

# London Planning News Update



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Planning. Design. Economics.

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## Assembly says resounding 'yes' to Olympic MDC

Further to powers granted to the Mayor by the [Localism Act](#), the London Assembly has [voted unanimously](#) in favour of establishing of a Mayoral Development Area for the Olympic Park and surrounding area. The proposal will see the Olympic Park Legacy Company reformed as a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) with responsibility for the post-Games development of the site, including planning. The plans will now go forward to Parliament for the formal establishment of the MDC. The London Thames Gateway Development Corporation has confirmed it will [transfer](#) £34 million worth of assets (and its staff) to the MDC and the GLA in April, 2012. The MDC is expected to take on responsibility for planning from October.

## Mayor consults on budget plans

The Mayor has [published consultation budget proposals](#) for the GLA Group for 2012/13. For the GLA, they include commitments to: invest in new housing; work with the London Enterprise Partnership to invest and promote business and growth; improve London's high streets and regenerate areas affected by the August riots; work with public and private sector partners to transform the Royal Docks into a "first class" business and leisure destination with vibrant communities and lasting employment, including through the new Enterprise Zone; and ensuring a "safe, successful,

and spectacular" Olympic Games that leaves an enduring legacy.

## CIL for London

The Mayor's proposals for charging Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) have now been [endorsed](#) by an independent [Examiner](#), who found the charges would not seriously threaten the economic viability of development across London. The Mayor must now decide to approve the schedule to allow charging to commence on 1 April. Meanwhile, another London Borough has published proposals for introducing CIL for developments in its area. Merton Council has [issued](#) its preliminary draft [charging schedule](#) for consultation, proposing to place a £100/m<sup>2</sup> levy for retail development. For residential developments, it proposes charging £385/m<sup>2</sup> in Wimbledon, £140/m<sup>2</sup> in Colliers Wood/ Raynes Park and £42/m<sup>2</sup> in Mitcham and Morden. The charges will be introduced from summer, 2013. This is in addition to the planned £35/m<sup>2</sup> that the Mayor will charge for most developments in Merton.

## New Thames crossing

The Mayor has [announced](#) that he intends to deliver a new road tunnel between the Greenwich Peninsula and Silvertown in the Royal Docks over the next 10 years, with TfL to begin preliminary consultations in February. A new ferry service will also be established by 2017, between Beckton and Thamesmead, at Gallions Reach. The new crossings are in addition to the cable car which is currently under construction over the Thames.

## and a new airport?

According to [The Telegraph](#), the Government's consultation on its aviation strategy, due to be published in March, is expected to offer provisional support for a new Thames Estuary airport. Separately, the Free Enterprise Group - a group of Conservative MPs - published [The Case for Aviation](#), which urges the Government to find a short to medium term solution to increasing aviation capacity in the South East, amid fears that London may fall behind other European cities due to limited connections. Though supportive of a new airport, the report argues that it will take too long to complete and, in the meantime, the UK economy will suffer.

## London Plan Implementation Plan

The Mayor has [published](#) the [London Plan Implementation Plan](#) for consultation until the end of February, setting out how policies in the London Plan will be translated into practical action and updating timescales on the progress of key documents, schemes and actions. It provides information on the strategic infrastructure required to support the growth of London envisaged in the London Plan, incorporating: transport; water; telecommunications; waste; energy; and social and green infrastructure.

## Changing views

The Mayor is [consulting](#), until 10 February, on a limited revision to

his draft [London View Management Plan](#), relating to the new view from Parliament Square to the Palace of Westminster (view '27A'). This follows, and responds to comments made on, the earlier consultation on the [draft London View Management Framework SPG](#) in July last year.

## Greenwich Peninsula development deal

The Mayor and the Secretary of State [announced](#) a deal to kick-start the next phase of development on the Greenwich Peninsula, intended to [deliver](#) a major residential, business and leisure district. HCA is working with development partners to facilitate the development of 1,350 new homes. CLG Secretary of State Eric Pickles, said: "Today the Mayor and I can announce we've unlocked this once stalled site in Greenwich that will now get workers back on site, construction back on track and help get our Capital City building in 2012 the new homes Londoners need".

## Tree and woodlands guidance

The GLA, with the Forestry Commission, has [published draft supplementary planning guidance](#) on creating tree and woodland strategies. The document forms part of the Mayor's guidance on green infrastructure and open space in London, and complements other planning guidance such as the [All London Green Grid SPG](#).