



GREEN URBAN LANDSCAPE POLICY

for Council Maintained Land

2021 - 2024

Executive Summary

E.1.1 Foreword

Nature and green spaces provide a wealth of interconnected social, economic, and environmental benefits that enrich our lives and maintain our health and wellbeing. During the COVID-19 pandemic many residents relied on local green spaces even more, as places to meet, unwind, exercise, and feel refreshed.

In Redbridge we have lots of green space, but also urban areas where the green space, nature and biodiversity are under pressure. It is therefore vital that we protect and enhance our existing green space as well as the natural aspects within urban settings. This will bring multiple benefits for today's residents of Redbridge as well as future generations.

Our priorities are to: ensure vibrant and healthy parks for our residents to enjoy, meadow zones along the highways for biodiversity, shrubs to absorb air pollution in key spots, and street trees to tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This policy focusses on the greenery in Redbridge, and particularly the trees, shrubs and grass areas that are under the responsibility of the Council.

Caring for the nature around us is not solely in our hands as a Council and engagement with residents will be crucial to protect and improve our green spaces. We hope that by setting good management principles we can also encourage residents and private landowners to similarly improve the management of their trees and green areas.

We are lucky to enjoy so much green space in our borough and this policy represents our commitment to ensure the health and sustainability of Redbridge's existing natural resources so that they will benefit generations.

Councillor Jo Blackman

Cabinet Member for Environment and Civic Pride.



E.1.2 Summary

E.1.2.1 Why a Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land?

The Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land (GULP) arose from the need to update the London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) Tree Policy which has been unchanged since 1996. In line with current approaches to urban nature conservation it is useful to extend this policy to include all greenery on Council maintained land such as shrubs, grass areas and weed control.

The ultimate goal of the policy is to ensure the health and sustainability of LBR's existing natural resources so that they will benefit generations to come. At the same time the policy aims to work towards a more equitable distribution of greenery across the borough so that the benefits of the green urban landscape are available to all.

This policy allows LBR to unify management of greenery across the borough, so that all departments are taking the same principles into account in their management practices. It also highlights the need to work more closely with residents to encourage them to take pride in the nature on their doorstep so that caring for the greenery in Redbridge becomes a shared responsibility.

This policy consolidates existing work and points to what could be achieved. The actions laid out show the first steps needed to take this forward, and it is hoped that by the time the policy is reviewed in three years LBR will be in a position to set even more ambitious targets.

E.1.2.2 How was the Policy Developed?

Extensive consultation was undertaken to inform this policy, starting with a series of discussion groups within LBR and with local community groups. The themes and concerns raised were incorporated into an online survey that sought the views of the wider public. Nearly 500 people responded, and these views have further shaped the development of the policy. We would like to thank all those who contributed.



E.1.2.3 The Policy in Brief

THE VISION: To protect, manage and improve the tree stock and greenery maintained by the London Borough of Redbridge to deliver benefits to residents and to strengthen the health, amenity value and biodiversity of these resources so that they continue to provide a high quality green urban landscape for now and into the future.

To raise awareness among residents of the value of the green resources in the borough and promote a culture of shared responsibility for the green urban landscape.

Protect

- P1. To protect existing trees, shrubs and grass from unnecessary removal by carefully applying the principles of removal
- P2. To preserve grass and shrubs and future tree canopy cover by replacing greenery including trees that are removed
- P3. To protect trees, shrubs and grassed areas from unnecessary damage

Manage

- M1. To manage the risk posed by all trees in the Borough through effective maintenance practices
- M2. To manage existing trees, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of
- M3. To manage shrubs and grass areas, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of
- M4. To manage greenery in ways that improve the use of outside spaces in the Borough through improved visual amenity and recreational enjoyment
- M5. To seek opportunities for improving the cost-effectiveness of management practices

Improve

- I1. To assist in fulfilling regional targets for a net gain in tree canopy across London, with a target of 10% increase in canopy cover in London by 2050
- I2. To carefully select species and locations of new planting that will balance both ecological benefits and benefits to residents
- I3. To use greenery as a means for improving air quality where possible
- I4. To maximise biodiversity through planting schemes and changing management of grass areas where appropriate
- I5. To monitor progress and seek to quantify benefits of the changes made

Engage: Communicate, Educate, and Involve



- E1. To improve coordination across council departments with a responsibility for the management of greenery
- E2. To improve communication between LBR and residents concerning management of the Green Urban Landscape
- E3. To encourage community involvement in the care and development of trees and greenery locally
- E4. To build on public awareness about the value of the natural resources in LBR to develop appreciation and a sense of ownership for them

E.1.3 Responsibilities and Commitment

The GULP was prepared by Eunomia for Redbridge Council with the support and agreement of the following officers and departments:

- Peter Marshall (Principal Arboricultural and Horticultural Officer, Neighbourhood Street Scene)
- Stephanie Orrell (Neighbourhood Street Scene Manager, Street Scene)

The GULP has been approved by:

- Councillor Jo Blackman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Civic Pride)
- Nicky Fiedler (Corporate Director of Communities)
- Josie Falco (Operational Director Communities)

The GULP will be revised in 2024 to reflect changes in related policies such as the Local Plan Review 2022, Natural Capital Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan and the Climate Change Action Plan.



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Improving the London Borough of Redbridge's Greenery

Redbridge's green urban landscape is woven through the built environment, and includes street trees, highway verges, shrub beds, woodlands as well as green open spaces. These natural assets are very important in an urban area like the London Borough of Redbridge (LBR), where they provide spaces for people to enjoy being in nature, spaces that encourage outdoor activity, allow people to meet, and improve their well-being. In addition, if managed well, they can provide healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish and adapt to climate change, leaving a legacy of a healthy environment for future generations.

LBR is a diverse borough both in terms of residents and the urban landscape. Historically, it was seen as a leafy suburb, and has the chestnut leaf as its symbol, yet today some of the borough is lacking in greenery and the natural areas have come under pressure from development and financial constraints. This policy seeks to highlight the importance of the green urban landscape in Redbridge, by agreeing a collective plan for managing and improving Council greenery across the borough.

With this Green Urban Landscape Policy (GULP), LBR has a chance to demonstrate leadership in how it redefines the green urban landscape and builds community support for this. LBR can also be at the forefront of work to halt the decline of nature as is called for under the new Nature Recovery Strategies.¹ The green landscape of Redbridge is part of something much larger, and how this resource is managed within LBR can support or hinder the flourishing of nature across London and in the UK as a whole.

This policy will update the existing tree policy from 1996 and seeks to unify the approach to greenery across LBR.

This document presents:

- The benefits of a healthy green urban landscape (Section 2.0);
- an overview of the current state of LBR's green urban landscape (Section 3.0);
- reasons why a Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land is needed in Redbridge (Section 4.0);
- a vision for how this policy can improve LBR's green urban landscape and clear policy statements for each of the 4 strategic objectives (Section 5.0); and
- an action plan for the next steps needed to take this forward (Section 6.0).

¹ The forthcoming Environment Bill due to be passed in Autumn 2021 will mandate the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England and will also introduce a new duty on all public bodies to have regard to any relevant LNRS.



1.2 How this policy was developed

The policy has been developed through a collaborative process of engaging with different stakeholder groups (see Figure 1-1). An initial stakeholder analysis was conducted from which an engagement plan was developed. In the early phase a series of discussion groups were held with key stakeholders to understand their concerns and aspirations around the management of greenery in the borough. The discussion groups were clustered in the following groups, each with several members of Council staff, community groups or councillors:

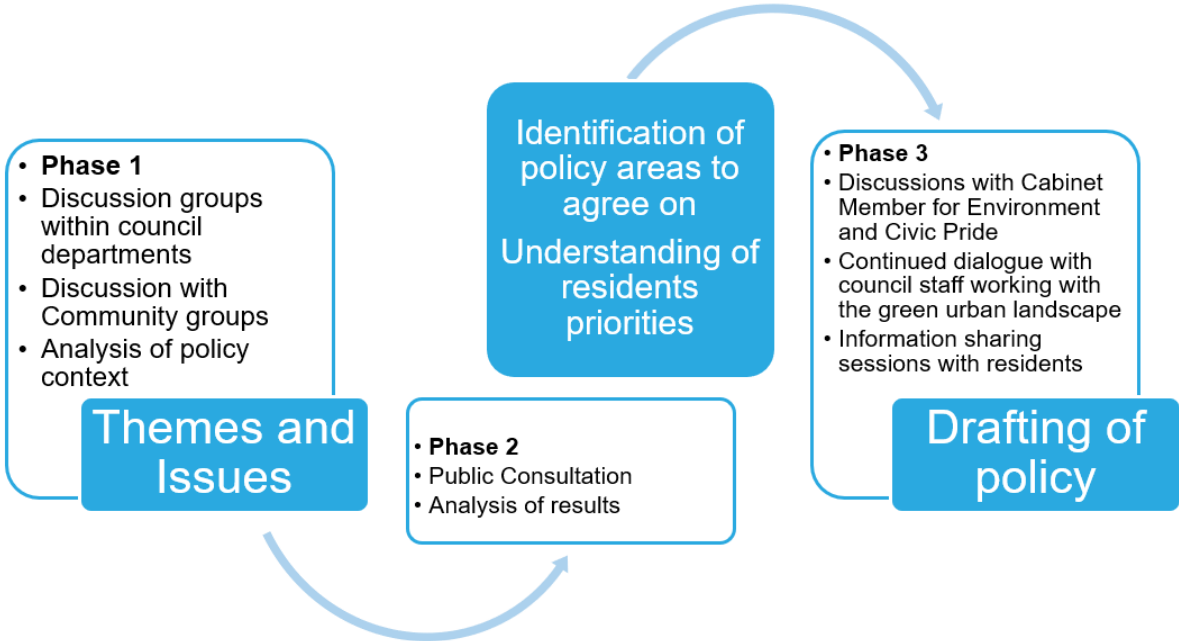
- 1) Housing
- 2) Planning
- 3) Highways
- 4) Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure
- 5) Leisure
- 6) Nature and Environment Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (4 Councillors)
- 7) Corporate Landlord and Insurance
- 8) Councillor John Howard, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride at that time
- 9) Representatives from local community groups with a focus on the environment.

In the second phase of engagement, an online survey was developed building on the themes emerging from the discussion groups. This sought to gather opinions and feedback from the wider public on these ideas including:

- 1) How do they get value from the greenery in the borough? (Using greenspaces for recreation, enjoying looking at trees, getting involved in caring for the greenery etc)
- 2) What changes would they like to see to how the greenery is managed in Redbridge?
- 3) Is there a willingness to get involved in caring for Redbridge's nature?



Figure 1-1: Phases of Policy Development



Source: Eunomia

2.0 The Benefits of a Healthy Green Urban Landscape

In this section the evidence showing how well managed greenery can benefit an urban population such as that in Redbridge is discussed. The positive benefits that nature can provide are enhanced when the plants and ecosystems are in good health, yet sustaining this good health requires careful management and an understanding of the pressures facing urban greenery.

Urban intensification is a key threat, particularly in LBR with the growing population and consequential need for housing. The new London Plan has set a ten year housing target for LBR of around 1,409 new homes each year which is a 25% increase on the LBR target laid out in the 2015 Local Plan.² This places additional pressure on LBR to find spaces for development.

Climate change is also a challenge for urban greenery, with the increasing frequency of storms and summer drought. The rise in invasive pests and diseases can lead to poor plant health and greater plant losses and in areas where the tree stock is ageing, the

² Mayor of London, 2021, The London Plan. Available at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/london-plan-2021>



chances of losses increase. LBR has had an active programme of replacement highway tree planting to maintain a stable population; although, the survival to maturity rate is impacted by other issues such as watering and vandalism.

2.1 Social Benefits: Health and Wellbeing

Attractive open spaces encourage the uptake of outdoor exercise.

In LBR, child obesity and the incidence of cardiovascular disease are higher than in London as a whole.³ Both these health issues are greatly improved with exercise, and there is strong evidence that physical activity in natural environments can provide greater health outcomes than the same activity in built-up or indoor environments.⁴ In the UK, people who have good access to green space are more likely to be physically active and less likely to be overweight or obese.⁵

Spending time in nature and engaging with the natural world is beneficial for health and well-being.⁶

Mental health issues among adults in LBR are also at higher levels than the London average, and spending time in nature is one way of tackling this. Simply viewing nature has been linked to substantial reductions in stress and depression,^{7 8} as has noise abatement and exposure to natural noises and natural smells.⁹ Viewing nature can also increase recovery rates from physical injury/illness.¹⁰

The availability of greenspace can also improve social cohesion, and thus overall wellbeing.¹¹

LBR is a socially diverse borough with a broad spread of ethnicities giving rise to culturally distinct communities. The LBR Partnership Plan for 2025 focusses on ‘tackling the root causes of social challenges’ with strong communities at the centre of this.¹²

³ LBR A Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Redbridge. 2017-21. And LBR Building a New Redbridge for 2025. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/7257/building-a-new-redbridge-for-2025.pdf>

⁴ Thompson Coon, J., Boddy, K., Stein, K., Whear, R., Barton, J., and Depledge, M.H. (2011) Does Participating in Physical Activity in Outdoor Natural Environments Have a Greater Effect on Physical and Mental Wellbeing than Physical Activity Indoors? A Systematic Review, *Environmental Science & Technology*, Vol.45, No.5, pp.1761–1772

⁵ Hillsdon, M, Jones, A, and Coombes, E (2011) *Green space access, green space use, physical activity and overweight*, 2011

⁶ WHO 2016 https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf

⁷ Stigsdotter, U.A. (2004) A Garden at your Workplace May Reduce Stress, *Design & Health*, pp.147–157

⁸ Velarde, Ma.D., Fry, G., and Tveit, M. (2007) Health effects of viewing landscapes – Landscape types in environmental psychology, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, Vol.6, No.4, pp.199–212

⁹ Franco, L.S., Shanahan, D.F., and Fuller, R.A. (2017) A Review of the Benefits of Nature Experiences: More Than Meets the Eye, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Vol.14, No.8

¹⁰ Ulrich, R. (1984) View through a window may influence recovery from surgery, *Science*, Vol.224, No.4647, pp.420–421

¹¹ Hartig, T., Mitchell, R., de Vries, S., and Frumkin, H. (2014) Nature and Health, *Annual Review of Public Health*, Vol.35, No.1, pp.207–228

¹² LBR Growing a new Redbridge, <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/7257/building-a-new-redbridge-for-2025.pdf>



Improving access to green space has been shown to improve social cohesion, primarily because these areas can provide attractive meeting places and venues for group-based activities. In addition to increased social contact, a sense of community can be strengthened by feelings of emotional attachment to a neighbourhood. One study found that natural features and open spaces are the most important physical features that can increase feelings of belonging and home.¹³ Furthermore, greener urban environments can reduce aggressive behaviour, which makes people feel safer.¹⁴

Trees and shrubs can reduce air pollution.

The LBR Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025 found that the borough is still failing to meet the national annual average limit for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and at some locations with heavy traffic, levels of particulate matter (PM) are also too high. Both these air pollutants are damaging to health, and air pollution is associated with increased rates of respiratory and cardiovascular disease,¹⁵ including COVID-19.¹⁶ High air pollution levels have also been linked with increased rates of depression.¹⁷

Studies have shown that combining areas of shrub planting with tree planting is the most effective way of using urban greenery to improve air quality, cutting black carbon (produced primarily from diesel engines) pollutants by up to 63%.¹⁸ A study of trees in London estimated that the capital's 8 million trees remove 2,241 tonnes of pollution from the air each year. This is equivalent to 13% of particulates (PM10) and 14% of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) emitted by road transport.¹⁹ Shrubs are shown to be even more effective in absorbing air pollution on roads as the leaves are nearer to car exhausts.²⁰

Greenery and greenspace can moderate the Urban Heat Island effect.

Urban areas tend to experience greater temperature extremes than surrounding rural areas, called the 'Urban Heat Island' (UHI) effect, which can lead to heat related health risks during hot summer days. In London, the UHI effect can reach up to 9°C.²¹ Green space can moderate this effect. One study in London found a mean temperature

¹³ Kim, J., and Kaplan, R. (2004) Physical and Psychological Factors in Sense of Community: New Urbanist Kentlands and Nearby Orchard Village, *Environment and Behavior*, Vol.36, No.3, pp.313–340

¹⁴ Kuo, F.E., and Sullivan, W.C. (2001) Aggression and Violence in the Inner-City: Effects of Environment via Mental Fatigue, *Environment and Behavior*, Vol.33, No.4, pp.543–571

¹⁵ Brunekreef, B., and Holgate, S.T. (2002) Air pollution and health, *Lancet (London, England)*, Vol.360, No.9341, pp.1233–1242

¹⁶ Travaglio, M., Yu, Y., Popovic, R., Selley, L., Leal, N.S., and Martins, L.M. (2021) Links between air pollution and COVID-19 in England, *Environmental Pollution*, Vol.268, p.115859

¹⁷ X, Zhang., and X, Chen. (2017) Happiness in the Air: How Does a Dirty Sky Affect Mental Health and Subjective Well-being? *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, Vol.85, pp.81–94

¹⁸ Abhijith, K.V., and Kumar, P. (2019) Field investigations for evaluating green infrastructure effects on air quality in open-road conditions, *Atmospheric Environment*, Vol.201, pp.132–147

¹⁹ Forest Research 2015 Valuing London's Urban Forest. I-tree eco project.

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/i-tree-eco-projects-completed/i-tree-eco-london/>

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Greater London Authority (2006) *London's urban heat island: a summary for decision makers*, 2006



reduction of up to 4°C within 440m of a large greenspace in summer.²² This moderation can also reduce winter heating and summer air conditioning requirements, which both reduce energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

2.2 Environmental Benefits

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity at a local level is central to the UK goals of Nature Recovery.

The UK is facing a biodiversity crisis with 41% of species experiencing a decrease in numbers since 1970 and 15% threatened with extinction.²³ High quality green space can enhance local biodiversity, which improves ecological resilience and contributes to the social and economic benefits previously described.

Several sites within LBR are deemed important in terms of the biodiversity that they sustain. These include 35 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).²⁴ Whilst protecting these is essential there are additional opportunities for enhancing biodiversity beyond this, for example through careful species selection in new planting, and changing the management of areas to allow diversity to flourish.

The government is in the process of making biodiversity an integral part of decision making at both a national and local level, evidenced by the imminent introduction of the principle of Biodiversity Net Gain. This addition to the planning regulations will require developments over 0.5ha to demonstrate that any negative impact on biodiversity is compensated for by investing in work that supports biodiversity either on site or at another location. The aim of this is that biodiversity is left in a better state overall than before, using a metric to calculate a gain of 10%.²⁵ The exact details of the scheme will be finalised in the forthcoming Environment Bill.

Greenery plays a key role in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Trees and vegetation absorb carbon and store it in their biomass which helps reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Larger, more mature trees store more carbon and when trees die the carbon is released slowly. For this reason, maintaining a healthy tree population is important to ensure that overall, more carbon is stored than released.

Furthermore, additional tree planting is a long-term natural solution to reducing carbon in the air and can contribute to local authority net zero or emissions reduction targets. The trees on the highways in LBR sequester 148.2 ton/yr of carbon from the atmosphere²⁶.

²² Doick, K., Peace, A., and Hutchings, T. (2014) The Role of One Large Greenspace in Mitigating London's Nocturnal Urban Heat Island, *Science of The Total Environment*, Vol.463, pp.662–671

²³ State of Nature partnership (2019) *State of Nature Report 2019 - UK*,

²⁴ LUC (2016) Redbridge Open Space Study, <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-net-gain-updating-planning-requirements>

²⁶ I-Tree eco data assessment <https://www.itreetools.org/tools/i-tree-eco>

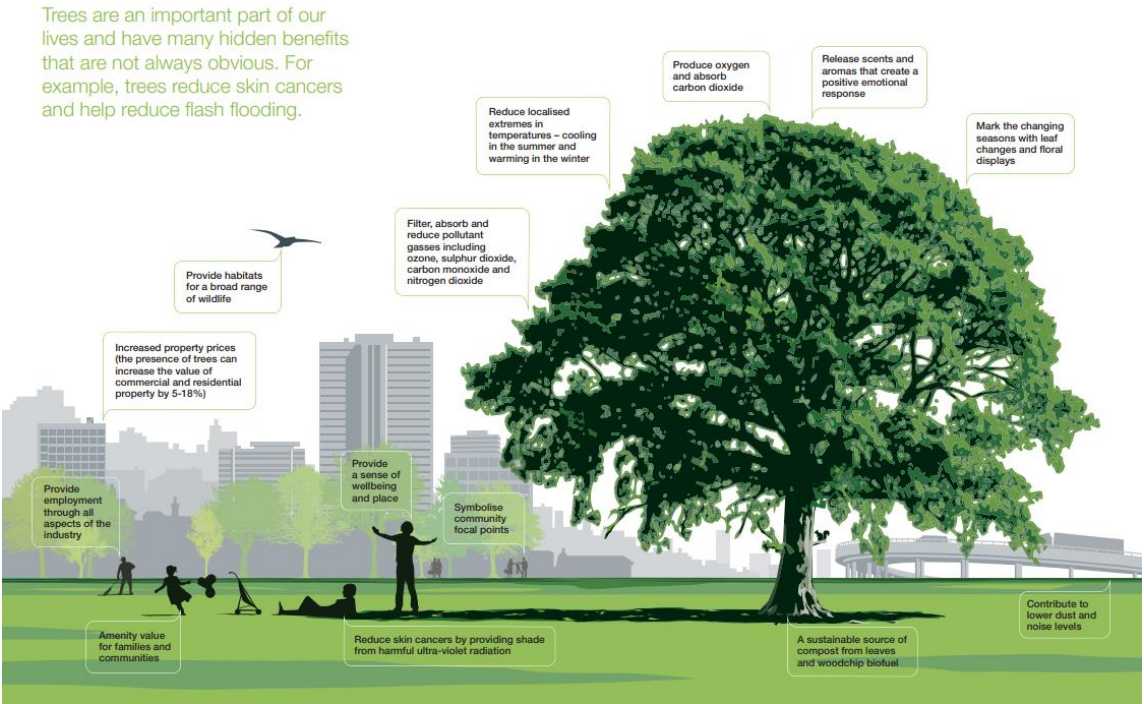


It is worth noting that the scale and pace of change needed to address climate change requires significant reductions in emissions and cannot be met with natural solutions alone. LBR has looked more broadly at options for reducing carbon in their 2020 Green Audit, and are published in the LBR Climate Action Plan.²⁷

Stimulating environmentally positive behaviour.

Finally, research shows that people who have more frequent contact with nature are more likely to adopt environmentally positive behaviours like recycling, which will help foster more sustainable societies that have a lower detrimental impact on the environment.²⁸ The London Environment Strategy calls for London Boroughs to encourage greater participation and involvement by Londoners in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the neighbourhood level.

Figure 2-1 Key benefits of trees for humans and the environment.



Source: The London Tree Officers Association (2007), available at <https://www.ltoa.org.uk/documents-1/trees-do-more-than-you-think/127-trees-do-more-than-you-think-leaflet/file>

²⁷ LBR Climate Change Action Plan <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/9400/appendix-b-climate-change-action-plan-final.pdf>

²⁸ Alcock, I., White, M.P., Pahl, S., Duarte-Davidson, R., and Fleming, L.E. (2020) Associations between pro-environmental behaviour and neighbourhood nature, nature visit frequency and nature appreciation: Evidence from a nationally representative survey in England, *Environment International*, Vol.136, pp.1–10



2.3 Economic Benefits

Environmental benefits also bring economic savings.

There are several ways of assessing the economic value of trees, by considering their contribution to removing pollution, sequestering carbon, and amenity value. The total annual benefits of trees across London has been calculated as £132.7 million annually.²⁹ Data on the number and species of trees on the highway in LBR was fed into the i-tree Eco tool to assess the value of the economic savings arising from the environmental function that these trees serve.³⁰ The structural value is the estimated local cost of having to replace a tree with a similar tree. This shows that the total value of trees in LBR is significant and preserving the existing assets is economically valuable.

Table 1: i-tree eco Valuation of LBR Highway Trees

Number of Trees on the highway in LBR	Carbon storage		Gross Carbon Sequestration		Avoided Runoff		Pollution Removal		Structural Value
	ton	£	ton/year	£	ft ³ /yr	£/yr	ton/yr	£/yr	£
21,049 trees	4,407	249,859	148	8,067	185,864	7,981	2	56,790	10,344,366

Source: LBR Principal Arboricultural and Horticultural Officer, Neighbourhood Street Scene

Trees and greenery can help to reduce localised flooding by intercepting rainfall and maintaining soil permeability.

The 2010 Floods & Water Management Act placed responsibility on UK local authorities for surface water management and flood risk mitigation.³¹ The 2016 LBR Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identified flood risk zones along the main water courses: the River

²⁹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/valuing-londons-urban-forest>

³⁰ Carbon storage and gross carbon sequestration value is calculated based on the price of £54.43 per ton. Due to limits of available models, i-Tree Eco will limit carbon storage to a maximum of 7,500 kg (16,534.7 lbs) and not estimate additional storage for any tree beyond a diameter of 254 cm (100 in). Whichever limit results in lower carbon storage is used. Avoided runoff value is calculated by the price £0.043/ft³. The user-designated weather station reported 10.9 inches of total annual precipitation. Eco will always use the hourly measurements that have the greatest total rainfall or user-submitted rainfall if provided.

Pollution removal value is calculated based on the prices of £867.84 per ton (CO), £11,176.76 per ton (O3), £1,669.27 per ton (NO2), £608.15 per ton (SO2), £387,985.55 per ton (PM2.5). Structural value is the estimated local cost of having to replace a tree with a similar tree.

³¹ HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010, available at https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf



Roding, the Cran Brook, and the Seven Kings.³² The large areas of impermeable concrete surfaces in urban centres can result in flooding during intense rainfall, which can lead to extensive damage and disruption. Leafy trees intercept the rainfall, and the root systems promote infiltration and water storage in the soil. The London i-tree report estimates that the trees of Outer London produced an avoided run off 2,709,000 cubic meters with a value of £2.2 million.³³

Street trees have a positive impact on property prices.

Greenspace and street trees can also have a positive impact on property prices, largely because people value them for the health and wellbeing benefits described above.^{34 35} In London a 1% increase in nearby greenspace has been linked to a 0.3-0.5% increase in house prices.³⁶

In summary: **The green urban landscape in LBR is important because it can deliver multiple social, environmental and economic benefits for local residents now and into the long term if managed well.**

3.0 Greenery in LBR

Much of Redbridge’s greenery that falls under Council management grows in the Boroughs’ parks, sports grounds, woodlands, along the highways, on communal housing sites, in schools, cemeteries, surrounding council buildings, allotments, surrounding agricultural land and leased sites. Figure 3-1 shows the full coverage of greenery under Council management. It was beyond the scope of this policy development to undertake new mapping or data assessment of existing greenery in Redbridge, so this is highlighted as an action point to follow up on.

³² LBR Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Level 1. 2016 <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10514/lbr-2611-strategic-flood-risk-assessment-level-1.pdf>
³³ Forest Research 2015 Valuing London’s Urban Forest. I-tree eco project. <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/i-tree-eco-projects-completed/i-tree-eco-london/>
³⁴ Green Blue Urban (2017) *How Trees Increase Property Values*, 2017, <https://greenblue.com/gb/how-trees-increase-property-values/>
³⁵ Forestry Commission (2012) *Economic Benefits of Greenspace: a critical assessment of evidence of net economic benefits*, 2012
³⁶ GLA Economics (2003) *Valuing greenness: green spaces, house prices and Londoners’ priorities.*, 2003

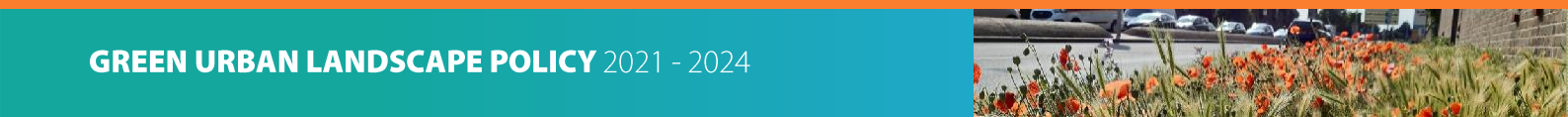
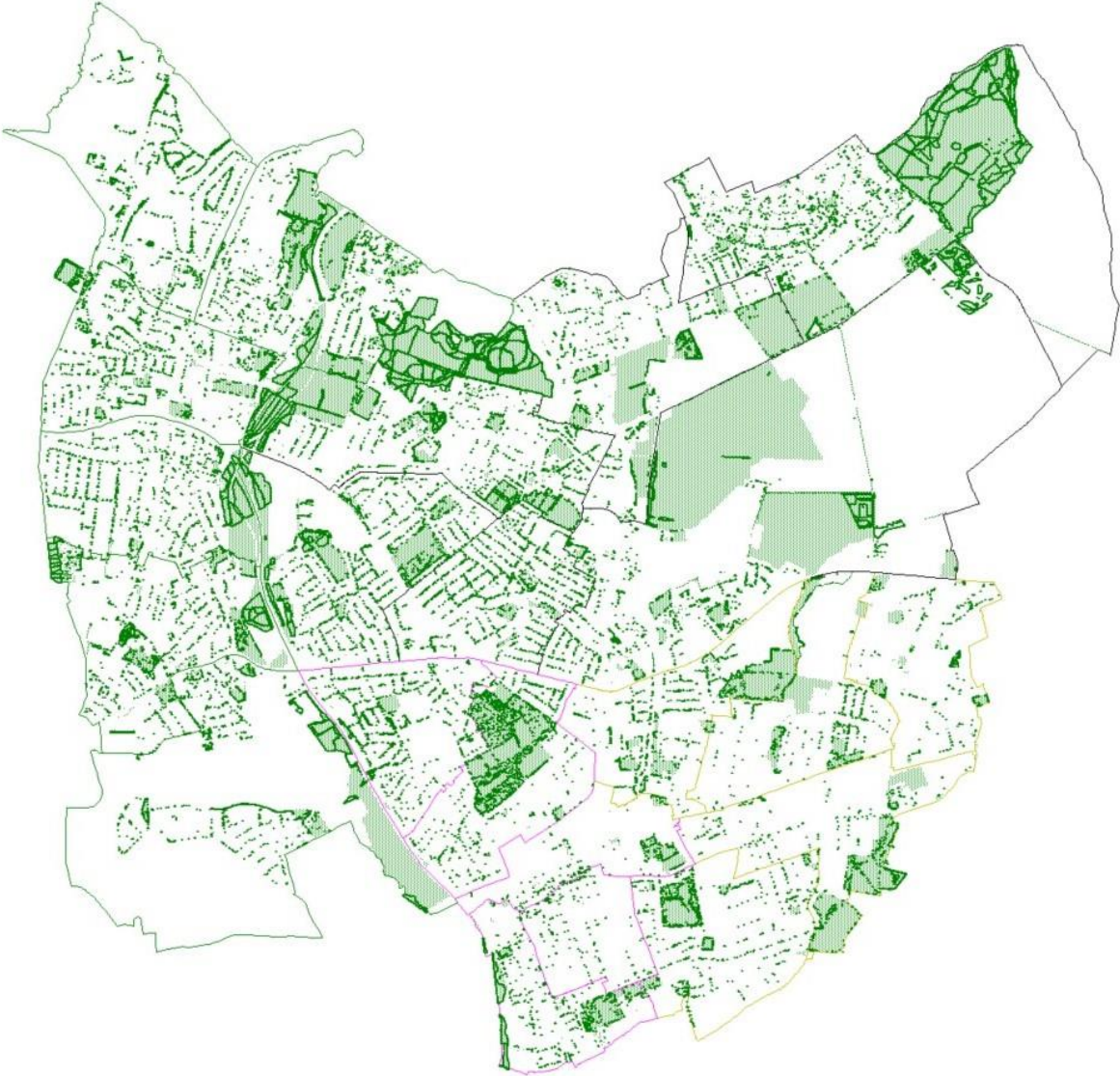


Figure 3-1: Greenery Covered by this Policy



Source: Arboricultural and Horticultural Officer LBR Data collated and held by Council departments

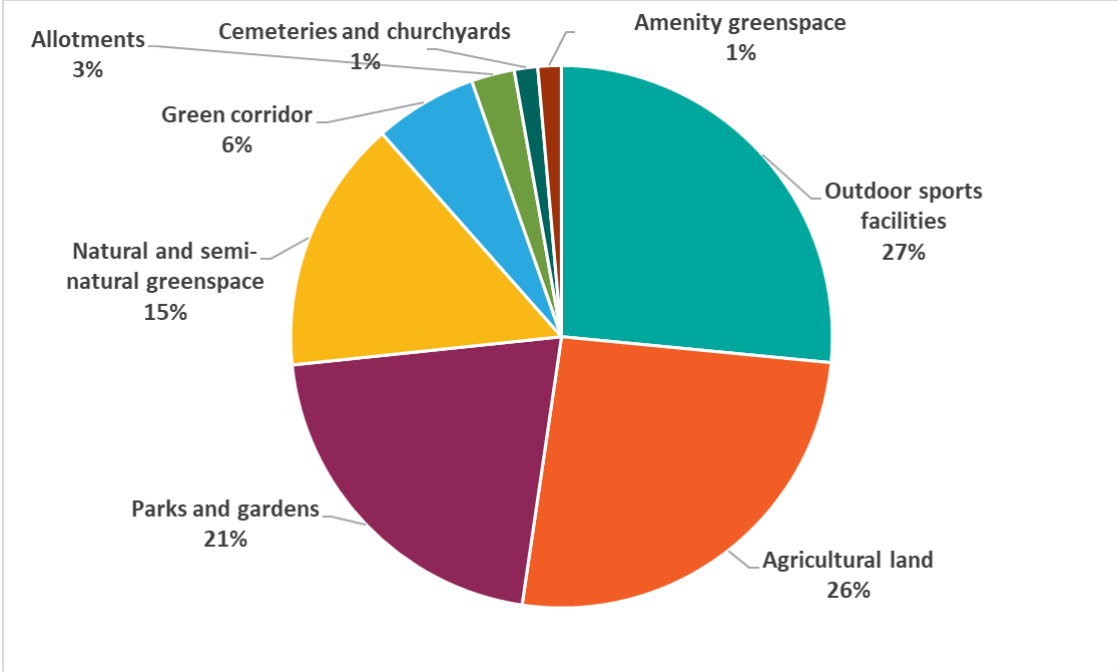
3.1 Open space

In 2017, the LBR commissioned a study to assess the quantity, accessibility, quality, and value of open spaces within the Borough. The Open Spaces study calculated that the Borough contains 2,215ha of open space, which equates to 40% of the total Borough area.³⁷ The most common types of open space are outdoor sports facilities, followed by agricultural land, and parks and gardens. Figure 3-2 shows the prevalence of different types of open space in LBR and Figure 3-3 shows the geographic distribution of these spaces.

³⁷ LUC (2016) Redbridge Open Space Study, <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>



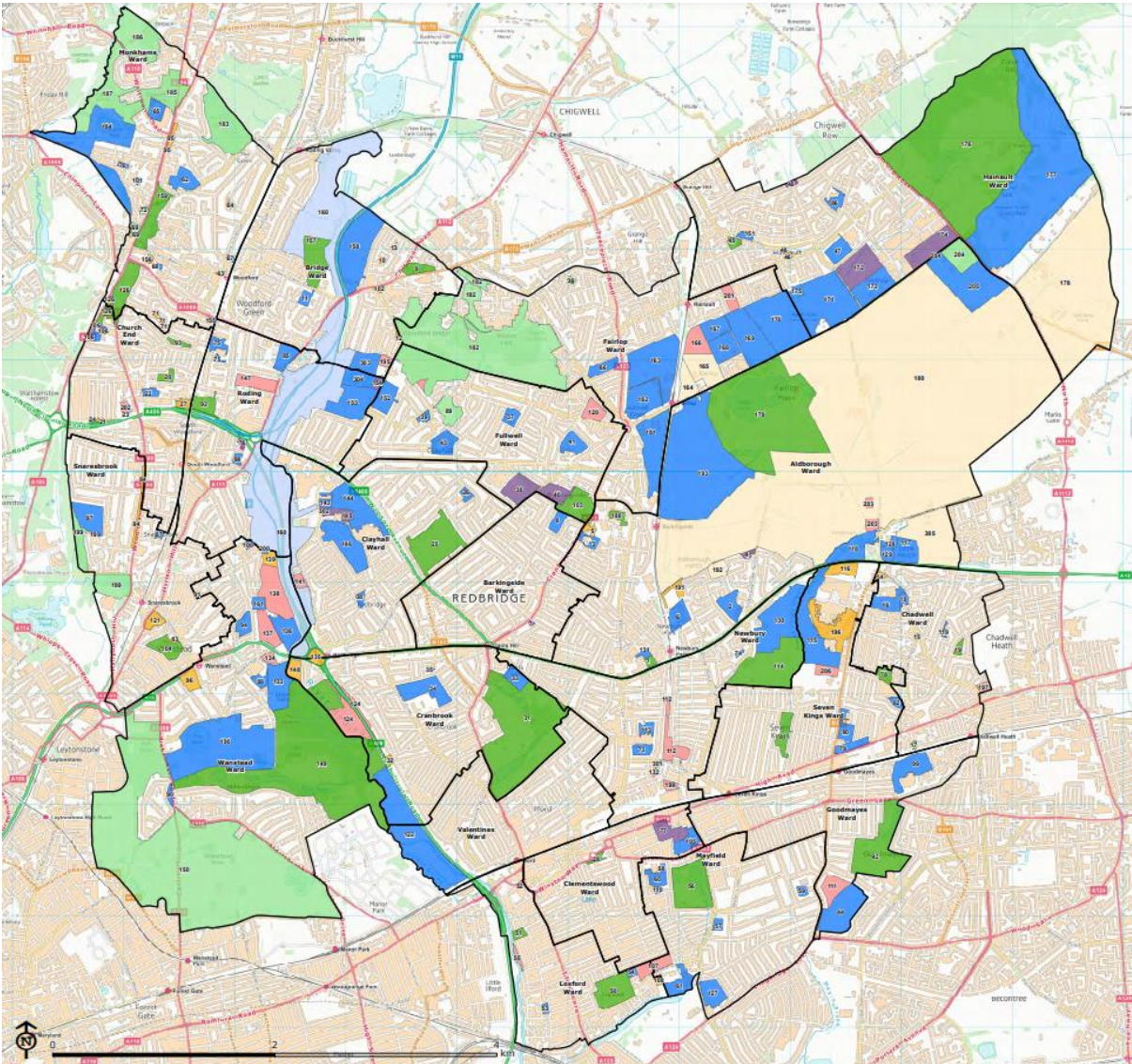
Figure 3-2: Open Space Types in LBR



Source: Data from Redbridge Open Space Study 2017. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>



Figure 3-3: Open Space in LBR



- Redbridge ward boundaries
- Primary typology**
- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- Green corridor
- Amenity greenspace
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Civic space
- Provision for children and young people
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Agricultural land



Source: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>

Several sites in the Borough are deemed important in terms of the biodiversity that they sustain, and already have some degree of protection. There are 8 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering parts of Epping Forest, Wanstead Flats and Hainault Forest, and the Borough supports 35 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).³⁸ Of these, five are Sites of Metropolitan Importance, 20 are of Borough Importance, and the remaining ten are of Local Importance.³⁹ These are shown in Figure 3-4. There are also 16 Conservation Areas in the Borough and most trees and large shrubs in these areas are protected by the Town and County Planning Act 1990.⁴⁰

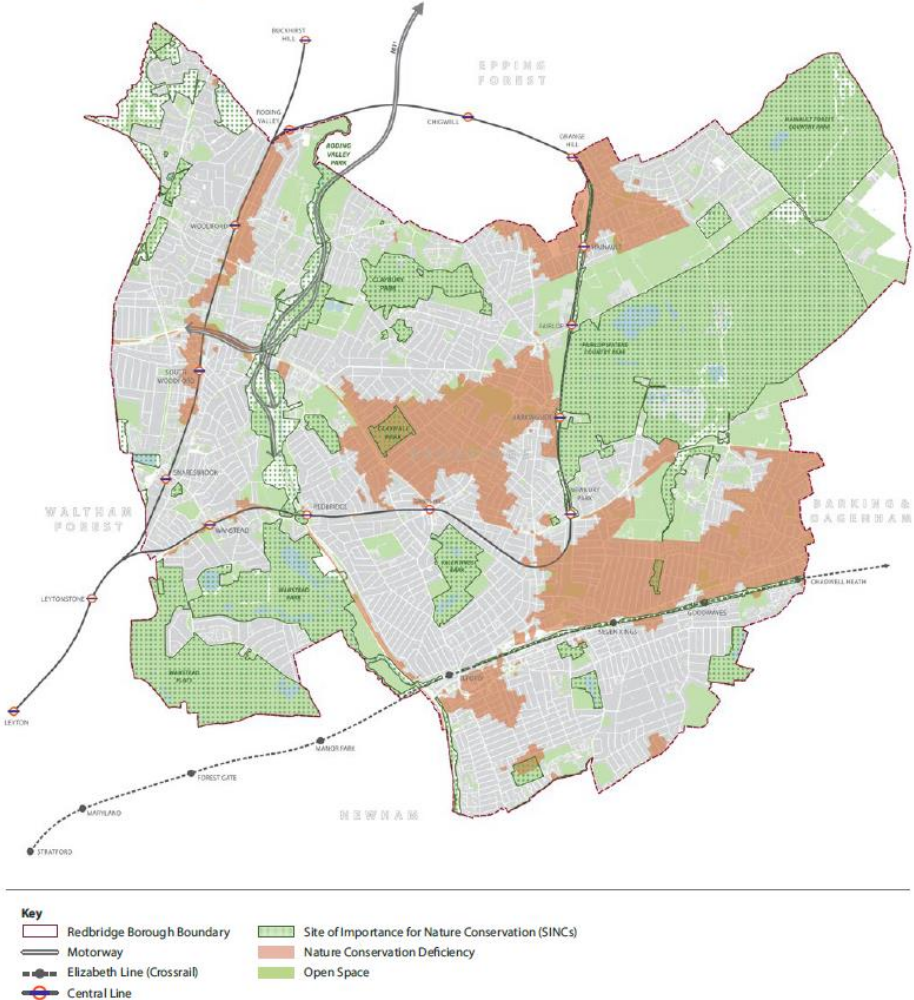
³⁸ <https://my.redbridge.gov.uk/map/nature-conservation-and-biodiversity>

³⁹ LUC (2016) Redbridge Open Space Study, <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://my.redbridge.gov.uk/map/conservation-areas>



Figure 3-4: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in LBR

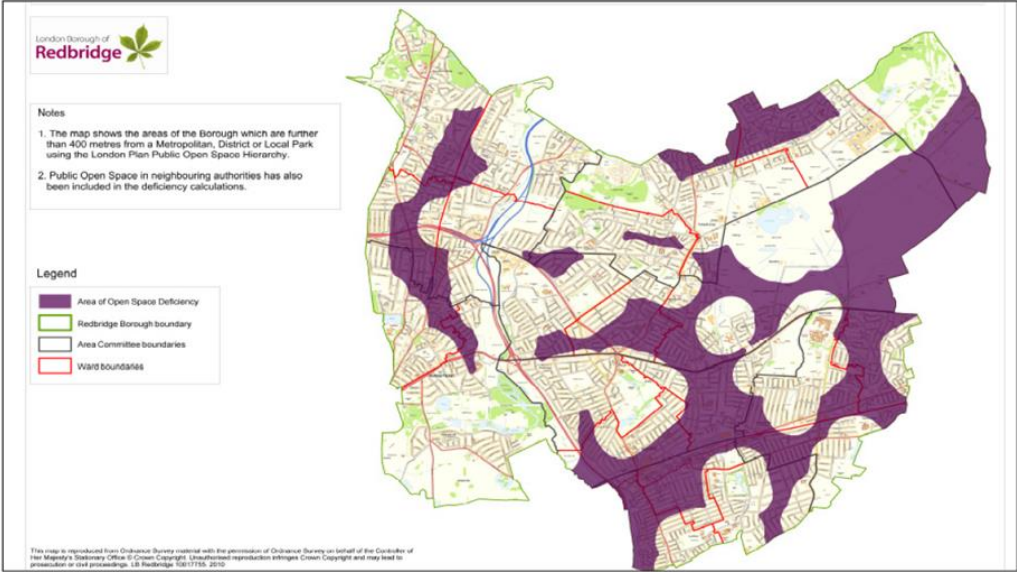


Source: P153 LBR Local Plan <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/>

Although the Borough has a large proportion of open space, it is not evenly distributed as some areas of the Borough are well provided for, while others are severely lacking. The Open Space Study concluded that ‘a significant proportion of the Borough’s residents are deficient in access’ according to the standard that was developed to assess quality and value of sites. In Figure 3-5, the purple shaded areas are those which are further than 400m from a public park.



Figure 3-5 Areas Lacking in Access to Public Greenspace



Source: Redbridge Open Space Study 2017. <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10451/lbr-242-redbridge-open-spaces-study-final-feb-2017.pdf>

3.2 Trees

There are over 40,000 individually identified trees and over 128 hectares of woodland growing on Council owned land in the Borough.⁴¹ According to a 2018 GLA survey, tree canopy cover accounts for around 8% of the total Borough area.⁴² Council records identify 91 tree types currently growing on Council maintained land with Cherry (Prunus) tree types making up 26%.

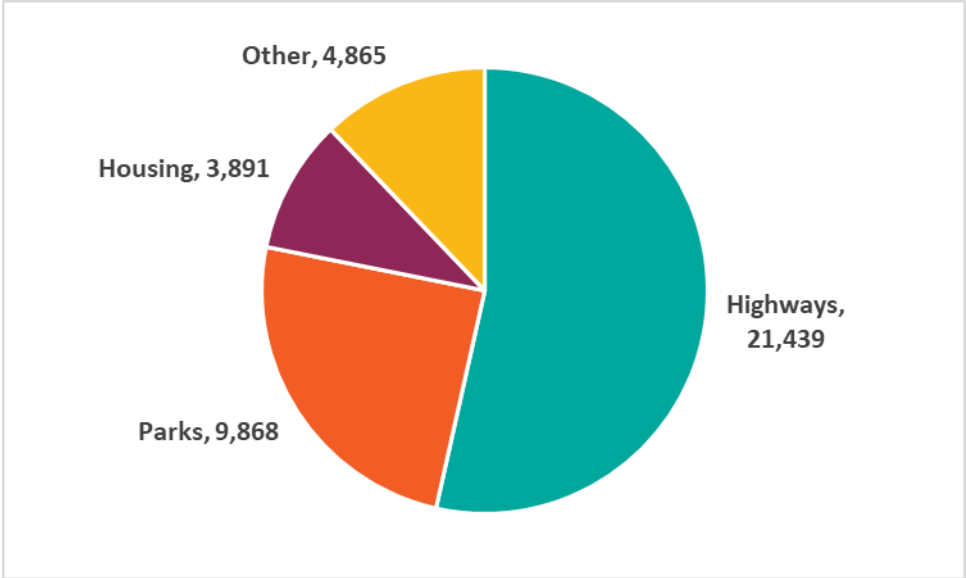
The distribution of these trees according to which Council department they fall under is shown in Figure 3-6. Methods for counting the exact number of trees do vary so a single method is used to provide a repeatable estimated number and improving the database to accurately produce tree data in LBR is one action arising from this policy. (See Section 6.0 Action Plan).

⁴¹ <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/council-trees/>

⁴² GLA (2018) London Tree Canopy Cover, <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/curio-canopy>



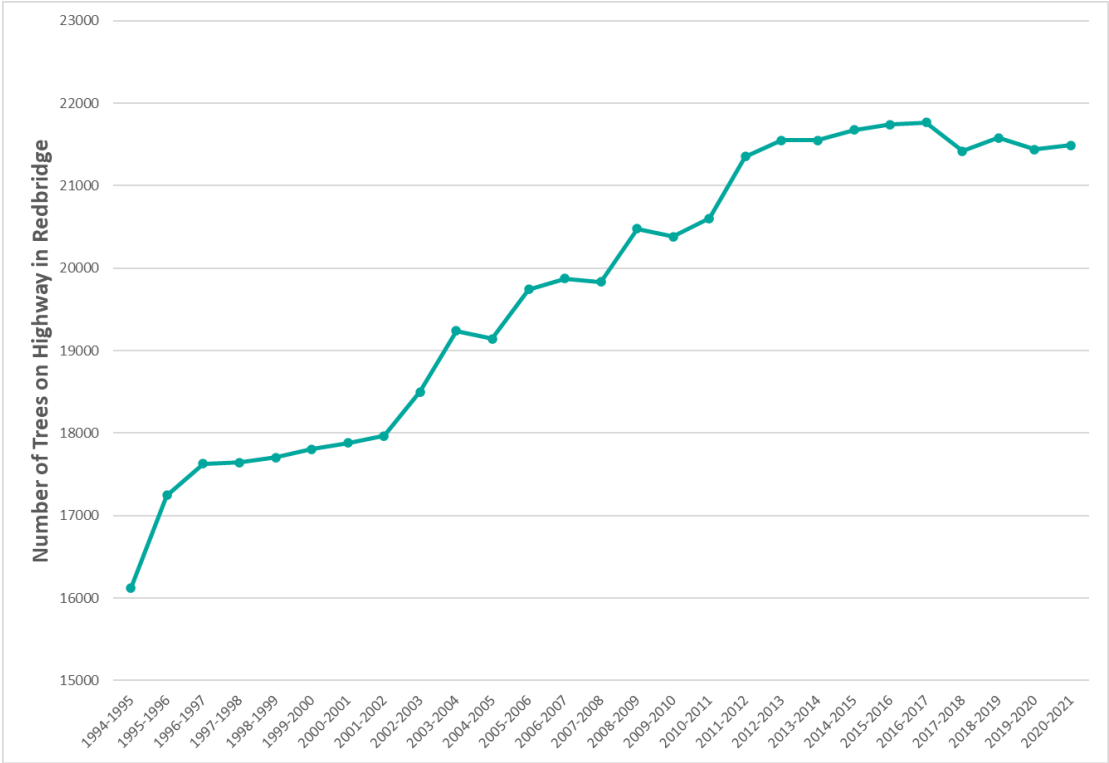
Figure 3-6: Trees Growing on Council land in the Borough



Source: London Tree Officer Survey and data from Arboricultural and Horticultural Officer.

The tree population on the highways in LBR has been increasing steadily since 1994, although changes in data recording principles and a reduction in central government grants resulting in the temporary suspension of planting in 2016 resulted in some years showing a drop in numbers.

Figure 3-7: Highway Tree Population Changes Since 1994



Source: Data from Arboricultural and Horticultural Officer.



Tree planting programmes of young saplings inevitably have a failure rate as some saplings will perish within the first year, often due to insufficient watering or vandalism. The discussion groups for this policy showed that residents notice the dead saplings and attribute this to council mismanagement. In fact, data shows that there has been an improvement in council management of saplings in recent years. Between 1993/1994 and 2008/2009 there was a 11.7% average failure due to death in the first year of the saplings planted in LBR. In the most recent planting season of 2019/2020 this failure rate had been brought down to 7.6% and these saplings were replaced in 2020/2021. One of the actions of this policy will be to improve information to residents on issues such as this, and secondly to involve residents in caring for and watering saplings where they are willing to do so. (See Section 6.0 Action Plan).

3.3 Shrubs

Shrub beds include sites with shrubs, hedges, roses and bedding plants. There are 234 roads within the borough that have a total of 1,867 shrub beds within them, covering 44,982m². These are maintained by the Highways department. In addition, there are shrub beds on land managed by Housing, Corporate and Leisure (contracted to Vision). Housing manage a similar extent of shrubs as Highways with 46,002m² across 2,453 beds in 232 locations.

Currently on the Highway there is approximately 7,000m² (13% of total area) of shrub beds that contain either dead plants or are devoid of shrubs, around the size of a whole football pitch. Historically, a shrub replacement planting programme was implemented each year but was cancelled approximately 10 years ago due to budget constraints and many beds are now depleted of shrubs. This policy prioritises the rejuvenation of these beds, subject to funding.

3.4 Grassed Areas

Grassed areas on the highway cover approximately 200,024m² in 1,095 beds across 255 highway verges. These are managed by the Neighbourhood Street Scene team. The total size of grassed areas within non-highway sites, including Schools, Parks and Open Spaces and Housing sites, is significantly greater than that on the highways. In Housing alone there are 277,380m² of grassed areas in 2,092 beds across 222 sites. The grass and shrub beds managed by the corporate landlord is very small, and the maintenance is split between departments so there is no reliable data on this. Similarly, schools are responsible for their own sites and there is no central register. One of the action points for this policy is to improve how data is collected and managed to build a clearer picture of the resources and changes in management. (See Section 6.0 Action Plan).

Increasing the areas of grassland is limited but amending the maintenance regimes to improve the grassed areas would not only produce visual benefits, it would also provide environmental benefits as grass is an excellent carbon filter.



Several areas have been selected to become biodiversity rich wildflower meadows. The coarse grass that covers most grass verges requires more fertile soils and this type of grass will outcompete most of the fine grasses and wildflowers that can thrive in poor quality soils. To increase the number of flower and grass species, the fertility of the soil must be reduced. This is achieved by reducing the number of cuts each year and at certain sites collecting the cut grass so that it does not rot and fertilise the soil.

On the Highway in 2019 this was trialled on six sites totalling 6,800 m². In consultation with Ward Councillors and local resident groups in 2020 the trial was increased to nine sites totalling 10,800 m² and in 2021 the trial increased to 20 sites totalling 20,000 m², which equates to approximately 10% of highway grass converted to meadow. By June 2021 over 70 different species, excluding grass, were noted at a sample of 5 of the sites.⁴³ The impact can be seen in Figure 3-8.

⁴³ <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/grass-weeds-and-shrubs/>



Figure 3-8: Claybury Meadow Bank



November
2019



May 2020

3.5 Weed Control

There are approximately 500km of roads, 50,000m² of shrub beds and 10,000 tree pits on the highway and a significant amount of paving and shrub beds on all other council sites. Over time plants will self-seed and grow out of paved areas and shrub beds and these weeds are controlled to reduce the chance of invasive plants taking root that could cause damage to footpaths, impede pedestrian access and increase the time taken to deal with general maintenance issues such as litter picking.

In recent years, several actions have been taken to reduce the usage of weed killers on the highway, resulting in an estimated 60% reduction in the use of glyphosate between 2010 and 2020. Steps taken include:

- the implementation of more efficient methods of spraying by using the latest technology;



- changing the frequency of treatments;
- hand weeding plants that are resistant to the normal chemical treatment rota;
- changing shrub maintenance to allow shrubs to grow into each other to suppress weed growth in beds; and
- changing street cleansing programmes to include the removal of organic detritus on footpaths which is the growing medium that weed growth can take advantage of.

In addition, there has been a significant increase in shrub beds adopted by Community Groups and tree pits on the highway adopted by residents that are not receiving chemical treatments.

This Policy confirms that the use of chemical control should be further reduced, and an action has been identified to carry out a survey of councils that have reduced chemical usage to identify the different methods and costs of suspending or reducing chemical control. (See Section 6.0 Action Plan).

LBR has significant green assets under council management which could be managed more strategically to deliver benefit to the Borough.

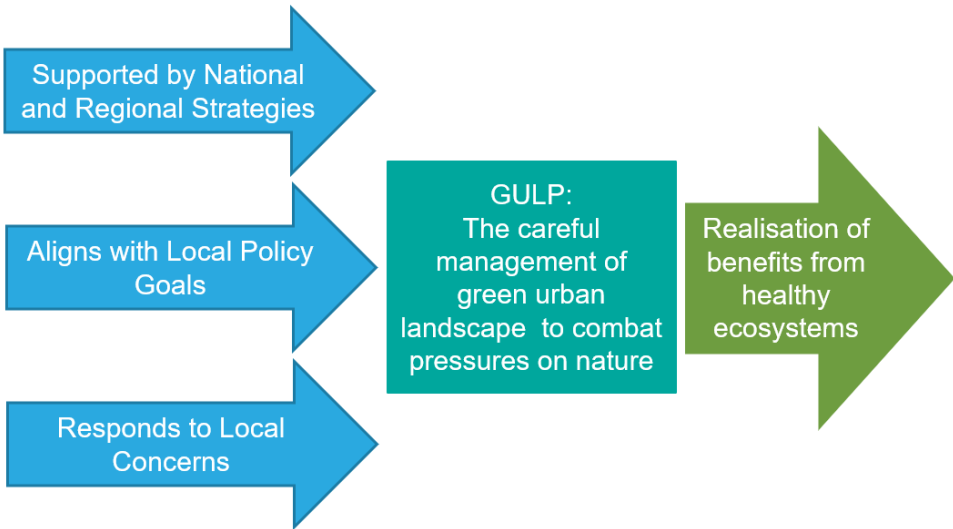


4.0 Why is a Green Urban Landscape Policy (GULP) needed?

The Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land (GULP) arose from the need to update the London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) Tree Policy which has been unchanged since 1996. In line with current approaches to urban nature conservation it is useful to extend this policy to include all greenery on Council maintained land such as shrubs, grass areas and weed control and align local strategy with national priorities, to deliver on local ambitions and to respond to local concerns. (See Figure 4-1).

In the sections that follow these aspects are covered in turn. Firstly, the evidence for the diverse benefits of well cared for greenery are outlined, showing the relevance of these to LBR. Secondly, the wider policy context is explored, along with the alignment with local policy goals. Finally, the results of the public consultation are summarised giving a picture of the local concerns that the GULP is able to address.

Figure 4-1: The Need for a Green Urban Landscape Policy in LBR



Source: Eunomia

4.1 Wider Strategic Context

As the pressures that human activity places on the natural world grows, the UK Government continues to redefine its strategic goals in relation to our environment. Both at a national level and a regional level there is considerable support for an ambitious approach to the management of natural resources that seeks to care for and improve the assets that exist. These wider goals are achievable only through the cumulative effects of action at a local level.



This section outlines the national and regional policies of relevance to this policy, and appendix A.1.0 shows in detail how each of the policy statements are supported by these wider policies.

4.1.1 National Strategies

The **UK 25 Year Environmental Plan** (25 YEP) published in 2018 sets out the Government's ten goals for improving the environment within a generation. Goal 3 aims to see 'Thriving plants and wildlife', and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' seeks to celebrate the positive contribution that greenery brings to the urban environment. The plan also includes an 'aspiration' to increase tree cover in the UK by 12% by 2060.⁴⁴

The **Environment Bill**, which is due to be passed in Parliament in autumn 2021, will set targets to drive progress towards the desired environmental outcomes as laid out in the 25 YEP. It is expected that this bill will place a statutory obligation on Local Authorities to work in regional groups to develop Nature Recovery Strategies that take action to halt the decline in biodiversity that has been accelerating in the UK.⁴⁵ The bill will also introduce the principle of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain that seeks to ensure that developments leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Using the Defra biodiversity metric, developers will calculate the impact on biodiversity of their development and be required to fund projects that ensure a 10% increase in biodiversity either onsite or offsite. This opens a new stream of funding for biodiversity improvement schemes but for an urban borough such as LBR the opportunities to benefit financially may be limited.

4.1.2 Regional Strategies

At a regional level, the **London Environment Strategy** of 2018, included an ambition that by 2050 London becomes the world's first National Park City, 'where more than half of its area is green, where the natural environment is protected, and where the network of green infrastructure is managed to benefit all Londoners'. Three strategic actions are highlighted that can all be adopted as aims in this local policy in contributing to:⁴⁶

- increasing London's total area of tree canopy cover by 10% by 2050;
- creating 200 hectares of species rich woodland across London by 2050;
- creating 250 hectares of flower rich grassland across London by 2050; and

⁴⁴ P78 HM Gov, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

⁴⁵ Locally led by an appropriate 'responsible authority', these will identify the opportunities and priorities for enhancing biodiversity and supporting wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area. The Bill will give the Secretary of State the power to determine what area each LNRS should cover and to appoint a 'responsible authority' to lead its production and publication

⁴⁶ P 137 Mayor of London, 2018 London Environment Strategy. Available at

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf



- encouraging greater participation and involvement by Londoners in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the neighbourhood level.

In 2020 the **London Urban Forest Partnership** published a plan that sets out the goals and priority actions needed to protect, manage, and expand the capital's urban forest. With the backing of the London Assembly, the Partnership is a network of organisations that meets quarterly to share information and data, help inform tree related programmes in London and promote the benefits of the city's urban forest.⁴⁷ The goals of this plan expand on previous London wide goals but are focussed solely on trees.

In March 2021, a new **London Plan** was published, setting out the strategic development plan for London as a whole. Chapter 8 focusses on Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment, emphasising the importance of green and open spaces, supporting the Mayor's manifesto commitment 'to make more than half of London green by 2050'.

- Policy G1 B states that boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies that optimise these resources through strategic management. Section 4.3 shows how the GULP fits with the need for a green infrastructure strategy.
- Policy G5 on Urban Greening sets out how boroughs should ensure that new development proposals contribute to the greening of London by using a measure such as the Urban Greening Factor.
- Policy G6 on Biodiversity and Access to nature reiterates the need to protect Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and that a net gain in biodiversity should be secured on new developments.
- Policy G7 on Trees and Woodlands emphasises the value of London's urban forest and that development proposals should replace any trees that need to be felled, using a valuation system that considers the wide range of values that trees bring. The driving target here is that the Mayor wants to increase tree canopy cover in London by 10 per cent by 2050.

In other sections of the plan the health and educational benefits of greenery are acknowledged as it states that natural features such as trees, greenery, forest schools and spaces for food growing should be incorporated into playgrounds and school sites (5.3.10, Policy S4). Paragraph 7.1.2 recognises the heritage and cultural value of ancient and veteran trees.

The key target in the regional policies is to increase canopy cover in London by 10% by 2050. This target is included in this current policy as a way of assisting in the increase of London's canopy cover and the LBR's tree population.

⁴⁷ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-urban-forest-partnership>



4.1.3 Funding Change

Overall, there is national and regional policy support for making the most from the natural resources managed at a local authority level, though as yet these strategy commitments are not supported with financial commitments that increase the resources available to local authorities. One exception to this is the instigation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain that will come with the passing of the Environment Bill which requires developers to fund projects supporting biodiversity gain. The challenge for LBR in making use of this finance is demonstrating that there are areas within the borough which can be managed for biodiversity gain over the required 30 year period.

There have been two recent UK Government funding schemes open to Councils to support the planting of trees: The Urban Tree Challenge Fund and the Treescapes fund.⁴⁸ Some Local Planning Authorities have also made use of Carbon Offset Funds to finance tree planting and green space projects, though it is difficult to demonstrate in the short term the carbon savings that these bring. It is likely that other streams such as these will be available as national policy supports these actions.

Another national level policy change that has a bearing on the management of greenery locally is the reform to the planning system which is currently in the consultation phase.⁴⁹ The reforms proposed include replacing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with a Consolidated Infrastructure Levy in which the rate is set nationally. Within the LBR the CIL has been a significant source of funding for community level projects that improve the local greenery. It is not clear yet if this change would give local authorities greater or less control over this budget stream.

One action arising from this policy will be to explore the funding landscape and look for additional capital and revenue sources of funding to support the aims of the policy (see Section 6.0 Action Plan).

4.2 Local Strategic Context

The national and regional strategic drives are translated into local action through a raft of local policies. LBR recognises the importance of the natural environment and how caring for the natural resources in the borough could support economic development and wellbeing across its diverse communities. In 2010 the Environmental Action Plan was put in place with the aim of making Redbridge “A Cleaner, Greener and more Sustainable place.”

In this section it is shown how this policy builds on a foundation of earlier LBR Strategy aims and in turn, how implementing this policy can help LBR meet the objectives and targets agreed in the Local Plan and other key strategy documents. Figure 4-2 shows

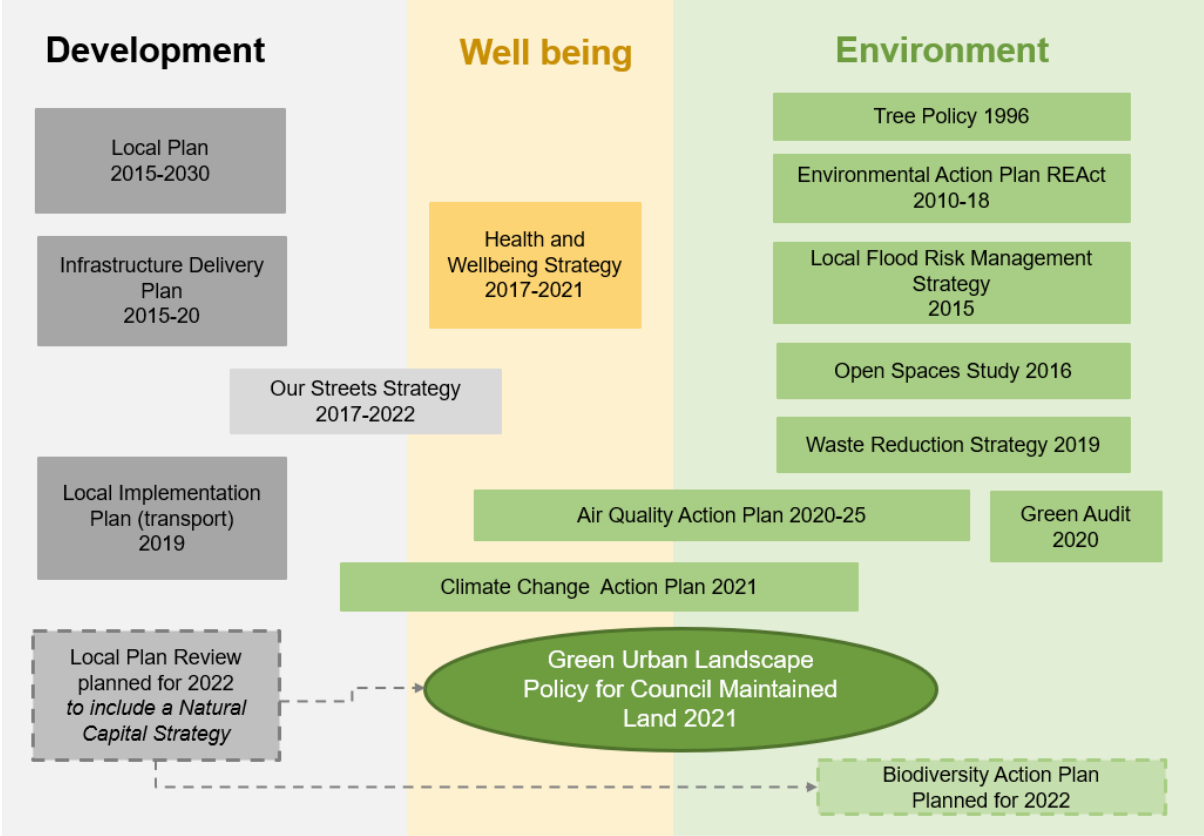
⁴⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-treescapes-fund>

⁴⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>



how the GULP for Council maintained land sits across the themes of Environment, Wellbeing and Development. Other policies also straddle these themes such as the 2020 Climate Change Action Plan.

Figure 4-2: LBR Policy Context



Source: Eunomia

4.2.1 The Tree Policy 1996

The principle of managing greenery for multiple benefits is not new to LBR, although the tree policy has not been updated since 1996. In 2009, when tree services were managed by the Contract Consultancy Unit, they specified that:



Due to the urban environment, the existing stock of trees and woodlands must be managed now and in the future to:

- 🌳 **Promote their health**
- 🌳 **Sustainability and well-being**
- 🌳 **Minimise problems and risk to people and property**
- 🌳 **Encourage contact with trees and woodlands that will help foster community and individual people's well-being and social inclusion**
- 🌳 **To shape the built environment and new development in a way that strengthens the positive character and diversity of Redbridge**
- 🌳 **Help make Redbridge a cleaner, greener and safer place to live**

Source: Redbridge Contract Consultancy Unit. Summary of the Arboricultural Service 2009

The GULP builds on the same principles whilst noting that embedding this approach to greenery management is an ongoing process, which takes time and resources to implement. The development of this current policy began with discussion groups with Council staff who manage or have an impact on LBR maintained green urban landscape. The majority of Council staff who participated felt that greenery in the borough has been managed primarily for safety, budget and neatness, and that wider environmental goals were not yet fully integrated into management practices. This policy seeks to reaffirm these ambitions, translate them into actions and highlight how this approach is now underpinned by national and regional policy goals.

4.2.2 Local Plan 2015-2030

The existing Local Plan establishes a framework for spatial growth and delivery of agreed housing targets, as laid out in the London Plan (2016), and jobs as laid out in the Corporate Strategy (2014-18). Following the publication of the new London Plan (March 2021), a review of the LBR Local Plan is required and programmed to commence in 2022.

The existing Local Plan recognises that Green Infrastructure⁵⁰ (of which greenery is a key component) “plays a vital role in improving people’s quality of life” by providing multifunctional benefits.⁵¹ There are several policies within the Local Plan that have a bearing on the GULP:

- **LP35 - Protecting and Enhancing Open Spaces:** LBR will protect, enhance the quality, and improve access to existing green spaces.
- **LP37 Green Infrastructure and Blue Ribbon Network:** LBR will promote a good quality network of accessible open spaces across the borough to enhance the environment, biodiversity and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- **LP38: Protecting Trees and Enhancing the Landscape:**

⁵⁰ Green Infrastructure is a term used to describe the green features in the urban environment and can be used synonymously with Green Urban Landscape. – see ‘key terms’ in appendix

⁵¹ P145 LBR Local Plan <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/>



- LBR will seek to maintain tree coverage in the borough and increase provision in areas of deficiency; and
- LBR will promote the planting of additional trees and landscaping within the borough particularly in areas of tree deficiency.
- **LP39: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity:** LBR will protect and enhance the borough's natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough's biodiversity.

It should be noted that the local plan also sets out development goals that may intensify pressures on existing greenery and open space. In 2019 LBR delivered just 56% of its annual housing target of 1,123 new homes, failing the Government's housing delivery test (HDT). This has led to the housing policies in the LBR Local Plan being superseded by a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which means a loss of full planning control over housing development in the Borough. Currently, LBR is not in a position to set more stringent criteria on new developments whilst it is reviewing the Local Plan in order to reach regional targets on housing delivery. Without planning guidance to protect open spaces and increase green urban infrastructure this could contribute to a loss of greenery in the Borough. The GULP highlights an action to improve communications between the planning department and council departments managing council land, to provide advice on future planning decisions that concern Council greenery to mitigate this risk.

4.2.3 Our Streets Strategy 2017 and Local Implementation Plan 3

The LBR Our Streets strategy 2017-2022 highlights the importance of clean, safe, and vibrant streets in building local pride in the borough. Several of the priorities lend support to initiatives that involve tree and greenery planting and involving the community in this. In particular:

- **3. Vibrant Streets:**
 - Support communities who want to create and maintain pocket parks, street furniture, community gardening schemes, helping neighbours with gardening and adopt-a-verge scheme.
 - Support local residents to set up volunteer led community garden forums where residents can share ideas and tips.
- **4. Healthy Streets:**
 - Where residents can show they will maintain them, we will work with neighbourhoods to plant vegetable patches in public areas. This will provide a focal point for communities and ensure more people can access healthy food.
- **5. Attractive Streets:**
 - Commit to planting and maintaining trees in air quality hotspots.
 - We will take action against untidy front gardens and ensure environmentally friendly materials are used where gardens are paved over.
- **6. Streets for Business:**



- Encourage businesses to support and sponsor street scene improvements such as street furniture, cycling infrastructure and planting schemes.

The Local Implementation Plan sets out how the Borough proposes to deliver the Mayor's Transport Strategy. The policies of the Our Streets Strategy form the basis of the investment priorities in the Local Implementation Plan, as they are also aligned with the objectives of the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

4.2.4 Redbridge Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025

The Redbridge Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025 recognises the local role that greenery can play in capturing significant quantities of health-damaging particulate matter from the atmosphere. It highlights work done with three schools on planting projects involving trees and a green living wall.

Other local solutions to air pollution issues supported by the plan include the creation of a green gateway in the area of (the Ilford Garden Junction) on the Redbridge and Newham border at the junction of the A406 North Circular Road and A118 Romford Road, which is currently a congestion and pollution hotspot. Greenery will be used to create buffers between pedestrians and vehicles and absorb pollutants. Work has already begun on this project but has been delayed due to COVID-19.

4.2.5 Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-21

The cover of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-21 shows people being active in a park (see Figure 2-3) and the policy recognises that the wellbeing of residents is influenced by the local environment and green spaces, and that LBR should "take opportunities to create environments surrounding homes that support residents to live healthy lives". This highlights the potential win-win that can be achieved with more joined-up thinking on greenery within LBR. By managing green spaces so that they are attractive places that people enjoy using for recreation, this can support the health goals of the Health and Wellbeing strategy.



Figure 4-3: Cover of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Redbridge



Source: https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/4814/health-wellbeing-strategy-2017_2021.pdf

4.2.6 Climate Change Action Plan 2021

Following the LBR's declaration of a Climate Emergency, a Corporate Panel was established to explore how LBR could reach carbon neutrality by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050. A Green Audit was conducted in May 2020 to assess baseline emissions and an action plan was published in 2021. There is some overlap in the actions to improve the green urban landscape and actions to address climate change as trees play an important role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. To maximise the benefit of this it is necessary to protect mature trees and engage in new planting to increase the stock.

Whilst the Green Audit noted that the scale of tree planting in the Borough is unlikely to make a significant impact in the short term in terms of removing carbon from the atmosphere, the other benefits including biodiversity that come from planting and maintaining good quality trees, shrubs and grasslands make it a win-win option that can achieve multiple goals. It could be argued that by making streets nicer to walk down and introducing measures to reduce traffic, this could contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions from private vehicles.

In November 2020 the Corporate Panel, informed in part by the Nature and Environment Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, recommended the following:⁵²

- Set a target of 10% increase in tree cover within the Borough's parks, green spaces, and urban areas.
- Prioritise and protect biodiversity in LBR.

⁵² <http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/g8104/Public%20reports%20pack%2016th-Nov-2020%2019.15%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>



- Encourage community led projects that support biodiversity.

The completed Climate Change Action plan identifies that, as part of the work to address the climate emergency, Redbridge must therefore build on existing biodiversity improvements and adopt a green infrastructure approach that both mitigates and adapts to climate change. The Climate Change Action Plan identified that biodiversity will be led the GULP and the proposed update of the Nature and Conservation Strategy which will complement the Climate Change Action Plan action plan and will help offset those emissions we cannot reduce or prevent, as well as encouraging more sustainable ways of life.

In addition, recommendations that affect the planning regulations of new developments were made. This GULP identifies aims and actions that should be followed to help meet the

The aims of the GULP have been developed using this analysis of the summary of the LBR policies. In appendix A.1.0 the alignment of these key strategy documents with each element of the policy is shown.

4.3 Related Policy Development

This policy is intended to be the launch pad for a wider consideration of nature related issues in LBR. Already linkages are being made with the Climate Change Action Plan, and revised Biodiversity Action Plan in development. A further area of policy development is in the revision of the Local Plan in response to the new London Plan.

The London Plan 2021 recommends that London boroughs should prepare Green Infrastructure (GI) strategies that ‘identify opportunities for cross-borough collaboration, ensure green infrastructure is optimised and consider green infrastructure in an integrated way as part of a network’. These policies will look at all green infrastructure assets in the Borough: greenery, trees, green roofs etc., open spaces and rivers and waterways. To take a cross-cutting view, a strategy is called for that considers these resources across all landowners and even across administrative boundaries where, for example a river improvement scheme needs to be developed at a catchment scale.

This GULP has a more restricted scope, as it is concerned only with greenery that is on Council maintained land, this includes council owned parks and open spaces, schools, day centres, corporate buildings, council housing, adopted highway, land leased to LBR, and land maintained by agreement. It does not include greenery on other private land, such as the large open spaces owned by the Corporation of London, e.g. Epping Forest, Wanstead Flats and private developments and gardens in residential properties. It does cover planting on banks to waterways but does not consider the management of ‘blue infrastructure’ which includes waterways, surface runoff and drainage systems.

It is the intention that the work of this policy can form the basis for a wider GI strategy when that is required. LBR are considering developing a single strategy document that

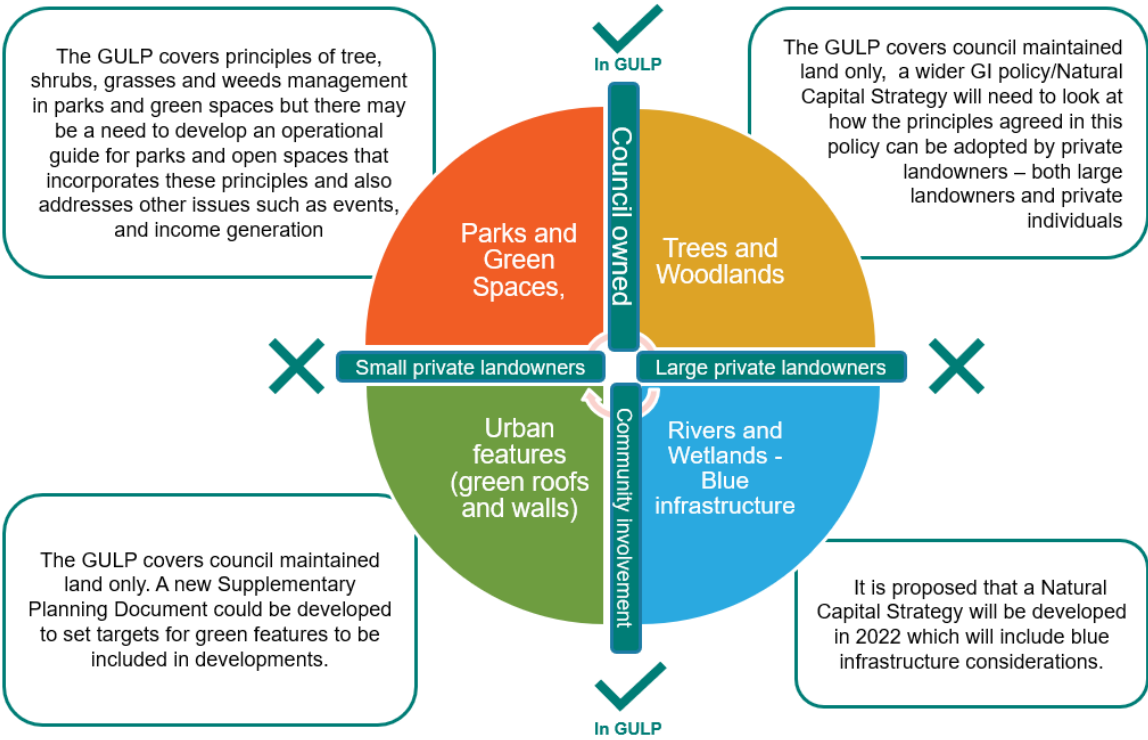


considers all Natural Capital elements in one place. This would incorporate a GI strategy as green and blue infrastructure are key elements of natural capital assets. This integration is supported by the following:

- 1) In the development of the GULP, the guidance for developing a GI strategy produced by the GLA was adhered to.
- 2) In setting a strategic blueprint for greenery in the GULP, this can form the basis for influencing and working with private landowners in the future.
- 3) Improving communication and coordination across council departments to unify work on green infrastructure in the Borough.

The coherence and divergence between a GI strategy / Natural Capital strategy and the GULP is shown in Figure 4-4.

Figure 4-4: How the GULP relates to a Green Infrastructure or Natural Capital Strategy



Source: Eunomia

This policy is the first step in developing more coordinated thinking in LBR on the management of its natural resources.



4.4 Results of the Public Consultation

A total of 483 respondents completed the online survey which was live for three months. This is a higher-than-average response rate for a policy of this type that is not a budget or development focussed consultation.⁵³ Respondents came from all areas of the borough, though a stronger response was from the West and North of the borough. The full breakdown of responses can be found in Appendix A.4.0. The consultation also elicited a very high number of written inputs. Due to the volume of responses, further analysis of issues and local ideas for improvements raised by residents is required and has been highlighted as a priority action going forward. (See Section 6.0 Action Plan).

Questions on similar themes were phrased in a range of ways to increase the overall validity of results.

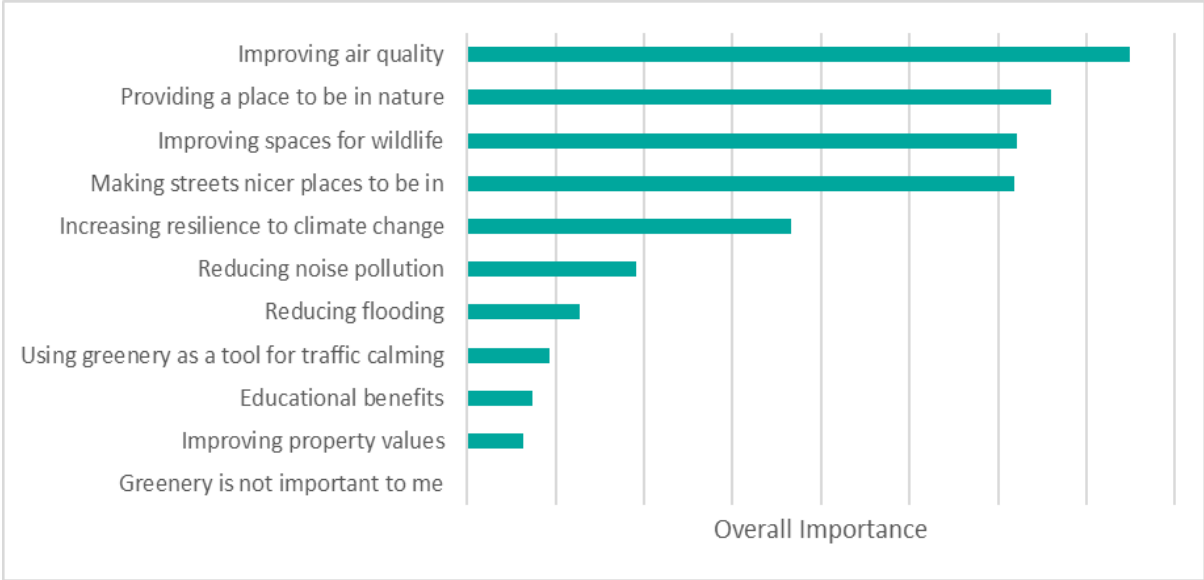
4.4.1 What Matters to Local People?

Respondents valued the social and health benefits of greenery highly (Figure 4-5). The top four benefits of having trees, shrubs and green spaces locally were:

- 1) for improving air quality;
- 2) providing a place to be in nature;
- 3) making streets nicer places to be in; and
- 4) improving spaces for wildlife.

The question allowed respondents to indicate that ‘greenery is not important to me’ but no one agreed with this statement.

Figure 4-5: Which of these benefits of trees, shrubs and greenspaces matter most to you?



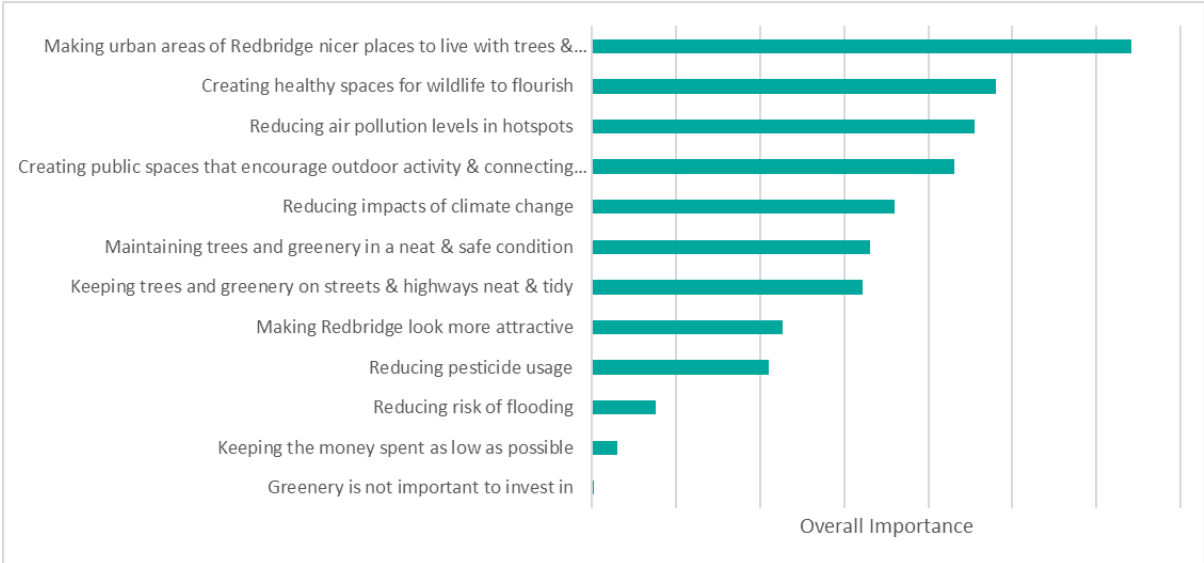
⁵³ Email correspondence with Policy, Equalities and Communities Team 18.01.21



A similar mix of social and environmental priorities were shown when asked what LBR should be thinking about when making decisions about where to spend money on trees and greenery (Figure 4-6). The top five options selected overall were:

- 1) making urban areas of Redbridge nicer places to live with trees and greenery;
- 2) creating healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish;
- 3) reducing air pollution levels in hotspots;
- 4) creating public spaces that encourage outdoor activity and connecting people; and
- 5) reducing impacts of climate change.

Figure 4-6: When LBR makes decisions about where to spend money on trees and greenery, what do you think they should be thinking about most?



When asked about which types of greenery are most important to be invested in (Figure 4-7), respondents gave the highest overall importance to:

- 1) street trees;
- 2) pocket parks;
- 3) meadow banks along roads; and
- 4) woodlands.

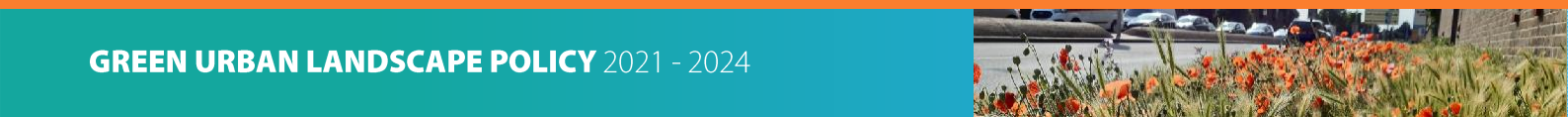
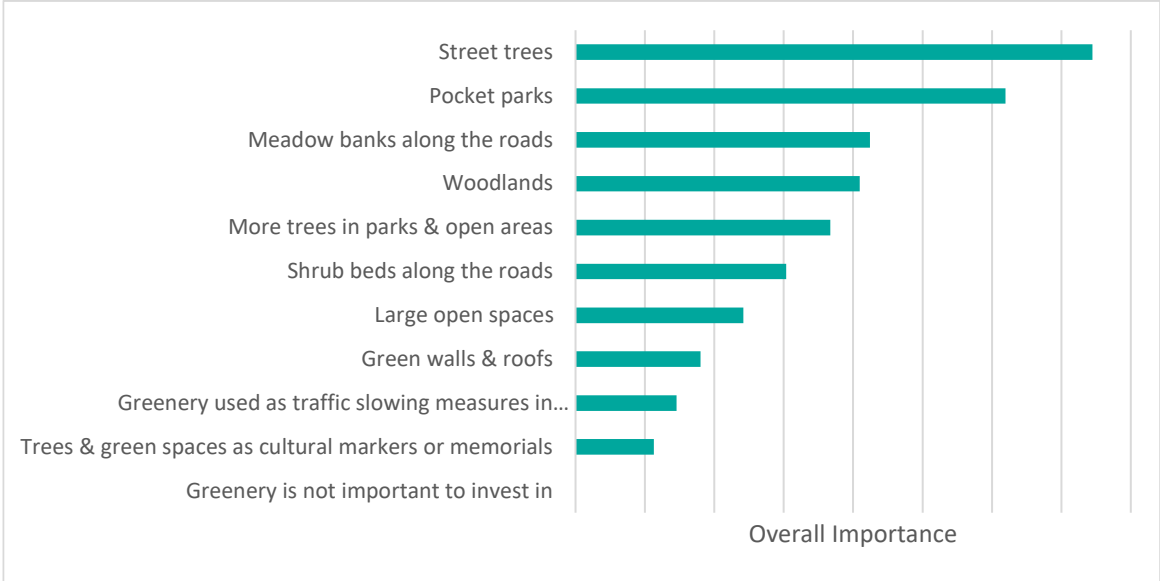


Figure 4-7: Which of the following would you feel are the most important areas to invest in in Redbridge?



Street trees and pocket parks make a direct visual improvement to an area and provide localised contact with nature, whilst the enthusiasm for meadow banks and woodlands indicate an awareness that nature also needs space to be left undisturbed. The survey also asked respondents where they would like trees planted and ‘areas that currently lack street trees’ was top, followed by ‘along busy roads’ and thirdly, ‘in parks and open spaces’.

4.4.2 Views on Getting More Involved

Respondents to the survey were keen to get more information from LBR on topics related to greenery in the Borough. An email newsletter was the preferred option of communication. The most popular topics, selected by over 50% of respondents were:

- tree pruning works – programme, schedule, and reasons why;
- projects supported by LBR that seek to improve greenery in the Borough;
- how you can get involved in improving the greenery in your area;
- guidance for homeowners on what trees and greenery to plant and how to care for them;
- how a Tree Protection Order protects trees, how this is enforced and how works are approved and carried out;
- how you can report problems with greenery; and
- how greenery in Redbridge contributes to wider nature benefits.

Around half of all respondents were keen to get involved in some way with improving greenery in Redbridge. The most popular ways were by looking after a tree pit (49%, N=238) and joining a group locally to improve green areas (44%, N=212).



4.5 Local Concerns that this Policy Addresses

Combining the findings of the discussion groups and the public consultation, the key local concerns that this policy aims to address can be summarised as:

- **Lack of greenery in some areas of the borough.** There is inequality in tree and greenery provision in the borough with clear divide between north and south of the borough.
- **Poor air quality in some areas,** particularly along busy roads.
- **Lack of clarity in how residents can communicate with LBR in matters relating to greenery.** Residents do not always know how to access information or raise concerns.
- **A low level of appreciation of greenery among some groups of residents.** Among some communities this emerges as a resistance to new planting schemes.
- **Budget constraints require that cost effective approaches be found to deliver on this policy.**

In addition to these, the discussion groups and comments included in the survey highlighted local concern about the paving over of front gardens for off-street parking which reduces greenery in the Borough. Whilst this issue is noted, it is beyond the scope of this policy to address it here as this policy is restricted to the management of greenery on Council owned and maintained land and does not cover privately owned land. One action of this policy is to establish a Green Urban Landscape Working Group in which matters such as this can be raised and then passed to the relevant department to take forward.

The use of herbicide to control weed growth on footpaths and shrub beds was raised as a concern and there have been requests to reduce or halt the use of certain herbicides by LBR, which is a request that has been taken up at other UK Councils.⁵⁴ One action of this policy is to identify a set of options to reduce or suspend chemical control of weed growth.

It should also be noted that not all residents may be as enthusiastic about greenery as those who responded to the public consultation. Trees can present challenges for some residents and may not always be viewed positively. On occasion residents have viewed some trees as problematic when they obstruct a view or present a risk of subsidence. Similarly, green areas that are not well maintained can quickly be perceived as an eyesore or a place for littering or antisocial behaviour. Initiatives that encourage residents to understand the benefits and appreciate the greenery in their locality can reduce potential conflicts.

Neighbourhood Street Scene take responsibility for handling complaints and improving communication with residents on tree maintenance at all LBR sites and greenery on the

⁵⁴ Pesticide Action Network UK has worked with Bristol, Brighton and Lewes to develop a policy framework for a transition to non-chemical alternatives. <https://www.pan-uk.org/information-for-local-authorities/>



Highway. Shrubs and grass enquiries on other LBR sites are handled by Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure, Housing or by a school. Properly signposting the simplest method of finding the correct information on greening matters is one action from this policy.

The public consultation received a strongly positive response and indicated support for more greenery within the borough. It also revealed a willingness among residents to engage more directly in the management of greenery.

5.0 The Policy

5.1 The Vision

THE VISION: To protect, manage and improve the tree stock and greenery maintained by the London Borough of Redbridge to deliver benefits to residents and to strengthen the health, amenity value and biodiversity of these resources so that they continue to provide a high quality green urban landscape for now and into the future.

To raise awareness among residents of the value of the green resources in the borough and promote a culture of shared responsibility for the green urban landscape.

5.2 Protect

Protecting existing greenery is a cost-effective way of maximising the benefits of nature in LBR, as it is cheaper to prevent the loss of greenery than it is to invest to replace it.

P1. To protect existing trees, shrubs and grass from unnecessary removal by carefully applying the principles of removal

The decision to remove greenery will be made by LBR and comply with Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and Conservation Area requirements set out by the Local Planning Authority. The administration, investigation and enforcement of TPOs and trees in Conservation Areas is managed by LBR's Planning service.⁵⁵ Removal will be undertaken only for the following circumstances:⁵⁶

- dead and dying;
- decay and structural weakness;
- self-sown trees in inappropriate positions;
- subsidence damage;

⁵⁵ <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/trees-tree-protection-and-hedges/>

⁵⁶ Further details can be found at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/council-trees/>



- as part of a successful planning application or approved landscape scheme;
- identified as an obstruction to the highway;
- poor structural form;
- management of antisocial behaviour; and
- in line with LBR policy on Footway Crossing/Dropped Kerbs.⁵⁷

P2. To preserve grass and shrubs and future tree canopy cover by replacing greenery including trees that are removed

To ensure an increase in future canopy cover and a net increase in the carbon sequestered by these trees a balance needs to be maintained with more trees reaching maturity than being lost to natural decline or felling.⁵⁸ This is because trees and greenery remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they live and grow, but release this when they die and decay.

Where appropriate and feasible greenery planted on Council maintained land shall:

- be planted in the same position as it was removed to maintain the stable population of trees, shrubs and grass on site. Where the original position is not suitable, replacement planting should be located as close to the original position as possible;
- where the removal of large trees is carried out, consider planting additional trees on the site to reduce the immediate loss of canopy cover;
- be the right plant in the right place, of appropriate species for the location having regard to local conditions and aesthetic, environmental and ecological criteria;⁵⁹
- have regard to the need to plant native species whilst maintaining species diversity throughout the borough;
- be planted within time scales, as set out within each Council department's planting plans; and
- comply with Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area requirements set out by the Local Planning Authority.

P3. To protect trees, shrubs and grassed areas from unnecessary damage

- Introduce methods to reduce unnecessary damage to greenery which includes cases such as vehicles, vandalism and building works.

⁵⁷ Policy for footway crossings <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/dropped-kerbs/policy-for-footway-crossings/>

⁵⁸ London Urban Forest Plan 2020, https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/londonurbanforestplan_final_0.pdf

⁵⁹ <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/urban-tree-manual/>



5.2.1 Policy Alignment

Appendix A.1.0 shows in detail how each of the policy statements are supported by, and contribute to National, Regional and Local Strategies

5.2.1.1 Results from the Public Consultation

In the public consultation respondents identified street trees and pocket parks as the most important aspects of greenery to invest in. Therefore, protecting the existing stock of trees in these areas is included as a policy item to prevent any further loss (P1. To protect existing trees, shrubs and grass from unnecessary removal by carefully applying the principles of removal and P2. To preserve grass and shrubs and future tree canopy cover by replacing greenery including trees that are removed). Air quality was also a key concern and scientific evidence shows that shrubs are particularly effective in absorbing air pollution on roads as the leaves are nearer to car exhausts.⁶⁰ Furthermore, respondents highlighted meadow banks along roads as the third most important aspect to invest in and consequently, safeguarding sufficient resources to maintain shrub and meadow bank areas, as per P3 (To protect trees, shrubs and grassed areas from unnecessary damage), is also important.

5.3 Manage

LBR has a duty to manage trees, shrubs and grasses in such a way as to meet its legal responsibilities (duty of care, health, and safety) and responsibilities as a good neighbour. This policy also seeks to formalise LBR's commitment to preserve the health of the plants and the habitats that they are part of.

M1. To manage the risk posed by all trees in the Borough through effective maintenance practices

All trees on council land shall be the subject to regular inspection cycles to consider maintenance work in order that they can be maintained within reasonable bounds and in a safe and healthy condition.⁶¹ The current practice involves the following:

- All trees are subject to an inspection on a three-year rotation and where necessary work is recommended to maintain trees in a safe condition and within reasonable bounds. Normally the recommended work is carried out the same year a tree is inspected.
- Highway trees are inspected annually, and recommended felling work and the removal of low growth that may obstruct cars and pedestrians is carried out the same year.

⁶⁰ Abhijith, K.V., and Kumar, P. (2019) Field investigations for evaluating green infrastructure effects on air quality in open-road conditions, *Atmospheric Environment*, Vol.201, pp.132–147

⁶¹ Further details can be found at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/council-trees/>



- Continuous review of management practices during the year and an annual review of inspection and maintenance standards.
- Works carried out that comply with Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area requirements set out by the Local Planning Authority.

M2. To manage existing trees, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of

Maintenance activities will be conducted to preserve the health and where possible enhance the quality of the trees to improve factors such as biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Any tree surgery required, wherever possible, shall be undertaken in such a way that does not unduly or unnecessarily prejudice the natural habit or life expectancy of the trees and it shall be in accordance with British Standard 3998 (Tree Works).

Maintenance work on trees will take into account the future growth of the tree.

There shall be an increased level of maintenance of young trees including formative pruning and irrigation to ensure a high establishment rate and a good structural form.

M3. To manage shrubs and grass areas, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of

Maintenance activities will be conducted to maintain the health and where possible enhance the quality of the vegetation and improve factors such as biodiversity.

Maintenance will also manage the vegetation to suit the landscape, site usage and for safety concerns, such as possible obstructions on the public highway.

M4. To manage greenery in ways that improve the use of outside spaces in the Borough through improved visual amenity and recreational enjoyment

The visual impact of greenery will also be considered in the management of the landscape with the aim of making these outside spaces enjoyable and attractive to residents.

M5. To seek opportunities for improving the cost-effectiveness of management practices

To limit the amount of reactive work, by grouping individual operations into larger batches of work, by site or ward.

Establishing regular cross-department meetings to identify efficiencies in management practices (supported by policy E1. To Improve coordination across Council departments with a responsibility for the management of greenery).

To identify, evaluate and implement new ways of reducing the chemical control of weed growth in the areas that it manages.



5.3.1 Policy Alignment

Appendix A.1.0 shows in detail how each of the policy statements are supported by, and contribute to National, Regional and Local Strategies

5.3.1.1 Results from the Public Consultation

In the public consultation, it was clear that respondents felt strongly about maintaining trees to ensure safety and reduce property damage, thus supporting M1 (To manage the risk posed by all trees in the Borough through effective maintenance practices). When asked what they thought were the right reasons for removing trees and for pruning trees “the tree is dangerous” and “the tree is involved in subsidence damage to a house” were in the top three responses for both questions. For pruning trees, to “maintain trees in a good structural condition” was also included within the top three responses, thus supporting M2 (To manage existing trees, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of).

When asked what LBR should be thinking about when making decisions about where to spend money on greenery, respondents ranked “making urban areas of Redbridge nicer places to live with trees and greenery” and “creating healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish” as the top two most important options. This indicates the importance of prioritising the health of surrounding habitats to allow wildlife to flourish, as per M2, M3 (To manage shrubs and grass areas in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of) and M4 (To manage greenery in ways that improve the use of outside spaces in the borough through improved visual amenity and recreational enjoyment).

5.4 Improve

In line with LBR’s aspirations to make LBR a great place to live as a family, and national goals of nature recovery, there are many ways in which the green urban landscape can be improved.

I1. To assist in fulfilling regional targets for a net gain in tree canopy, across London, with a target of 10% increase in canopy cover in London by 2050

Council officers responsible for outside space will contribute to create plans to increase canopy cover in the Borough by 2050 and this will include seeking funding for increased tree planting and maintenance.



12. To carefully select tree species and location of new planting that will balance both ecological benefits and benefits to residents

When new trees are planted the Forestry Commissions' principle of 'the right tree in the right place' will be considered to ensure the best tree species for that location is chosen.⁶²

New tree planting should be targeted in areas that are currently deficient in greenery as identified in the Open Spaces Plan and Council tree records.

When selecting tree species for planting, prioritise the selection of native species whilst maintaining species diversity throughout the borough.

New planting schemes will take careful consideration of a site's current and desired landscape to fulfil biodiversity, aesthetic and recreational requirements.

13. To use greenery as a means for improving air quality where possible

New planting plans will target areas within the borough or a specific site of lower air quality.

Where a planting project is identified close to a road of heavy traffic the species which are most effective at absorbing air pollution and suitable for the location will be prioritised.⁶³

14. To maximise biodiversity where possible through planting schemes and changing management of grass areas where appropriate

The Plantlife best practice guide for managing road verges will be adhered to for rural roads. The potential to expand the coverage of these guidelines to meadow grow zones will be explored further.⁶⁴

15. To monitor progress and seek to quantify benefits of the changes made

A record of Council trees including location, details, inspections, pruning, felling, and planting work will be retained and maintained.

A record of woodland population and smaller groups of trees will be retained to monitor population, tree health and completed and programmed works

A record of shrub and grassed areas to be retained to monitor the size of areas and quality of plants

⁶² <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/urban-tree-manual/>

⁶³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41612-020-0115-3.pdf>

⁶⁴

https://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/3315/7063/5411/Managing_grassland_road_verges_Single_s.pdf



An assessment of the best tools for measuring benefits and monitoring progress will be undertaken and should include natural and social capital values. Opportunities to involve the community in monitoring will be explored.

A system will be created to monitor the progress with the Green Urban Landscape Policy for Council Maintained Land and to track progress in the action plan (Section 6.0). An annual report will give details on the progress of actions in the action plan, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be identified and used to record change. Example indicators could include:

- number of trees felled, replanted, pruned;
- reasons for felling;
- number of new trees planted;
- area of shrub bed planted;
- grassed area square meterage cut rotation/management type;
- registered adopted tree pits; and
- registered adopted resident or community Gardens.

5.4.1 Policy Alignment

Appendix A.1.0 shows in detail how each of the policy statements are supported by, and contribute to National, Regional and Local Strategies

5.4.1.1 Results from the Public Consultation

Increasing canopy cover (I1. To assist in fulfilling regional targets for a net gain in tree canopy, across London, with a target of 10% increase in canopy cover in London by 2050) has public support in that both street trees and woodlands were among the top four overall preferences for the types of greenery that residents would like LBR to invest in.

Residents echoed the need to balance the ecological benefits of additional tree planting with the benefits to residents (I2. To carefully select tree species and location of new planting that will balance both ecological benefits and benefits to residents). When asked what LBR should be thinking about when making decisions about where to spend money on greenery, respondents ranked “making urban areas of Redbridge nicer places to live with trees and greenery” as the top overall choice and “creating healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish” as the second most important option.

Using greenery to improve air quality (I3. To use greenery as a means for improving air quality where possible) is a key concern and emerged as the top overall benefit that residents sought from trees, shrubs, and greenspaces.

Maximising biodiversity potential (I4. To maximise biodiversity where possible through planting schemes and changing management of grass areas where appropriate) was also a strong concern with “creating healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish” as the second most popular choice of residents when asked what LBR should consider when spending



money on trees and greenery. Meadows were valued in the top three choices for which greenery it is important to invest in.

5.5 Engage: Communicate, Educate, and Involve

The greenery of Redbridge spans private property as well as greenery in the public realm. LBR already has a strong record of engaging with the community to encourage local people to take responsibility for their green surroundings will be beneficial and the Neighbourhood Engagement and Education Officers have been involved in the delivery of highly successful projects to improve and increase the Green Urban Landscape (see appendix A.5.0 for examples of past LBR projects). This work is an essential part of successful delivery of these policy aims.

Whilst there are many active community groups in Redbridge who are already taking responsibility for greenery in their locality, there are also many residents who are disconnected from the nature around them and need support in order to benefit from being in greenspace or caring for nature. Studies have shown that the benefits of engaging with the natural world are available to all, but that active support is needed to rebuild a relationship with this. The health benefits of being in greenspace are particularly important to vulnerable groups, such as those with mental health issues and those recovering from trauma.

The Environment Bill is also going to introduce a duty on local highway authorities to consult with local communities before felling street trees, unless the trees qualify for certain exemptions.⁶⁵ This is in response to the recognition that there is a need for increased transparency around decisions over green assets. The proposals in this policy show that LBR is already taking action to address this and will be enhanced when the Bill is introduced.

E1. To improve coordination across Council departments with a responsibility for the management of greenery

A Green Urban Landscape Working Group of Council officers will be formed who have responsibility for Council maintained land and will meet regularly to discuss ongoing issues with greenery in the Borough, joint working and the implementation of this policy.

Improved communication within LBR to sign post other staff to the appropriate department when their work may impact on Council maintained greenery.

⁶⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/10-march-2020-nature-and-conservation-covenants-parts-6-and-7>



E2. To improve communication between LBR and residents concerning management of the Green Urban Landscape

LBR will explore ways of providing residents improved information on tree, shrub and grass management that goes beyond the existing mandatory communications between residents and LBR. These currently include:

- information showing how Council maintained trees, grass and shrubs are managed and how to contact LBR about these issues;
- regularly updated programmes of works showing progress through the year; and
- updates through the Our Street's newsletter.

E3. To encourage community involvement in the care and development of trees and greenery locally

Building on successful initiatives, LBR will encourage community involvement in tree pit adoption and other engagement projects such as local food growing projects, home and community composting and community gardening.⁶⁶

Explore Sponsorship of local greenery improvements from local businesses.

E4. To build on public awareness about the value of the natural resources in LBR to develop appreciation and a sense of ownership for them

LBR will seek to support projects that educate the public on the benefits of greenery and a healthy natural environment. This is likely to overlap with E3, with learning happening through hands-on involvement in planting and maintenance.

Where funding is available LBR will also promote the green urban landscape through educational materials such as meetings, talks, and posters.

Projects with specific groups such as schools, and social tenants shall also be supported where funding opportunities arise.

5.5.1 Policy Alignment

Appendix A.1.0 shows in detail how each of the policy statements are supported by, and contribute to National, Regional and Local Strategies

5.5.1.1 Results from the Public Consultation

Improved communication between LBR and residents regarding greenery is welcomed (E2. To improve communication between LBR and residents concerning management of the Green Urban Landscape). 72% of respondents would like more information on tree removal works, and 61% on tree pruning works.

⁶⁶ <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste/home-composting/>



Among respondents there was a high degree of enthusiasm for getting more involved in the care of greenery locally (E3. To encourage community involvement in the care and development of trees and greenery locally). Around half of all respondents were keen to get involved in some way with improving greenery in LBR. The most popular option (49%) was to look after a tree pit near to where they live and 42% were willing to work with neighbours to remove weeds in their street.

A quarter (24%) of respondents were in favour of removing trees for reasons that LBR policy does not currently consider valid reasons. This indicates that there is a need to educate residents on the reasoning behind this policy decision and on the value of maintaining trees where possible (E4. Build on public awareness about the value of the natural resources in LBR to build appreciation and a sense of ownership for them). 23% of respondents were willing to help make wildlife areas in local schools.



6.0 Action Plan

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Protect	1	Reduce damage to greenery. Work with other departments to identify the causes of damage and a range of actions that can reduce and protect greenery from damage.	A document outlining causes of damage and actions to protect greenery	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)
Protect	2	Advocate for increased protection of trees, shrubs and grass during development. Improve communications between the Planning Department and council departments responsible for council land to improve the protection of council greenery.	Input into discussions on planning criteria	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Manage	3	<p>Improve data on greenery and quantify benefits. Identify the methods to accurately record greenery information to produce both quality and quantity data of various value metrics (i.e., carbon capture, biodiversity, health) of council greenery to evaluate current management practices, benefits of improvements and assist in funding bids.</p> <p>Liase with London Urban Forest Partnership and other regional groups working on the same issue.</p>	A database of greenery in LBR with quantification of the benefits these bring	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Manage	4	<p>Reduce use of chemical control of weed growth. Carry out a survey of councils that have suspended chemical usage to identify the different methods and costs of suspending or reducing chemical control. Explore other actions that would reduce chemical usage through reducing council work (i.e. adopt a tree and community gardening).</p>	A report identifying a set of options to reduce or suspend chemical control of weed growth. From this an agreed plan can be created to reduce or suspend the use of chemical control.	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)
Manage	5	<p>Review and formalise existing management practices. Carry out an exercise to review existing greenery maintenance practices to ensure systems are in place to manage the risks presented.</p>	Annual report to review management activities to ensure that risks are managed	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	Annually: 2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Improve	6	Replacement Tree Planting. Plant about 550 Highway trees to replace those that have been removed each year and reopen and plant 100 old tree positions that have been covered by tarmac.	650 trees replanted annually (funding dependent)	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Improve	7	Replacement Shrub Planting. Reduce overlarge highway shrubs and plant up gaps in beds	Decrease in shrub bed gaps by 40% during the period (funding dependent)	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Improve	8	Produce local guidance on best species for planting to reduce air pollution. Liaise with London Urban Forest Partnership to get quality advice.	Local guidance on using greenery to reduce air quality	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)
Improve	9	Additional Tree Planting. To assist in fulfilling regional targets for a net gain in tree canopy, across London, with a target of 10% increase in canopy cover in London by 2050	Produce data on potential locations for new tree planting, species types and management implications	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Improve	10	Expand tree pit adoption scheme. Promote the tree pit adoption scheme, with the target to reach 2,500 adopted pits by 2023 which equates to 17% of highway trees on the footpaths (not verges).	Increased promotion of the tree pit adoption scheme 2,500 adopted pits by 2023	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	By 2023
Improve	11	Additional Tree Planting on the Highway. Create and plant 450 new highway tree positions by March 2022 and then plant an additional 1,550 by March 2024.	2,000 new trees planted on the Highway (funding dependent)	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Improve	12	Improve the quality and increase the areas of ‘grow zones’. Increase Highway grow zones to cover 50,000m ² across the borough by 2023 which equates to 25% of highway grass verges.	50,000m ² of meadow grow zones along the highway	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	By 2023
Improve	13	Identify additional funding sources that can be applied for to support the aims of this policy.	Additional funding applied for	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Improve	14	Annual report on progress. An annual report will give details on the progress of actions in the action plan, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be identified and used to record change	KPIs developed	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Engage	15	Internal Communications. Set up Green Urban Landscape Working Group, within LBR to coordinate management of Council Greenery.	Regular meeting of a Green Urban Landscape Working Group	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)
Engage	16	Support Internal Policy Development. To assist in LBR's creation of new or revision of expiring council documents by providing expertise in trees, shrubs, grass and the Green Urban Landscape.	Updated policies make use of Green Urban Landscape expertise	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Engage	17	External Communications. Promote the benefit of greenspace and greenery and encourage residents to value and enjoy these assets.	Increased resident involvement in community planting and maintenance.	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Engage	18	Residents' ideas and concerns. A high number of written responses were submitted as part of the online consultation for this policy. This action is to undertake further analysis of issues and local ideas for improvements raised by residents through the online consultation.	Produce list of potential sites and projects suggested by residents along with concerns and an action plan to resolve	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	By 2022 (one year from start of GULP)
Engage	19	Interactive Greenery Website. Conduct a feasibility study into creating a resident accessible website to view all council trees and Highway green space, so they may adopt and register an interest to receive notification of recommended works.	Feasibility Assessment of interactive website	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP

Policy Theme	Action Number	Action	Success Criteria	Lead	Timeframe
Engage	20	Seek local Sponsorship of Trees and Planters. Improve access to tree planting sponsorship by residents and businesses.	Local Sponsorship of 100 trees a year	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Engage	21	Build support for community care of newly planted trees. Encourage residents to water young trees when planted in their vicinity.	Lower loss rate of newly planted trees and increased Tree adoptions	Green Urban Landscape Working Group	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP
Engage	22	Promotion of tree planting on private land. Promote environmental activities and encourage residents to plant on their property through a fruit tree giveaway of 500 trees distributed across winter events.	Number of fruit trees given to residents	Neighbourhoods and Street Scene	2021 – 2024 Across duration of GULP

APPENDICES



A.1.0 Alignment of GULP with other Policies

Table 6-1: Alignment with National, Regional and Local Strategies (Protect)

	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
PROTECT	P1. To protect existing trees, shrubs and grass from unnecessary removal by carefully applying the principles of removal	<p>London Environment Strategy Strategic goal: increasing London’s green cover, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and natural habitats;</p> <p>London Urban Forest Plan Goal 4: Better protect London’s urban forest against loss and damage, particularly irreplaceable assets including veteran trees and ancient woodlands</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy G1 A: A London’s network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Policy G7 B: In their Development Plans, boroughs should: 1) protect ‘veteran’ trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site</p> <p>Policy G7 C: Development proposals should ensure that, wherever possible, existing trees of value are retained.</p>	<p>Local Plan 38 (LP38): Protecting Trees and Enhancing the Landscape; LBR will seek to maintain tree coverage in the borough and increase provision in areas of deficiency</p> <p>LP39: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity; LBR will protect and enhance the borough’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity</p>
PROTECT	P2. To preserve grass and shrubs and future tree canopy cover by replacing greenery including trees that are removed	<p>London Environment Strategy Strategic goal: increasing London’s green cover, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and natural habitats;</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy G1 A: A London’s network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Policy G7 C: If planning permission is granted that necessitates the removal of trees, there should be adequate replacement based on the existing value of the benefits of the trees removed.</p>	<p>Local Plan 38: Protecting Trees and Enhancing the Landscape</p> <p>1) LBR will seek to maintain tree coverage in the borough and increase provision in areas of deficiency</p> <p>2) LBR will promote the planting of additional trees and landscaping within the borough particularly in areas of tree deficiency;</p>
PROTECT	P3. To protect trees, shrubs and grassed areas from unnecessary damage	<p>London Environment Strategy Strategic goal: increasing London’s green cover, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and natural habitats;</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy G1 A: A London’s network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>Local Plan 35 - Protecting and Enhancing Open Spaces; LBR will protect, enhance the quality, and improve access to existing green spaces</p>



Table 1-2: Alignment with National, Regional and Local Strategies (Manage)

	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
MANAGE	M1. To manage the risk posed by all trees in the Borough through effective maintenance practices	Occupiers Liability Act (1957 and 1984) The Act places a legal Duty of Care on landowners and occupiers responsible for trees, to take reasonable management measures to avoid foreseeable injury or harm. ⁶⁷	LBR can meet the duty of care laid out in the Occupiers Liability by producing and adhering to this detailed management policy.
MANAGE	M2 To manage existing trees, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of	UKYEP Goal 3. Thriving plants and wildlife. – by improving the health of plants and ecosystems locally London Urban Forest Plan Goal 1: Manage London’s urban forest according to a set of principles ensuring improved resilience against pests, diseases, and climate change Action London Plan Policy G1 A: A London’s network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced.	Climate Change Corporate Panel Report 2020 Action to prioritise and protect biodiversity in LBR Local Plan 35, Protecting and Enhancing Open Spaces; highlights protecting existing open green spaces as a council priority, Local Plan 39: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity; LBR will protect and enhance the borough’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity
MANAGE	M3. To manage shrubs and grass areas, in such a way as to improve the health of the plants and the habitat that they are part of	UKYEP Goal 3. Thriving plants and wildlife. – by improving the health of plants and ecosystems locally London Environment Strategy Strategic goal: increasing London’s green cover, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and natural habitats; London Plan Policy G1 A: A London’s network of green and open spaces, and green features in the built environment, should be protected and enhanced. Policy G6 A, 3: support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINC network,	Climate Change Corporate Panel Report 2020 Action to prioritise and protect biodiversity in LBR Local Plan 39: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity; LBR will protect and enhance the borough’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity

⁶⁷ Other legislation that places a legal duty on the local authority to manage the risk posed by trees includes The Highways act 1980 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/contents>, The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents> and the Telecommunications Act 1984 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/12/contents>



	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
MANAGE	M4. To manage greenery in ways that improve the use of outside spaces in the Borough through improved visual amenity and recreational enjoyment	<p>UKYEP 3. Greening our towns and cities p77 i. Creating more green infrastructure ii. Planting more trees in and around our towns and cities</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy 5.1.1 Protect, enhance, and increase green areas in the city, to provide green infrastructure services and benefits that London needs now and in the future.</p>	<p>Local Plan 35 - Protecting and Enhancing Open Spaces; LBR will protect, enhance the quality, and improve access to existing green spaces</p> <p>Local Plan 37 Green Infrastructure and Blue-Ribbon Network; LBR will promote a good quality network of accessible open spaces across the borough to enhance the environment, biodiversity and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation</p> <p>LBR Open Spaces Study 2016 Identify mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate, locally derived standards of provision by new development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy - successful management of green spaces could support the ambitions of this strategy to encourage exercise.</p> <p>Strategic Delivery Plan</p> <p>Priority 2: Keep the borough clean and safe has a 4 year goal to invest £1.6m into parks and play equipment.</p>
MANAGE	M5. To seek opportunities for improving the cost-effectiveness of management practices	<p>London Urban Forest Plan Goal 8: Ensure high quality, up to date information on the extent, condition and benefits of London’s urban forest is accessible to land managers, decision-makers and the public</p>	



Table 1-3: Alignment with National, Regional and Local Strategies (Improve)

	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
IMPROVE	I1. To assist in fulfilling regional targets for a net gain in tree canopy, across London, with a target of 10% increase in canopy cover in London by 2050	<p>UKYEP 3. Greening our towns and cities; p77 i. Creating more green infrastructure ii. Planting more trees in and around our towns and cities</p> <p>London Environment Strategy</p> <p>GLA target of a 10% increase in canopy cover by 2050</p> <p>Proposal 5.1.1.e The Mayor will develop programmes and deliver projects, including a major tree planting programme, to ensure that London’s urban forest is maintained and expanded</p> <p>London Urban Forest Plan</p> <p>Goal 5: Create more woodland, especially species-rich woodland, in London, particularly in the Green Belt</p> <p>Goal 6: Increase the number of trees on London’s streets, particularly in areas of currently low canopy cover</p> <p>Goal 7: Increase the number of trees in London’s parks and green spaces, particularly in areas of currently low canopy cover</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy G7 A: new trees and woodlands should be planted in appropriate locations in order to increase the extent of London’s urban forest</p>	<p>Climate Change Corporate Panel Report 2020</p> <p>Action to develop a tree planting strategy and increase tree cover by 10% within the boroughs’ parks, green spaces and urban areas.</p> <p>Local Plan 38: Protecting Trees and Enhancing the Landscape; LBR will seek to maintain tree coverage in the borough and increase provision in areas of deficiency</p> <p>2 LBR will promote the planting of additional trees and landscaping within the borough particularly in areas of tree deficiency;</p>



	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
IMPROVE	I2. To carefully select tree species and location of new planting that will balance both ecological benefits and benefits to residents.	<p>UKYEP Goal 4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought. – by planting greenery in areas that reduce flood risk and promoting sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).</p> <p>London Urban Forest Plan Goal 2: Manage more of London’s woodlands to maximise their benefits for people and wildlife</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Policy G1 A: Green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed in an integrated way to achieve multiple benefits.</p> <p>Policy G6 B 2: identify areas of deficiency in access to nature and seek opportunities to address them</p> <p>Policy G6 E: Proposals which reduce deficiencies in access to nature should be considered positively.</p> <p>Policy G7 B: In their Development Plans, boroughs should: 1) protect ‘veteran’ trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site 2) identify opportunities for tree planting in strategic locations.</p>	<p>Local Plan 39, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity which states that LBR will enhance the borough’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity.</p> <p>Local Plan 21 Water and Flooding, (f) Resisting development involving the paving over of front and rear gardens unless appropriate permeable surfaces and drainage channels are used to minimise surface water run-off; - This measure would also minimise the loss of natural areas in the borough the overarching vision set out in Redbridge’s Biodiversity Action Plan, which is to “achieve the promotion, protection, and enhancement of Redbridge’s biodiversity”. A revised version of this plan is currently being developed but the overarching message remains the same.</p> <p>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2015,</p> <p>Our Streets Strategy 2017-2022; Priorities: Healthy Streets and Attractive Streets.</p>
IMPROVE	I3. To use greenery as a means for improving air quality where possible	<p>UKYEP Goal 1. Clean air. – by using greenery to improve local air quality</p> <p>London Plan</p> <p>Though the potential of using greenery to mitigate air pollution is not made explicit, there is a strong focus on the need to address air pollution issues:</p> <p>9.1.2 The Mayor is committed to making air quality in London the best of any major world city,</p> <p>9.1.3 The aim of this policy is to ensure that new developments are designed and built, as far as is possible, to improve local air quality and reduce the extent to which the public are exposed to poor air quality.</p>	<p>Sub Objective: Encourage cleaner air; LP 24 Pollution: No mention of role of greenery in this but implementation is through the Air Quality Action plan Redbridge Air Quality Action Plan (2020 - 2025). This plan recognises that planting new greenery in problem areas is a tool for reducing air pollution p44 suggests using greenery like ‘barrier bushes’ along busy roads and in playgrounds to help filter toxic fumes</p> <p>Strategic Delivery Plan Priority 1 includes a four-year goal to Improve air quality.</p>



	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
IMPROVE	14. To maximise biodiversity where possible through planting schemes and changing management of grass areas where appropriate	<p>London Environment Strategy To create 250 hectares of flower rich grassland across London by 2050</p> <p>London Plan Policy G6 B 3: support the protection and conservation of priority species and habitats that sit outside the SINCC network, and promote opportunities for enhancing them using Biodiversity Action Plans</p> <p>B4: seek opportunities to create other habitats, or features such as artificial nest sites, that are of particular relevance and benefit in an urban context</p>	<p>Climate Change Corporate Panel Report 2020 Action to ensure that new developments include requirements for biodiverse and rich habitats – especially in urban areas</p> <p>Local Plan 39: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity; LBR will protect and enhance the borough’s natural environment and seek to increase the quantity and quality of the borough’s biodiversity</p> <p>the overarching vision set out in Redbridge’s Biodiversity Action Plan, which is to “achieve the promotion, protection, and enhancement of Redbridge’s biodiversity”. A revised version of this plan is currently being developed but the overarching message remains the same</p>
IMPROVE	15. To monitor progress and seek to quantify benefits of the changes made	<p>London Urban Forest Plan Goal 8: Ensure high quality, up to date information on the extent, condition and benefits of London’s urban forest is accessible to land managers, decision-makers and the public</p>	<p>LBR has a duty to report on progress related to this policy.</p>



Table 1-4: Alignment with National, Regional and Local Strategies (Engage)

	Policy Item	National and Regional Plans and Strategies Links to all plans and strategies are in Error! Reference source not found.	LBR Plans and Strategies
ENGAGE	E1. To improve coordination across Council departments with a responsibility for the management of greenery		To ensure cost effective delivery and consistency in management practices.
ENGAGE	E2. To improve communication between LBR and residents concerning management of the Green Urban Landscape		Our Streets Strategy 2017-2022; Putting residents at the heart of their streets: Strategic Delivery Plan 2018 Priority 5: Build a Brilliant Council. Includes goals to improve communication between council and residents.
ENGAGE	E3. To encourage community involvement in the care and development of trees and greenery locally	UKYEP Chapter 3. Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. P80 i. Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment London Environment Strategy Strategic Goal: encouraging greater participation and involvement by Londoners in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the neighbourhood level. London Urban Forest Plan Goal 9: Support Londoners in playing an active role in the protection, growth, and management of the urban forest	Climate Change Corporate Panel Report 2020 Action to encourage schools to participate in eco-schools Our Streets Strategy 2017-2022; Putting residents at the heart of their streets: Strategic Delivery Plan 2018 Priority 2: Keep the Borough Clean and Safe, includes a goal to support communities to take ownership of their neighbourhoods.
ENGAGE	E4. To build on public awareness about the value of the natural resources in LBR to develop appreciation and a sense of ownership for them	UKYEP Goal 6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. – by celebrating the positive contribution that greenery brings to the urban environment and supporting community engagement UKYEP Chapter 3. Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. P80 i. Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment	Our Streets Strategy 2017-2022; Putting residents at the heart of their streets: Strategic Delivery Plan 2018 Priority 2: Keep the Borough Clean and Safe, includes a goal to support communities to take ownership of their neighbourhoods.



A.2.0 References

Table 1-5: National and Regional Plans and Strategies of Relevance

Plan/Strategy Title	Description	Link
UK 25 Year Environmental Plan (2018)	Ten goals for improving the UK environment within a generation. Will be supported by the Environment Bill to set out actions for delivery forthcoming in 2021	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan
National Planning and Policy Framework (2019)	The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf
Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990	Section 197 places a duty on local planning authorities to make provision for the preservation or planting of trees	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/197/2011-11-15?wrap=true&timeline=true
London Environment Strategy (2018)	London's first integrated environment strategy. Outlines a range of goals and actions to improve London's Environment	https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf
London Urban Forest Plan (2020)	The plan sets out the goals and priority actions needed to protect, manage and expand the capital's urban forest.	https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/londonurbanforestplan_final_0.pdf
London Plan (2021)	The London Plan 2021 is the Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London. It sets out a framework for how London will develop over the next 20-25 years and the Mayor's vision for Good Growth.	https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/london-plan-2021



Table 1-6: LBR Documents of Relevance to GULP

Title	Date	Link
Air Quality Action Plan	2020 - 2025	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/9014/aqap-2020-to-2025.pdf
Biodiversity Action Plan	2003	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10454/lbr-245-redbridge-biodiversity_action_plan.pdf
Climate Change Action Plan	2020	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/9400/appendix-b-climate-change-action-plan-final.pdf
Climate Change Corporate Panel Report	2020	http://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/documents/g8104/Public%20reports%20pack%2016th-Nov-2020%2019.15%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10
Environmental Action Plan	2010 - 2018	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/9400/appendix-b-climate-change-action-plan-final.pdf
Green Audit	2020	Not publicly available online
Health and Wellbeing Strategy	2017 - 2021	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/4814/health-wellbeing-strategy-2017_2021.pdf
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	2015 -2030	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10437/lbr-221-infrastructure-delivery-plan-march-2017.pdf
LBR Partnership Plan for 2025	2020 - 2025	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/7257/building-a-new-redbridge-for-2025.pdf
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	2015	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10901/redbridge-lfrms-v12.pdf
Local Implementation Plan	2019 - 2041	https://engagement.redbridge.gov.uk/civic-pride/lip/user_uploads/lip3-consultation-draft-01.03.19.pdf



Local Plan	2015 -2030	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/9993/10-redbridgelocal-plan_070318_web-1_tp.pdf
Nature Conservation Strategy	1997	Not publicly available online
Our Streets Strategy	2017 - 2022	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/10705/our-streets-strategy.pdf
SPD's Sustainable Design Trees and Landscaping	2006	No longer current
Strategic Delivery Plan	2020	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/media/6040/strat-del-plan-v12.pdf
Tree Policy	1996	Not publicly available online



A.3.0 Key terms

Term or Acronym	Explanation
British Standard 3998 (tree works)	BS3998 is the British Standard for Tree Work
Canopy cover	This is the total of tree coverage and shrub coverage. The report by the London i-Tree Eco Project 'Valuing London's Urban Forest' (2015) estimates that London's canopy cover is 21%.
CAVAT Value	CAVAT provides a method for managing trees as public assets rather than liabilities. It is designed not only to be a strategic tool and aid to decision-making in relation to the tree stock as a whole, but also to be applicable to individual cases, where the value of a single tree needs to be expressed in monetary terms.
Green Infrastructure	The network of parks, green spaces, gardens, woodlands, rivers and wetlands, as well as urban greening features such as street trees and green roofs, that is planned, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation
Green Urban Landscape	All greenery that is found in an urban landscape - includes street trees, highway verges, planters (flower beds on the street) as well as open green spaces.
Greenery	A broad term to cover trees, shrubs, grass and all other vegetation types.
Trees, shrubs and grass	A broad term to describe all vegetation and includes climbers, herbaceous, annuals, roses and hedges
Natural Capital	The set of environmental resources (green space, air, water, wildlife) that provides services, such as flood protection or cleaner air, and wellbeing.



Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	The benefits that flow from nature to people. They can be provisioning (e.g., the supply of food, clean air and water and materials), regulating (e.g., water and climate regulation, nutrient cycling, pollination, or the formation of fertile soils), or cultural (e.g., recreation opportunities, or the inspiration we draw from nature). Sustainable Drainage Systems: by mimicking natural drainage regimes, SuDS aim to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment.
Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	A Tree Preservation Order is a written order made by the local planning authority which, in general, makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order without the authority's permission.
Urban Forest	An urban forest is a collection of trees that grow within a city, town or suburb. Urban forestry advocates the role of trees as a critical part of the urban infrastructure. A contiguous area with over 10% canopy cover can be classified as a forest (The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations)
25 YEP	The UK 25 Year Environmental Plan, 2018

A.4.0 Summary of Responses to Public Consultation

A.4.1 Who Responded?

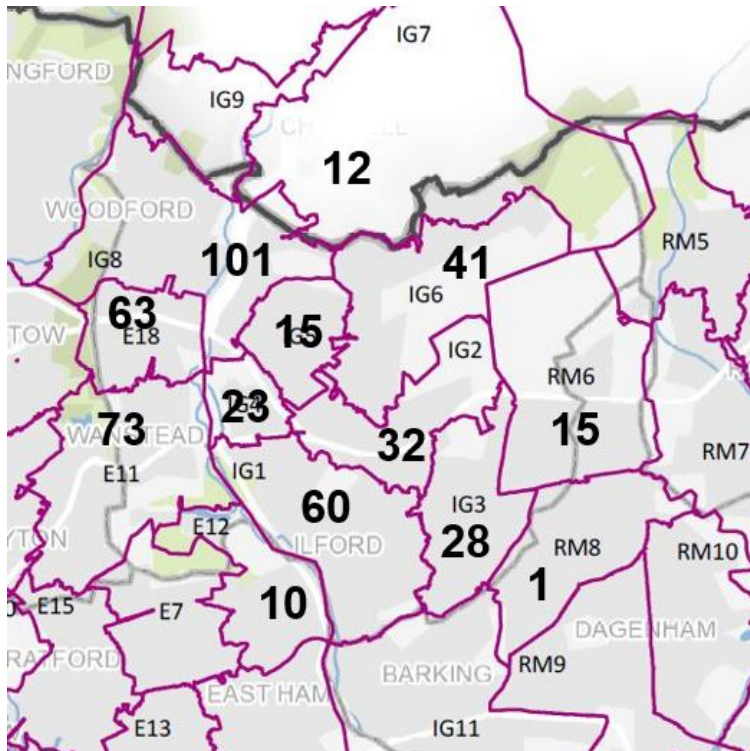
- In total, 483 respondents filled out the questionnaire.
- The vast majority of respondents were residents of LBR (95%)
- Respondents came from all areas of the borough, with a stronger response from the West and North areas. See Figure 1-1
- The majority of respondents identified as White (79%) with 15% Asian/Asian British and only 7% from other ethnicities. As the Census of 2011 shows that the



LBR population is only 43% White, the respondents are disproportionately from this ethnic group, and the results need to be viewed with this in mind.

- Two thirds of the respondents were women (66%) and 68% of respondents are aged 45 years or more. The results of the survey therefore reflect these groups disproportionately, but this also gives some indication of which type of people are most concerned about the issue of greenery in LBR.

Figure 1-1: Distribution of Respondents Across the Borough



A.4.2 What Were Their Views?

What are the main benefits of greenery?

Respondents reported the most important benefits of trees, shrubs, and green spaces to be;

- 1) for improving air quality,
- 2) providing a place to be in nature,
- 3) making streets nicer places to be in and
- 4) improving spaces for wildlife.

What greenery is important to invest in?

When asked about which aspects of greenery are most important to be invested in, respondents gave the highest overall importance to;

- 1) Street trees,
- 2) pocket parks,



- 3) meadow banks along roads and
- 4) woodlands

What should LBR consider?

In considering what LBR should be thinking about when making decisions about where to spend money on trees and greenery, a wide range of the responses were selected as important by respondents. The top 5 options selected overall were:

- 1) Making urban areas of LBR nicer places to live with trees and greenery
- 2) Creating healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish
- 3) Reducing air pollution levels in hotspots
- 4) Creating public spaces that encourage outdoor activity and connecting people
- 5) Reducing impacts of climate change

Making urban areas of LBR nicer places to live with trees and greenery, was by far the most popular of these with 29% of respondents selecting it as their top choice. (140 respondents)

Where to plant trees?

Planting trees in areas that don't have many street trees was the response with the highest overall importance, as well as the top response by 34% of respondents (N=162)

In overall importance;

- 1) planting trees in areas that don't have many street trees,
- 2) on the highway (alongside busy roads), and
- 3) in parks and open spaces followed.

When to remove trees?

Three responses stood out by far as the most selected reasons for removing trees. Each of these responses were selected by over 78% of the respondents (N=380). These were:

- The tree is dangerous e.g., through damage or disease.
- A tree is involved in subsidence damage to a house.
- The tree is dead.

The remaining responses were considered valid reasons for removing trees by less than a quarter of respondents (24%, N= 119).

It is interesting that between 10-24% of the respondents were in favour of removing trees for reasons that LBR policy does not currently consider valid reasons. This indicates that there is a need to educate residents on the reasoning behind this policy decision and on the value of maintaining trees where possible. This issue was also highlighted as the one that residents would most like to receive more information on in question 9.

When to prune trees?

In terms of reasons for pruning trees, five responses were selected frequently by the respondents as follows:

- The tree is dangerous e.g., through damage or disease;



- To maintain trees in a good structural condition;
- A tree is involved in subsidence damage to a house;
- The tree is causing obstructions to pedestrians and buildings and;
- The tree is too big.

A.4.3 Receiving Information

Respondents were able to select several topics they felt would be beneficial to receive information from LBR on. The most popular topics, selected by over 50% of respondents were:

- Tree pruning works – Programme, schedule and reasons why
- Projects supported by LBR that seek to improve greenery in the borough
- How you can get involved in improving the greenery in your area
- Guidance for homeowners on what trees and greenery to plant and how to care for them
- How a Tree Protection Order protects trees, how this is enforced and how are works approved and carried out
- How you can report problems with greenery
- How greenery in LBR contributes to wider nature benefits

The most popular means for communication on these issues were

- 1) Emailed newsletter (77%)
- 2) Dedicated website for greenery in the borough – with regular updates and space for residents to comment and get questions answered (52%)
- 3) LBR Website (50%)

A.4.4 Getting Involved

Around half of all respondents were keen to get involved in some way with improving greenery in LBR.

The most popular ways were by looking after a tree pit (49%, N=238) and joining a group locally to improve green areas (44%, N=212)

	Numbers who Would like to be involved		Numbers who Would like to be involved
Looking after a tree pit near where you live (the earth at the base of a tree)	238 (49%)	Council supported borough wide Tree Warden or Tree Champion scheme	119 (25%)
Joining a group to improve green areas locally	212 (44%)	Joining a local food growing project	116 (24%)



Working with neighbours to remove weeds in the street where you live	202 (42%)	Helping in a local school to make a wildlife area	107 (23%)
Attending meetings to discuss local greenery projects and related issues	189 (39%)	Sponsoring and maintaining a flower box in a street	107 (22%)
Sponsoring a tree in a street or open space	157 (33%)	Sharing knowledge with others on plants and wildlife	107 (22%)
Joining an exercise class in a park	133 (28%)	None of these	41 (8%)

A.4.5 Conclusions

The response rate to the consultation was higher than expected and indicates a significant interest among residents in these issues. The demographic profile of respondents is slightly skewed towards women, older individuals, and residents of white ethnicity, this can be read as a reflection of which groups have a history of engagement with LBR and highlights the engagement work required to reach a more diverse demographic.

There is an interesting balance of concerns between the environmental factors and the social benefits of maintaining and improving greenery in the borough. Air quality is an issue of great concern, along with improving spaces for wildlife. And on the social side providing spaces to be in nature and making the borough a nicer place to live were the top goals for this group.

There is a call to integrate nature throughout the borough in small ways, with street trees being a top favourite for future investment, followed by pocket parks. Meadow and woodland areas also have strong support. Planting more trees in areas that currently do not have many emerges as a top priority, as well as planting along busy roads. Both changes would contribute to the goal to make LBR a nicer place to live.

Current levels of knowledge about when is right to remove and prune trees is mixed and respondents would welcome more information on these aspects. Among these respondents there is a strong appetite for greater involvement, with 49% wanting to adopt a tree pit locally.

The level of desired engagement of these respondents is very high and 75% of respondents (N=360) had chosen to give their email address so as to receive further updates on development of this policy. Around half of all respondents were keen to get directly involved in some way with improving greenery in LBR. Only 8% of the respondents said that they would not like to get involved at all. This indicates that there is community energy within the borough to support initiatives to improve greenery, and that this should be harnessed going forward.



A.5.0 Past and Current Initiatives to Improve Greenery in LBR

Greenery Improvement Activity	Date	Description	Funding Source	Outcomes
Highway new tree position planting	2021	Planting of 50 new tree positions in Chadwell Heath. Tree's for Cities scheme with community involvement and planting.	Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Increase Highway tree population to improve biodiversity and air quality
South Woodford Orchard Project	2021	Creation of an Orchard area in South Woodford. The Orchard Project scheme with community involvement and planting.	Neighbourhood CIL	Increase Highway tree population and new community garden
Highway Adopt a Tree Pit Scheme	2021	1,300 Highway tree pits adopted by residents who planted wild flowers and carry out basic maintenance of the tree.	LBR	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space
Adopting and watering a new tree	2021	Over 500 replacement trees planted this year included a label asking resident to adopt and irrigate the tree and then apply to formally adopt it in December 2021	LBR	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space. Anticipated increased formal adoptions in 2022.
Highway Grow Zone Meadow area	2021	On the Highway increase area to be maintained as a Grow Zone Meadow from 10,800 to 20,000 square metres which equates to approximately 10% of highway grass.	LBR	Increased biodiversity. By June 2021 over 70 different species, excluding grass, noted at a sample of 5 of the 20 Grow Zone sites.

Highway Replacement tree programme	1994 to 2021	Annual, replacement of trees removed from the Highway. There have been interruptions in the replacement programme; however, by Spring 2021 available positions should have been planted.	LBR	Maintain Highway population levels to improve biodiversity and air quality
Leisure Grow Zone Meadow	Long Term to 2021	Long term increase of grassland maintained as Grow Zone Meadow on LBR Leisure sites. Some sites have always contained meadows; however, the area of Grow Zones have increased in more formal urban parks.	LBR	Increased biodiversity.
Sponsored Park tree planting	Long Term to 2021	Long term planting of trees sponsored by residents and businesses within Parks and open spaces.	LBR	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space.
Highway Community Gardening Schemes	2020 to 2021	With residents create, plant and improve highway spaces through community maintained gardens New sites at: Thackery Drive, Redbridge Lane West, Cranbrook Road and Carlisle Gardens.	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space
Housing trial of Grow Zone Meadow areas	2020 to 2021	Trial of creating Grow Zone meadow areas on Housing sites including Rivenhall Gardens and Swindon Close	LBR	Increased biodiversity.
Leisure Grow Zone Meadow	2020 to 2021	Community led creation of Grow Zone Meadows in parks	LBR and Residents	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space.

Spring Bulb Giveaway Project	2020	Giveaway of bulbs to Redbridge residents to plant bulbs in spaces that benefit the local community such as public shrub beds and raised planters, within the grounds of schools, community and faith centres. 200 applications were made, over 120 approved. 40,000 bulbs ordered and delivered in time for the big planting weekend 16-18 October 2020	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space
Railing and floor planters	2020	Installation of over 130 railing and floor planters on the Highway that were planted and will be maintained by businesses, residents and schools	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and business, school and resident involvement in public space.
Seven Kings Woodland	2020	Planting of 5,000 young trees to create a wooded area to the north of Seven Kings Park. Tree's for Cities scheme with Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure and community involvement with design and planting.	Neighbourhood CIL	Future Biodiversity, canopy cover increases and resident involvement in public space.
Highway Adopt a Tree Pit Scheme	2020	850 Highway tree pits adopted by residents who planted wild flowers and carry out basic maintenance of the tree.	LBR	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space
Highway Grow Zone Meadow areas	2019 to 2020	In 2019 a trial of 6 sites totalling 6,800 square metres. In 2020 the trial was increased to 9 sites totalling 10,800 square metres which equates to approximately 5% of highway grass	LBR	Increased biodiversity.
Highway Community Gardening Schemes	2019 to 2020	With residents create, plant and improve highway spaces through community maintained gardens new sites including Wangey Road, Pankhurst Green, Brancepeth Gardens, Gales Way and Wanstead Lane	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space

Railing and floor planters	2019	Installation of railing and floor planters that were planted and maintained by schools, libraries underground tube staff, businesses and residents across the borough.	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and business, school and resident involvement in public space.
Spring Bulb Giveaway Project	2019	Giveaway of bulbs to Redbridge residents to plant bulbs. 127 applications were made. Recipients included 24 residents' groups, 4 churches, 2 community centres, 21 schools and other educational bodies. To ensure that the planting benefitted everyone, bulbs were planted in communal spaces such as public shrub beds, within the grounds of schools and community centres.	Neighbourhood CIL	Increased biodiversity and resident involvement in public space
School tree planting	2019	50 trees were planted at 9 schools and 2 Housing sites across the Borough with the assistance of 113 adults and 1,370 children. During National tree week and the week after, pupils and staff attended outdoor sessions, Engagement officers helped children understand the benefits of trees before the children helped plant their new trees.	Neighbourhood CIL and Mayor of London Grant	The Tree Planting activities have increased tree canopy cover, biodiversity and were targeted to areas of higher levels of pollution and to play areas that required shade in the summer. Improved education and awareness of nature and trees.
School tree planting	2018	36 trees were planted at 4 schools and 5 Housing sites across the Borough with the assistance of 37 adults and 540 children. Four community planting days took place encouraging residents to get hands on and dig the holes for the trees and three additional planting days at schools with pupils and staff attended outdoor sessions, Engagement officers helped children understand the benefits of trees before the children helped plant their new trees.	Neighbourhood CIL and Mayor of London Grant	The Tree Planting activities have increased tree canopy cover, biodiversity and were targeted to areas of higher levels of pollution and to play areas that required shade in the summer. Improved education and awareness of nature and trees.

LBR Park tree planting	2017 to 2019	Trees for Cities working with LBR and Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure to plant trees and shrubs to benefit of local communities. Over a three-year period 33,601 trees were planted as part of 7 projects, engaging 2,310 volunteers, 25 Corporate volunteering days and 27 School workshops.	Neighbourhood CIL and external Grants	Future Biodiversity, canopy cover increases and resident involvement in public space.
School tree Planting	2015	Plant 31 trees at the front of William Torbitt Primary School next to the A12, with teacher and pupil involvement to improve air quality.	LBR and Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund	Future Biodiversity, canopy cover and air quality improvements
Green Wall installation	2014	Installation of a green wall at Winston Way Primary School next to a main road	LBR and Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund	Future Biodiversity and air quality improvements
Planting new Highway trees in Ilford	2013	Trees for Cities working with LBR created and planted 19 new tree positions on the streets surrounding Christchurch Primary School	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.
Housing Tree Planting	2013 to 2017	Creating and planting 95 tree positions on LBR Housing sites.	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.
Park tree planting	2010 to 2016	Trees for Cities working with LBR and Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure to plant tens of thousands of trees and engaging with thousands of volunteers across the borough	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity, canopy cover increases and resident involvement in public space.
Planting new Highway trees for Area Committees	2001 to 2012	Creating and planting 2,061 new tree positions on the Highway	LBR	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.

Planting new Highway trees in Ilford	2001 to 2004	Creation and planting of 20 new tree positions on Ilford High Street	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.
Planting new Highway trees in Wanstead	1999	Creation and planting of 35 new tree positions on Wanstead High Street	Highways Agency	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.
Planting new Highway trees in Clementswood	1995	Creation and planting of 60 new tree positions in the Clementswood Area	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.
Planting new Highway trees in Mayfield	1993	Creation and planting of 50 new tree positions in the Mayfield Area	LBR and external Grants	Future Biodiversity and canopy cover increases.