

- 7.1 This chapter sets out policies on a range of issues about the places and spaces in which Londoners live, work and visit that are integral to delivery of the Mayor's vision and objectives set out in Chapter 1, but in particular those that London should be:
- **A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods** to which Londoners feel attached, which provide all of its residents, workers, visitors and students – whatever their origin, background, age or status – with opportunities to realise and express their potential and a high quality environment for individuals to enjoy, live together and thrive.
 - **A city that delights the senses** and takes care over its buildings and streets, having the best of modern architecture while also making the most of London's built heritage, and which makes the most of and extends its wealth of open and green spaces, natural environment and waterways, realising its potential for improving Londoners' health, welfare and development.
- 7.2 This chapter focuses on a broad range of policy areas that impact directly on how people perceive and use the places they live in, work in and visit. The quality and function of neighbourhoods and places, access, heritage, local character, landscapes, inclusive design, safety, security and resilience, green infrastructure, biodiversity, air quality, soundscapes and the Blue Ribbon Network all contribute towards making London a special place and improve quality of life.
- 7.3 Achieving this requires wide-ranging policies and actions and therefore goes beyond the themes of this chapter. It also requires action on issues outside the scope of the London Plan and will be addressed in other mayoral strategies and programmes, for example action on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Place shaping

POLICY 7.1 LIFETIME NEIGHBOURHOODS

Strategic

- A In their neighbourhoods, people should have a good quality environment in an active and supportive local community based on the lifetime neighbourhoods principles set out in paragraph 7.4A.

Planning decisions

- B Development should be designed so that the layout, tenure and mix of uses interface with surrounding land and improve people's access to social and community infrastructure (including green spaces), the Blue Ribbon Network, local shops, employment and training opportunities, commercial services and public transport.
- C Development should enable people to live healthy, active lives; should maximize the opportunity for community diversity, inclusion and cohesion; and should contribute to people's sense of place, safety and
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security. Places of work and leisure, streets, neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the community at all stages of people's lives, and should meet the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods.

- D The design of new buildings and the spaces they create should help reinforce or enhance the character, legibility, permeability, and accessibility of the neighbourhood.
- E The policies in this chapter provide the context within which the targets set out in other chapters of this Plan should be met.

LDF preparation

- F Boroughs should plan across services to ensure the nature and mix of existing and planned infrastructure and services are complementary and meet the needs of existing and new communities. Cross-borough and/or sub-regional working is encouraged, where appropriate.
- G Boroughs should work with and support their local communities to set goals or priorities for their neighbourhoods and strategies for achieving them through neighbourhood planning mechanisms.

7.4A Three principles have been developed to help frame the concept of lifetime neighbourhoods as places where people at all stages of their lives:

1. can get around – neighbourhoods which are well-connected and walkable;
2. as far as possible, can have a choice of homes, accessible infrastructure and services, places to spend time and to work, with a mix of accessible and adaptable uses; and
3. belong to a cohesive community which fosters diversity, social interaction and social capital.

7.4 People should be able to live and work in a safe, healthy, supportive and inclusive neighbourhood with which they are proud to identify.²⁰⁷ They should have easy access by public transport and active travel modes (walking and cycling) to services and facilities that are relevant to them and should be able to safely and easily move around their neighbourhood through high quality spaces, while having good access to the wider city²⁰⁸. They should have safe and easy access to a network of open and green spaces that meets their recreational needs to enhance their health and wellbeing, as well as welcoming and easily accessible communal spaces that provide opportunities for social interaction. The natural and built

207 Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), Home Builders Federation and Design for Homes, Building for Life, CABE November 2008

208 This includes Active Design. <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/CABE/Our-big-projects/Health-/Health-events/Active-Design-Briefing/>