complement—not critique—the Draft London Plan by highlighting additional ways of connecting long-term urban development with long-term human flourishing.

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What additional strategic insights emerge when the Draft London Plan is viewed through a human-centred systems perspective?

01

Human outcomes can become the connecting layer

CURRENT PERSPECTIVE

The Draft London Plan successfully integrates multiple urban systems into one coherent strategy for Good Growth.

Housing, transport, economic development, environmental policy and place-making each play a vital role in shaping London's future.

G.O.A.L. PERSPECTIVE

One opportunity is to make human outcomes the common language connecting these systems.

Rather than viewing each policy area independently, they can also be understood through the shared outcomes they seek to create for Londoners.



KEY INSIGHT

Urban systems become even more powerful when they share an explicit human purpose.

02

Health extends beyond traditional planning domains

CURRENT PERSPECTIVE

The Draft London Plan demonstrates particularly strong integration of:

- Healthy Streets
- Walking & Cycling
- Air Quality
- Green Infrastructure
- Biodiversity
- Climate Resilience

These themes create an excellent foundation for healthier urban living.

G.O.A.L. PERSPECTIVE

Long-term health is also shaped by additional human systems that receive less explicit attention as health determinants within spatial planning.

Examples include:

- Nutrition environments
- Lifelong learning
- Mental resilience
- Social belonging

These determinants influence how people live, adapt and flourish throughout their lives.



KEY INSIGHT

Healthy cities emerge through the interaction of multiple human systems—not through healthcare or infrastructure alone.

03

Measuring success beyond delivery

CURRENT PERSPECTIVE

Planning strategies naturally measure what cities deliver. Examples include:

- Homes
- Infrastructure
- Public Transport
- Green Space
- Economic Growth

These indicators remain essential for monitoring implementation.

G.O.A.L. PERSPECTIVE

An additional question can strengthen long-term evaluation:

How will London know whether these investments ultimately improved people's lives?

Alongside traditional planning indicators, complementary human outcome indicators could gradually provide deeper insight into long-term societal impact.



KEY INSIGHT

Planning outputs tell us what the city delivered. Human outcomes reveal what that delivery ultimately achieved.

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The Draft London Plan already provides a robust foundation for shaping London's future. G.O.A.L.'s contribution is not to redefine that vision, but to extend it through an additional human-centred perspective.

By complementing integrated urban systems with integrated human outcomes, long-term planning can be understood not only by what it builds, but ultimately by how it improves the lives of the people it serves.