

The Proposals in brief

Please contact leaders@futureoflondon.org.uk if you'd like to speak to any of the candidates about their Proposals for London in more detail.

Amma Coleman-Green, GLA Good Growth – To Infinity & Beyond

The image of a London bus is iconic, but the experience of bus travel in the city is anything but. We can enhance user experience by providing digital information screens and customer help points at bus stops, giving people access to real time bus journey information and the opportunity to speak to a member of staff at the push of a button. Improving safety, making the transport network more accessible and creating a seamless digital experience.

Pearl Figueira, City of London – Net Zero Hero

The Net Zero Hero is a resource to celebrate and accelerate the retrofit and refurbishment of offices. The way we use office is changing, and with a rising demand for 'best-in-class' office space and existing older office stock facing EPC challenges, the Net Zero Hero aims to help stakeholders meet this challenge. This resource will assist in sharing innovation and case studies, provide retrofit mapping, and deliver a central database to support retrofit in the future.

Scott Mundy, LB Haringey – Knowing Me, Knowing You - Using AI to Better Understand Our Communities

It is more important than ever to listen to our communities, and often there many consultations and conversations happening locally at any one time. What if we explored the use of AI to help local authorities develop a 'knowing our communities hub', which brings together learning from all these different sources to create an evolving evidence base for their borough. This could be used to drive placemaking projects, refine future engagement exercises, and identify new opportunities for delivering social value. Instead of new technology leading to a loss of connection, we could harness it to empower the local voice, and ensure that every interaction counts in shaping meaningful change in our city.

Lauren Heath, Hyde Housing – Healthy Hoarding

With London being scrutinised for air pollution and creating a more biodiverse city, we need to seek innovative ways to bring both the world of Construction and nature together. What better way to do this by creating a living hoarding system that promote a healthy environment during Construction encouraging local communities and schools, to create the living hoarding and use this as a learning mechanism about biodiversity. This will promote an ecological environment, during Construction creating homes for insects such as bees, worms etc. An edible plant structure can also provide a food source such as herbs, or salad leaves.

Zoë Dunn, LB Camden – All by Myself - Building a less lonely London

'Lonely and expensive': London is becoming less 'liveable' than other European cities. Loneliness is a significant health concern, and the housing crisis is making it worse. Innovative housing models like intergenerational housing can help combat loneliness and improve health outcomes. Our European neighbours have built successful multigenerational schemes, and a new scheme in Lewisham is set to deliver the same. We need to make the most of new development opportunities to tackle loneliness.

For example, developers could pilot multigenerational housing within larger developments. We also need to lobby government for new policy and initiatives to support the intergenerational housing model.

Robert Sedgwick, LB Islington – Raising the Roof? London's housing potential through rooftop development

We are in a housing crisis with a desperate need to build more homes. Land in London is an increasingly expensive and scarce resource. Where to build? In between has worked well but these spaces are limited, demolition/regeneration requires longer term strategies to achieve scale, refurbishment/conversion can improve living standards and safety, but additional numbers are hard. Do areas on top of the buildings London already has have the potential for much-needed housing? No real workable typology has been established and tested sufficiently to date at scale; this presentation discusses some of the challenges and presents a possible toolkit of solutions.

Sharon Thandi, Devonshires – Tiny Spaces, Huge Impact: The Pocket Park Revolution

Explore London's urban landscape and revive the transformative power of pocket parks. Despite previous challenges and underutilisation, these spaces hold immense potential. By rethinking design, activation, and community engagement we can repurpose these neglected spaces and amplify the impact of pocket parks to address inequalities in access to green spaces, promote biodiversity, and enhance community well-being. Through collaborative workshops and local partnerships, residents become stewards of these versatile green havens. We can re-envision the role of pocket parks, breathing new life into our urban landscape championing the idea of maximizing our urban assets and creating greener, inclusive spaces for all.

Sarah Hutchison, Grounded Practice – Retrofit Local Plan

Retrofitting our existing housing stock is critical if we are to meet our Net Zero targets. The market led approach that is currently being pursued isn't working and retrofit doesn't currently make economic sense, even if it is necessary to protect our future. I proposed developing a place-based approach to retrofit, that A Retrofit Local Plan is developed for every neighbourhood in London. These would be developed by the community alongside retrofit specialists and look at strategies for finance, implementation and potential additional economic and social value that could be created as part of the project. Once these local plans had been developed retrofit could then take place on a street-by-street basis minimizing disruption and saving on costs due to economies of scale.

Richard Crutchley, LB Wandsworth – Death and Taxes: Taking a strategic approach to identifying burial land

The presentation seeks a new review of London's burial spaces, particularly an update to the 2011 strategic assessment of such land. Back then, many London authorities had insufficient long-term allocations of land for their dead and, despite need, local plans don't address the issue. As London has continued to urbanise, and the population continues to diversify, London needs to understand how to make the most of what it has got, both in terms of new land and existing cemeteries and crematorium, to not only ensure comfort for those who lose people close to them, but also to meet a democratically and socially orientated service that meets the right to religious expression and observes environmental sustainability.

Hannah Smith, RB Kensington and Chelsea – Keep Going Round in Circles

Did you know that the construction sector is both London's biggest producer of waste, and responsible for 10% of the city's carbon emissions? Lots of this waste could be completely avoided, reused, or redistributed, cutting both costs and carbon

emissions, if the sector transitioned from a linear to a circular economy. But this won't happen on its own – we need policy to build the right principles into design, planning, and delivery. Through making circular economy statements a part of all planning applications, coupled with collaboration and incentivisation, we can help construction become more circular and turn these problems into opportunities.

Dominique Barnett, LB Newham – A fairway for London

Approximately 47% of London is 'green'. However, Londoners access to open space is not equal. It's estimated that 4,000 hectares of open space is used for golf and many of these golf courses are in public ownership. As London continues to grow and open space deficiencies increase, we should change how we use and access golf courses so that more Londoners have access to green spaces and nature. We can do this by rethinking our estate strategies and planning policies to diversify how these spaces are used, as well as how regeneration and transport projects can connect these spaces together.

Harry Drimussis, Places for People – Waste not, want not

7m tonnes of waste is produced each year from our homes, public buildings, and businesses. Our attitude toward waste is hampered due to the lack of consequence and the ease in which we are able to obtain or replace. Whilst the government has set out a substantial number of waste reduction policies, are they seen by the right people, at the right time, and do we understand them? If we educate our children about our responsibility to the environment, ask them to adopt certain behavioural changes, could this be a more impactful way to help London become a zero-waste city?

Nicola Blake, LB Brent – Improving Communities: The rethinking and delivery of shared outdoor spaces

London has many underutilised areas of amenity space which can be due to a 'meet the requirement' mentality with some locations on rooftops. My proposal will look at how to improve and make the most of these spaces, through creating areas for community gardening, which would seek to improve both physical and mental health. The aim is to create a health-integrated planning approach, with the long-term aim of achieving a generational shift to a more sustainable lifestyle with continued improvements to areas of hardscape and for developers to keep in mind improvements to sustainability and communities at the planning stage.

Rhianna Williams, Home Group – Stronger Together

A vital part of planning and development is looking at the impact it has on a community. Following the repercussions of Covid, the importance of social interaction has been highlighted by the rise in mental health. It has shown the importance of community and a need for belonging to combat isolation and aid skills for employment. There are spaces which could be utilized for living, working and leisure to bring together groups of people. The social and economic benefit should be explored further and our existing community spaces, or vacant buildings can be regenerated or repurposed to provide this.

Sarah Atkinson, GLA Housing and Land – Making the Most of Meanwhile

London has a large amount of property and pre-development land lying vacant. Meanwhile use increasingly demonstrates benefits including vacant site cost savings and experiments generating longer term social, economic, and environmental value. However, it is still not widespread practice. Legislative complications span use-classes, planning and leasing; challenges for operators include site-matching and initial capital investment, while risk-averse landlords remain unconvinced of the benefits. So, how can we enable more Meanwhile use in London? With GLA support, place-based

Meanwhile networks may help unlock the collective knowledge and resources of Local Authorities, Communities, Developers and Operators to make the most of Meanwhile.