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ZAC2016**

DELIVERING FOR LONDONERS



# ZAC GOLDSMITH

## LIVING ENVIRONMENT MANIFESTO

- ✓ More homes
- ✓ Better transport
- ✓ Safer streets
- ✓ Cleaner air

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# ZAC GOLDSMITH

## My Action Plan for Greater London

Over the next four years if elected as Mayor I will work with the Government to:



### **Start fixing London's housing crisis by:**

- Doubling home building to 50,000 a year by 2020 and ensuring development is in keeping with the local area
- Giving Londoners the first chance to buy new homes built in London
- Ensuring a significant proportion of all new homes are only for rent and not for sale



### **Improve the capacity and reliability of London's transport system by:**

- Ensuring the Night Tube goes ahead, starting Crossrail 2, and growing the rail network
- Bringing suburban rail services under the Mayor's control to increase and improve the service
- Protecting the Freedom Pass



### **Improve London's living environment by:**

- Protecting the green belt from development
- Tackling air pollution with tougher rules on HGVs, and encouraging greener vehicles and safer cycling
- Creating more green spaces and cleaning up local parks so they are safe to visit and enjoy



### **Make London's streets safer by:**

- Protecting neighbourhood police teams and keeping them on the street
- Tackling the root causes of crime in local communities
- Putting more police on public transport at night

**All paid for without increasing Mayoral council tax.**



# FOREWORD

London's living environment is what makes our city special. Other capitals have their glittering skylines and great national monuments - as do we - but few can match London for its extraordinary abundance of parks, commons, woodlands and garden squares.

That priceless network of green space, much of it centuries-old, is fundamental to our success as a city. London's green space attracts millions of visitors a year, provides a safe space for families to enjoy, and is the centre of community life.

But with London growing faster than ever before, our environment is under considerable threat.

Only one per cent of London's electricity is powered by the sun. A mere third of our household waste is recycled.

Dirty cars, vans and buses contaminate the air we breathe. In my forthcoming Transport Manifesto I will set out how I will clean up London's air once and for all.

And there is also a danger that our housing crisis is putting the environment at risk, creating a huge temptation to experiment with short-term fixes - like developing on the Green Belt - rather than the careful, long-term planning that will preserve our precious green space for future generations.

So London's living environment is at a very real crossroads. And as a lifelong environmentalist, I am determined to deliver for our city.

## **My plans will mean that:**

- The Green Belt will be protected
- Fly-tipping and litter will be tackled within 24 hours
- London will become the world's first National Park City
- 200 Pocket Parks will be planted around our Capital
- 100 Primary Schools will enjoy 'Pocket Farms' and healthy and sustainable food
- All new developments will come with green space as standard, and no Londoner will live more than 10 minutes walk from a common, park or wood

- Local communities will have the right to 'Adopt a Verge' and manage green space themselves
- At least 200,000 London homes will be solar-powered by 2025
- I will lay the foundations for London to become the world's first Zero Waste City
- I will show global leadership in the fight against climate change
- And I will stand up for London nationally and internationally

I am clear that a cleaner, greener living environment is only possible thanks to a strong economy. So I will work with the Government to deliver my fully costed plan to protect and improve London's green spaces.

For twenty years I have stood up for our living environment, as an independent campaigner and then as an MP.

I have delivered real action on big international issues, like convincing the Government to turn the UK's overseas territories into the world's biggest marine conservation zones.

Closer to home, I have worked with my community to fight off plans for an expanded Heathrow - as my Transport Manifesto will make clear.

So there is a very clear choice at this election: between a lifelong environmentalist who sticks to his guns, and a Labour politician who in government backed Heathrow, championed plans to build on our Green Belt, and has made no notable contribution on any environmental issue during his ten years in Parliament.

Londoners care deeply about their living environment. I will make London the greenest city on earth.



# 1

## PROTECTING AND ENHANCING LONDON'S GREEN SPACE

**I will ensure that every Londoner lives within 10 minutes' walk of a green space, and no more than 5 minutes as soon as is practically possible**

London is the greenest major city in the world - but a sixth of London is grey, with large parts of London more than a kilometre away from a nature reserve, park or common. I will guarantee that all Londoners live within easy reach of green space by the end of my term through the plans I set out below.

**I will protect the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land**

The London Plan, which sets out the rules for London's development, is unequivocal that 'the strongest protection' should be given to both the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land, stating that 'development should be refused, except in very special circumstances'.

However, it is up to the boroughs to decide what 'special circumstances' are, and this discretion has allowed for increasing encroachment on irreplaceable green space. During Ken Livingstone's first term, for example, London lost the equivalent of at least 900 football pitches worth of Green Belt.

As Mayor, I will issue new planning guidance, making it unambiguously clear that protected means protected.

I am equally clear that London has to build if we are to have any chance of solving our housing crisis. Yet with vast tracts of brownfield land available - the Thames Gateway region alone has enough space to build a city the size of Glasgow - we should not even be contemplating building on protected sites.

However, it is clear these new brownfield sites cannot be built on without significant transport investment. Crossrail 2, for example, could unlock

the development of 200,000 new homes. That's why I am standing against Labour's transport plan, which would see £1.9 billion taken out of transport investment, rendering critical brownfield sites unviable.

**I will guarantee that all major new developments add to the city's stock of green space. And I will introduce an Urban Right to Roam to ensure everyone gets to enjoy them**

As part of ensuring that every Londoner has access to green space, I will require all major developments to enhance London's living environment.

Developers could fulfill their public duty by planting more street trees, building new garden squares or plazas, or by contributing to new parks in London. Depending on the type of building, new developments will also be expected to include solar panels, roof gardens, or green roofs on their rooftops.

I will expect the largest developments, such as Old Oak Common, to create new parks and wetlands, with a network of green spaces criss-crossing these communities.

This new space should be accessible to the public, not fenced off and forgotten about by developers. I will therefore introduce an Urban Right to Roam, where any green space created as a result of council-imposed planning obligations will be open to the public in perpetuity.

**London's living environment is what makes our city special - that extraordinary abundance of parks, commons, woodlands and garden squares. I will protect and expand London's precious green spaces**

This will mean that any new green space created by the developer as a planning condition will be transferred to the council, with a fund provided by the developer for ongoing maintenance. If there is a compelling reason why this transfer should not happen, the council will instead set rules guaranteeing public access.

### **I will immediately fund 200 pocket parks and empower communities to 'Adopt a Verge' themselves**

Boris Johnson created 100 pocket parks, turning underused urban spaces across the city into mini-oases in which to escape the bustle of London life.

I will fund 200 more over the next 4 years. This will cost £4 million over the mayoral term, with the first two years to be covered by the £23 million under-spend identified by the GLA and the rest allocated from GLA capital budgets. I will also seek match-funding from the local business community.

I will also encourage local communities to take control of existing green space in their areas. Drawing on a successful model pioneered in Scotland, I will work to help community groups 'Adopt a Verge'. This could be either a pocket park or any other area of publicly-owned green space large or small. The test would be whether the local community have a plan to get more out of it. Schemes could include converting unloved green space into community allotments, or setting up an outdoor gym.

Local authorities will not have to accept bids, but they will have to provide the Mayor and the bidding community with a detailed response explaining why not.

### **I will deliver at least 100 'Pocket Farms' for London Schools, and back healthy eating across the capital**

Making our children aware of the environment around them and where their food comes from is vital to their future wellbeing. Obesity and poor air quality are two of the biggest threats our young people face.

So I will fund at least 100 'Pocket Farms' in London primary schools during my first year as Mayor - dedicated green spaces for children to grow their own food, raise chickens or learn outdoors. Schools will receive grants of up to £5,000, which will be paid for through the under-spend in Boris Johnson's existing London Food Board programme.

I will pilot a new programme to support inner-London children to spend more time in the countryside, by twinning urban primary schools with rural farms.

I will ensure that by 2020, all London schools meet the nutritional standards set out in the Government's School Food Plan - and back the expansion of breakfast clubs and holiday clubs, as already supported by the Mayor's Fund for London, to ensure that the 170 days a year when children on Free Schools Meals are out of school does not mean those children go hungry.

And I will support a majority of London schools to purchase not just healthy food but sustainable food, working with pioneering charities like School Food Matters to ensure schools support fresh, local and ethical food choices for their pupils. Richmond has already demonstrated that standards can be raised, even while costs fall. At thirty local primary schools unpopular frozen ready-meals were replaced with a new service involving the highest quality sustainable food, freshly prepared onsite. Take-up of school meals doubled and the price has come down for parents. I want to support this model being rolled out across London.

### **Tackling food waste**

Every year, 4.1 million tonnes of perfectly good food is thrown out across the UK. We can and must make better use of what we produce. New technology platforms like OLIO - a free app which allows neighbours to share food that would have otherwise gone to waste - gives us the potential to dramatically reduce the amount of good food we throw away. I will ask my Chief Digital Officer to investigate how apps like OLIO can be used to better connect those charities

which urgently need food and the supermarkets that are wasting it.

To help those supermarkets share their food, I will also lobby government to introduce a version of the USA's 'Good Samaritan's Law'. This law would empower supermarkets to give away free food by minimising their liabilities for sharing food beyond its sell-by date.

Boris Johnson has supported three Social Supermarkets: shops which sell heavily subsidized surplus food to Londoners on low incomes. Yet France already has 800 of these social enterprises, so there is room to be more ambitious. As Mayor I will work with the boroughs and retailers to back the expansion of Social Supermarkets.

**Boris Johnson created 100 pocket parks, turning underused urban spaces across the city into minioases in which to escape the bustle of London life. I will fund 200 more over the next 4 years.**





# 2

## BACKING BIODIVERSITY

### **I will back a Blue Ribbon Network for London**

The River Thames is the beating heart of London. Ten million people travel up and down the Thames each year, and 23 million visitor trips to attractions beside it. Every year our river hosts more than 80 sporting events, including the world-famous Boat Race. Uniquely in the world, London is lucky enough to have four World Heritage Sites on the banks of one river: Kew Gardens, the Palace of Westminster, the Tower of London and Maritime Greenwich.

The Thames is the blue heart of London's living environment, so I will put it at the centre of my plans for a greener London.

I will open up access to the Thames for all Londoners, working with organisations like Natural England to create one joined-up Thames Path, running from Teddington to the sea.

I will set a new target to increase rowing, sailing and canoeing activity on the Thames, working with Sport England.

And I will amend the London Plan to ensure the Thames becomes the default choice for transport of waste and construction materials, taking pressure off our roads.

### **I will engage all Londoners with a 'Big Green Survey', and use the findings to inform a new Biodiversity Strategy for London**

London has more than 1,500 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. However, many of these sites were last audited more than 20 years ago, meaning London could be losing a huge amount of biodiversity without even realising it.

So I will work with wildlife groups and Londoners to conduct a 'Big Green Survey'. This citizen-led, London-wide survey will record the abundance of flora and fauna, which inhabit our great city. I will then create a new strategy to ensure we protect them.

### **I will support plans to make London a 'National Park City', and will create a network of wildlife corridors for London's bees, birds and bats**

In 2012, Boris Johnson published guidance setting out how new developments should help contribute to 'the All London Green Grid' - a proposed London-wide network of green spaces, rivers, canals and flood plains.

I will work with the boroughs, the Government and developers to secure the £25 million funding necessary to complete this proposed network, which will create wildlife corridors for our birds, bees and bats.

I will back the campaign to make London a 'National Park City' - a vision to inspire a thousand visions for how we can make our city greener still.

I will also state a long term ambition for London to always have as many trees as people, requiring the planting of around 80,000 trees a year.

### **I will put in place a long term plan to make London pesticide-free.**

Local authorities are the second biggest users of pesticides in the UK, spraying our parks and roadside verges with chemicals that are deeply damaging to birds and bees. Tokyo is already pesticide free, and Paris has reduced pesticide use by 90 per cent. I want London to follow their lead, scrapping the use of toxic chemicals that harm our bees and I will work with the boroughs to phase these out.

**I will back the campaign to make London a 'National Park City' - a vision to inspire a thousand visions for how we can make our city greener still.**

# 3

## CLEANING UP THE CAPITAL

### **I will double the number of police officers protecting our parks**

London's eight Royal Parks are the crown jewels of the capital's living environment. Yet all too often these precious and popular spaces are blighted with litter. Each year the Royal Parks spend more money cleaning up rubbish than they do on planting flowers.

The Royal Parks are patrolled by a dedicated team of police officers, who have the power to levy on-the-spot fines for anyone caught littering, dog-fouling or damaging the surroundings. However since 2004, when the Royal Parks Constabulary were subsumed into the Metropolitan Police, environmental crime has been downgraded. Specific funding for these officers has been reduced and the number of park police on patrol has almost halved.

As Mayor, I will work with the police and the Government to deploy a new team of Environmental Crime Wardens to London's Royal Parks: an extra 80 PCSOs with the power to issue on-the-spot fines for littering and environmental damage.

Initially, I will fund the annual £2.5 million cost by cracking down on poor procurement practices at the Met, which spends over £1 billion a year on goods and services.

I will also continue to back the Met's Wildlife Crime Unit, which ensures those who harm or smuggle animals are swiftly brought to justice.

### **I will work with the Government to secure on-the-spot fining powers for fly-tipping**

London is home to six of the UK's ten worst fly-tipping hotspots, with mattresses, furniture and electrical goods regularly dumped on neighbourhoods across the capital.

Currently, only 1,000 people a year are prosecuted for this anti-social crime, owing to a lengthy court process.

Last year London local authorities spent £25 million a year clearing up illegal fly-tips, while recovering just £138,000 from perpetrators. This is because local authorities can only charge on-the-spot fines for littering, but not for larger items dumped on our streets.

So I will work with the Government to secure on-the-spot fining powers for local authorities, so fewer fly-tippers are let off the hook.

### **I will set a London-wide target for any dumped rubbish to be cleaned up within 24 hours**

Many local authorities already have a target to clean up fly-tipping within 24 hours and I will use the platform of the mayoralty to hold local authorities to account. The current Mayor's London Data Store has led the way in transparency, with data on transport, crime, housing and much more being used in hundreds of apps that help Londoners make sense of what is happening in their city.

I will task my Chief Digital Officer to collate data on local authority fly-tipping clean up rates, so that City Hall and Londoners can see how councils are performing. For the first time, we will have solid evidence with which to hold councils to account.

Building on the success of the Mayor's Capital Clean-up programme, I will work with retailers to support mobile litter hit squads, who will be tasked with cleaning up dumped rubbish within 24 hours. I will also seek greater community payback for anyone caught littering.

This includes making litter picking part of the Earn Your Travel back scheme for under-18s who have to earn back confiscated free travel.

## **I will make it easier to recycle**

London is aiming to recycle 50 per cent of all household waste by 2020, yet progress has stalled. Currently, we are only managing to recycle a third of our waste, while this falls to below a fifth in some inner London boroughs.

A major obstacle is that London's population is often on the move, meaning people have to get to grips with one of at least thirty-three different recycling schemes each time they move borough. For example, some councils take food waste, while some do not. Some insist on separation of recycling material, while others want it mixed in a box. Some collect garden waste and others don't. Collectively this unruly jumble of schemes means that London recycles just 33 per cent - costing London boroughs £120 million extra a year due to the higher cost of landfill and incineration.

People lead busy lives, and recycling in London should not require you to master a new set of rules every time you move house.

So I will work with the boroughs and with Resource London to move towards a 'London Guarantee': a common set of London-wide collection standards.

A key part of this will be catering for the 50 per cent of Londoners who live in flats and for whom kerbside recycling is more difficult. In place of a box collection scheme, Hackney has recently trialled a new type of green sack. I will be

monitoring the progress of this trial closely to see what lessons we can learn.

I will also back a London-wide advertising campaign, setting out the new rules and encouraging people to get recycling.

## **I will support London's move to a Zero Waste economy**

I want London to become the world's first genuinely Zero Waste City, minimising our demand on natural resources, cutting down on the amount of waste we generate, and repairing, re-using and recycling the materials we use instead of throwing them away.

Within my first year of taking office, I will set out a Zero Waste Route Map for London.

I will set out how five priority sectors become waste free. These will be food, electronics, textiles, the built environment, and packaging.

I will revise the GLA Group's procurement practices to better support the circular economy. I want everything purchased by the GLA, Transport for London and the Met to be recyclable or re-usable as soon as is practical, and will set out a public strategy for how I intend to do that.

And I will amend the London Plan to ensure that new housing developments cut down on waste and water use wherever possible.



## 4 A GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE LONDON

### **I will clean up our air with support for green transport and clean energy**

In my forthcoming Transport Manifesto, I will set out how I will clean up London's air by backing cleaner, more efficient forms of transport. These plans include doubling the number of cyclists on London's roads over the next ten years, bringing in tougher rules for HGVs and vans, creating an electric car equivalent for Boris Bikes, and ensuring all of London is pollution free as soon as possible, including by backing the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

But transport is only one half of the equation. Tackling pollution also requires us to address our energy supply.

I will put a plan in place to supply a quarter of London's energy needs from low carbon sources by 2025. This will put us on the pathway towards the ultimate goal of being powered by 100 per cent clean energy by the middle of this century.

All around the world, cities have shown that where national government is lagging, local government can lead the way. I will ensure London becomes a world leader in the fight against climate change, a story we can share to drive real change in other cities right around the globe.

### **I will spark a solar revolution in London**

Only one percent of London's energy is currently produced from solar power. I will aim for a tenfold increase by 2025, which would mean 200,000 London homes powered by the sun.

I will continue to back the London Plan's commitment to Zero Carbon Homes, which require new homes to emit 35 percent less carbon compared to 2013 building standards, and will work directly with developers to encourage solar on new-build flats and houses. I will ensure that large developments on publicly-owned land will come with solar panels by default.

The cost of installing solar on new-build property is currently £1,500 per plot and this is falling all the time. This is a manageable expense that will more than pay for itself over time, as it can save Londoners £300 a year on their energy bills.

I will draw on the example of Bristol and give community energy co-operatives the right to generate solar power from under-used public space, such as the roofs of bus stops and sports halls.

And I will work with boroughs, housing associations and the Green Investment Bank to help community energy co-ops set up their own green energy projects, with a new programme of 'Solar Powered Estates'.

By working with organisations that own a number of properties, such as housing associations, City Hall will be able to package up individual projects and match them with investor finance. This will unlock dozens more projects like the Brixton Energy Co-Operative, the UK's first inner-city renewable energy co-op.

### **I will green TfL and use the waste heat it generates to affordably heat London homes**

Transport for London is the capital's largest energy consumer. I will ensure that it uses clean, locally generated energy wherever possible.

I will cut costs and carbon for homes and businesses, by making sure the waste heat produced by TfL gets plugged back into London's district heating networks: the series of underground pipes which provide ultra-efficient shared heating for communities across London.

I will also require all major developers to connect to or be ready to connect to London's district heating networks, building on Boris Johnson's example which has seen developers plug into networks at Kings Cross, Battersea Park, Myatts Field North and Nine Elms.

Lastly, I will support the delivery of new heat networks, working to secure London's share of the £300 million allocated for these projects in the 2015 Spending Review.

### **I will set up 'Energy for London'**

The energy regulator, Ofgem, recently granted the Mayor of London a licence that will allow City Hall to buy and sell excess electricity from public bodies.

I will go further, using these powers to set up 'Energy for London': a new clean energy company which will bulk buy energy from low carbon generators across London and sell it to businesses and housing estates. Should initial pilots be successful, I will look at extending this to London homes, too.

### **I will future-proof London homes**

I want London's homes to be as energy efficient as possible. So I will work with the Government to secure an Energy Deal for London: devolution of London's share of the new efficiency levy on energy suppliers which will come in 2018.

The estimated £80 million per annum this would raise for London could be used to trial innovative 'Pay Back as You Save' schemes, where the upfront costs of retrofitting a home are more than paid for through reduced bills over time. The products I will test include home energy low-interest loans, stamp duty rebates and council tax rebates.

For tower blocks, I will look to apply a new Dutch model - Energiesprong - which enables rapid whole house retrofit using off-site construction methods, at no upfront cost to the housing association or local authority and with lower energy bills for residents.

Once the concept is proven, I will work with London's banks to create mainstream commercial products allowing consumers to pay back as they save.

I will also drive change in the private rented sector. As set out in my Housing Manifesto, I will strengthen the London Rental Standard to include

minimum energy efficiency standards, decided in consultation with the Government and industry and progressively tightened over time.

Lastly, I will investigate the latest building techniques. One model already in use in Chile, Barcelona Housing Systems, produces ultra-energy efficient homes which are also 75 - 100 per cent off-grid, thanks to in-built rooftop solar electric and solar thermal, and on-site battery technology. These homes can be built for significantly less than traditional homes - and at a significantly faster pace. I will look at the potential for rapid roll-out of this model in London.

### **I will make London a world-leader in green technology and infrastructure**

I will back London's booming clean tech sector, working with Government to secure funding for a West London Clean Tech Hub to rival East London's Tech City.

And I will make sure that London's grey infrastructure is complemented by green infrastructure to reduce flooding, improve air quality and make London a more beautiful place to live.

My newly-appointed Green Infrastructure Commissioner will ensure that London's grey infrastructure is complemented by green infrastructure, in order to not only cut carbon but improve public health and quality of life.

**I am clear that a cleaner, greener living environment is only possible thanks to a strong economy. So I will work with the Government to deliver my fully costed plan to protect and improve London's green spaces."**

## CONCLUSION

By the end of my term London's priceless network of green space will have been extended rather than diminished.

London's great parks will be cleaner and safer for families to enjoy.

More young Londoners will have a chance to kick a football around on grass rather than tarmac, and to eat healthy school meals that they have helped to grow themselves.

More of their parents will be recycling, saving on their energy bills and doing their bit to tackle our city's pollution problem.

And London's living environment will be safe for future generations to enjoy.

London is the greatest city on earth. It can and must become the greenest.



