Network Tower Hamlets

- tackling climate change
- promoting people-friendly travel
- working together for a better transport system

Next stop – Climate and people-friendly travel

- melting ice-caps
- chaotic climate
- rising temperatures
- more flooding
- worse air quality
- water and rail freight
- greener buses
- step-free public transport
- accessible environments
- better quality of life for all
- clear zones
- better railways
- docklands light railway
- walking
- cycling
- coaches
- underground
- crossrail line 1
- water travel
- east london railway
- water travel
- london overground
- taxis
- trams
- better quality of life for all
- accessible environments
- greener buses
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- taxis
- trams
Foreword

– Time for change – changing the way we travel


A good transport system is an essential part of everyday life. However, whilst many of us do walk, cycle and use public transport we still need to reduce our carbon footprint from our society’s over-dependence on cars, lorries and air travel because of the burden it places on our environment, health and quality of life.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by vehicles and other forms of transport is a key greenhouse gas that causes global warming. Tackling climate change is a major challenge to our planet and all our communities here and across the globe.

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Cleaner, Safer, Greener
Climate change
– Towards zero carbon travel

Green city living > 1
– Promoting walking, cycling and creating better public spaces

Making connections

Green city living > 2
– Promoting public transport

Green city living > 3
– Reducing the need to travel
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tackling climate change
better quality of life
cleaner air
inclusive communities
healthier lifestyles
zero carbon travel
Tower Hamlets Council is committed to the community that we serve. Through our Community Plan, ‘One Tower Hamlets’, which sets out our future shared, sustainable vision for the borough, there is a common purpose to make Tower Hamlets a better place for all.

The council has produced a set of plans that set out how we will achieve this.

This document, **Making connections**, outlines how the council is working together with other organisations to:

- shape the transport policy agenda to be greener and more climate-friendly; and
- encourage local people, workers and visitors to walk, cycle and use public transport to improve quality of life and foster more sustainable, healthier lifestyles

**Making connections** focuses on far-reaching, strategic issues to address the transport challenges of climate change.

**Making connections** complements the council’s existing land use and transport plans in the form of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and Local Implementation Plan (LIP). These documents set out the policy context and proposals to implement the Mayor of London’s London Plan and Transport Strategy.
up to 20,000 people die early each year in the UK due to motor traffic-related air pollution

pollution levels are around 4 times higher inside a car than outside on the street

around 25% of EU carbon emissions are from road transport

nearly 25% of all citizens in the UK are now obese
Climate change is now accepted as a huge challenge for continued life on our planet. Since the landmark event of the ratification of the United Nations’ Kyoto Protocol, which sets a target to reduce carbon emissions, there is now a growing collective will to curb these emissions – the primary cause of climate change. Here in Tower Hamlets, we need to play our full part in moving towards a zero carbon society by reducing our CO₂ emissions from all sources. Transport is a significant producer of carbon emissions and so by moving towards greener, more climate-friendly means of travel, we can all play our part in reducing our collective carbon footprint.

Tower Hamlets Council is already responding to this challenge and is taking strides to promote greener, more climate-friendly travel. Walking, cycling and public transport initiatives already form part of the council’s ongoing commitment to create a healthier and more accessible environment to reduce the noticeable effects of poor air quality, road traffic congestion and social exclusion. However, more needs to be done to cut pollution levels and carbon emissions in Tower Hamlets and across London.

Road traffic and aviation usage continues to rise in London and around the world. This impacts on our diverse communities. Whitechapel Road/Mile End Road (A11), Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach (A12), Commercial Road (A13), The Highway and Aspen Way are heavily trafficked routes in our borough. Several international airports in the surrounding region cater for the increasing unrestrained demand for travel by air. More new homes and workplaces are planned in the borough, putting more stress on our transport system.

Roads form barriers between places and neighbourhoods and prevent people from getting around in a sustainable, easy and efficient way. To tackle this, we need an accessible transport system that is people-friendly and ensures proper investment in walking, cycling and public transport.

Transport should be accessible to everyone in the community regardless of age, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, faith, health or wealth. The council is committed to working together with our citizens, local organisations, central government, other councils, Transport for London, public transport providers, walking and cycling groups and others to make changes in the way we travel. This will help secure a sustainable future for all our communities and the planet.
car free developments
wind turbines
climate-friendly travel
carbon allowances
solar technologies
tidal and wave power
clear zones
community car clubs
Transport has a significant impact on the climate. It is one of the largest sources of CO₂ emissions in the EU. CO₂ will continue to rise without effective measures to reduce this danger to our planet.

The council is working on a number of strategic transport-related initiatives to help combat climate change by:

1. **Promoting greener transport**
   Working with Transport for London and other transport providers to encourage more climate-friendly transport to:
   - tackle and reduce the transport impacts associated with climate change

2. **Using renewable technologies**
   Encouraging the use of renewable energy systems (such as wind and solar power) in local bus, rail, river, light rail and/or tube facilities operated by/or on behalf of Transport for London to:
   - lessen the reliance on carbon fuels and subsequent carbon emissions to reduce the impact on climate change

3. **Reducing carbon levels**
   Investigating the feasibility of carbon trading/personal carbon allowance schemes with other organisations to:
   - encourage greener, more climate-friendly transport choices

4. **Greener, climate-friendly travel**
   Increasing the percentage of car free developments and encourage the development of local community car clubs as an alternative to building schemes that are car dependent to:
   - encourage low and zero carbon development and combat climate change
   - encourage greater use of sustainable transport options, including greener vehicles and electric recharging facilities
   - reduce land-take for car parking

5. **Costing travel options**
   Exploring with Transport for London the benefits of congestion charging and road pricing initiatives to:
   - support and encourage healthier, cleaner and more environmentally friendly transport systems within Tower Hamlets and beyond

**Climate change – Towards zero carbon travel**
cycling

green spaces

walking

bike hire schemes

high street 2012

travel plans
Walking and cycling are a greener, climate-friendly transport choice which help to keep us healthy and emit no CO₂. Walking and cycling also help to reduce road traffic congestion and improve local air quality.

As part of the Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy, the council has produced a Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and walking and cycling strategies. In addition, the council is working on initiatives on:

1. Walking and cycling
   Increasing the number of walking and cycling trips through the development of effective initiatives, including:
   > cycle training
   > new and improved cycle routes and other facilities
   > new walking and cycling bridges
   > bike hire schemes
   > safer streets for all

2. Travel planning
   Implementing the council’s travel plan to meet challenging targets to:
   > be an exemplar council for sustainable transport
   > increase the percentage of staff using public transport, walking and cycling for all journeys

3. Protecting green spaces
   Working to retain and enhance green areas and trees from being lost by the creation of inappropriate car parking provision to:
   > protect and maintain biodiversity, reduce flooding and maintain our ‘green city lungs’ that help absorb CO₂

4. London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
   Working with Transport for London and other partner organisations to develop High Street 2012 between Aldgate, Whitechapel, Stepney, Mile End and Bow to:
   > improve the public spaces and prioritise walking, cycling and public transport through these well-known neighbourhoods along this key route
green travel awareness
river and canal travel
accessible public spaces
railways
buses
light railways
trams
Public transport is provided in many forms in Tower Hamlets, including bus, train, Underground, DLR and river services. Taxis and coach services also operate through the borough. Using public transport is a greener and more climate-friendly way to travel which helps to reduce congestion and the harmful effects of road traffic pollution.

Strategic initiatives to encourage and improve public transport include:

1. **Trains, light railways and trams**
   - Testing the potential for new rail stations to:
     - provide new public transport station capacity and ease existing over crowding
   - Confirming the expansion and delivery of rail schemes for:
     - DLR and Crossrail
   - Testing the feasibility of a new Eastend Tram scheme to:
     - form part of a London-wide network of modern, efficient and people-friendly trams

2. **Reducing car use**
   - Increasing the number of new developments required to produce travel plans to:
     - increase the number of people using public transport, cycling and walking

3. **Changing the way we travel**
   - Promoting and organising:
     - awareness campaigns and events, including supporting the Mayor of London’s DIY Planet Repairs initiative

4. **Encouraging river and canal use**
   - Working in partnership with British Waterways and Transport for London to:
     - promote sustainable water transport
     - assist in facilitating a green transport approach to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
     - encourage a shift away from road traffic for commuting, leisure and freight (especially waste and construction)

5. **Accessible transport and public spaces**
   - Working in partnership to:
     - provide an inclusive transport system and better public spaces that are accessible to everyone
Eurostar journeys emit 10 times less than flying.

Intercity train travel emits up to 75% less carbon than going by car or air.
As Tower Hamlets continues to evolve and go forward, the council is developing its land use and transport planning policies to secure more car free, higher density and low and zero carbon developments with a range of local services and facilities that are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. In this way, we can help to reduce the need to travel and promote greener lifestyles.

**Making greener choices**

We all need to ensure that we make informed decisions on the need to travel and the environmental consequences of flying. We also need to consider using greener travel alternatives, including rail travel, for destinations within Britain and the rest of the EU, to reduce our overall carbon footprint and to help protect our planet from climate change.
Through working together with our partners in the local community, transport providers and others, we can learn and become better informed as a result.

Therefore, the council will work with other organisations and EU city networks to:

- learn from others and share our own experiences on the development of green transport initiatives
- campaign on the benefits of sustainable transport on a wider policy platform
- pilot sustainable transport projects and seek support for changes in thinking and policies to support low and zero carbon travel

Sustainable transport projects are funded by a range of mechanisms that include the Local Implementation Plan, planning contributions, Transport for London direct funding and other sources.
Greener, climate-friendly transport

– Better practice examples

Roche Road: Tower Hamlets
Walking bridge

Velib scheme: Paris

Finsbury Park: Islington
TfL cycling facilities

Vauxhall Cross: Lambeth

TfL public transport interchange incorporating solar panels

Community car club
Action plan measures

– 2008–2033

Climate change
– Towards zero carbon travel
  > develop clear zones in Tower Hamlets
  > protect green areas from unnecessary loss of gardens to car parking
  > explore carbon trading scheme/differential parking charges
  > test congestion charging initiatives
  > increase the level of car free development
  > support community car clubs

Green city living > 1
– Promoting walking, cycling and creating better public spaces
  > promote walking, cycling and training initiatives
  > encourage travel plans
  > develop High Street 2012
  > safer streets for all

Green city living > 2
– Promoting public transport
  > investigate the feasibility of an Eastend Tram as part of a London-wide tram network
  > promote new rail stations
  > take part in travel awareness campaigns
  > encourage more use of waterways

Green city living > 3
– Reducing the need to travel
  > implement greener policies
  > connecting town centres

Partnerships and funding
– Working together
  > increase links with partners and the community
  > investigate additional funding streams for sustainable transport measures
  > pilot renewable energy technology in public transport systems
  > capture resources to fund sustainable transport measures
  > lobby and establish network links
For more information on **Making connections** contact:

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Development and Renewal Directorate  
Tower Hamlets Council  
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Other contacts:  
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tel: 020 7983 4000  
web: www.london.gov.uk

**Transport for London**  
London travel information  
tel: 020 7222 1234  
textphone: 020 7918 3015  
web: www.tfl.gov.uk

**London Climate Change Agency**  
tel: 020 7593 8285  
web: www.lcca.co.uk

**Transport Direct**  
web: www.transportdirect.info

**National Rail Enquiries**  
tel: 08457 48 49 50  
textphone: 0845 60 50 600  
web: www.nationalrail.co.uk

**Department for Transport (DfT)**  
tel: 020 7944 8300  
web: www.dft.gov.uk

**Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)**  
tel: 020 7944 4400  
web: www.communities.gov.uk

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)**  
tel: 08459 33 55 77  
web: www.defra.gov.uk

**UK Climate Impacts Programme**  
tel: 01865 285717  
web: www.ukcip.org.uk

**European Local Transport Information Service (ELTIS)**  
web: www.eltis.org

**Eurocities**  
web: www.eurocities.org

**Polis**  
web: www.polis-online.org

**European Union (EU)**  
web: www.europa.eu.int

**Energy Saving Trust**  
tel: 0800 085 2005  
web: www.est.org.uk

**Carbon Trust**  
tel: 0800 085 2005  
web: www.carbontrust.co.uk

**Tower Hamlets Wheelers**  
web: www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk

**carplus – rethinking car use**  
tel: 0113 234 9299  
web: www.carplus.org.uk
Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 5.00pm  

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