

Making connections

> Towards a climate-friendly transport future > 2008-2033



2007 - 2008
School Improvement
2003 - 2007
Winner of 5 previous
Beacon Awards



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



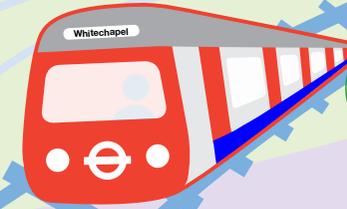
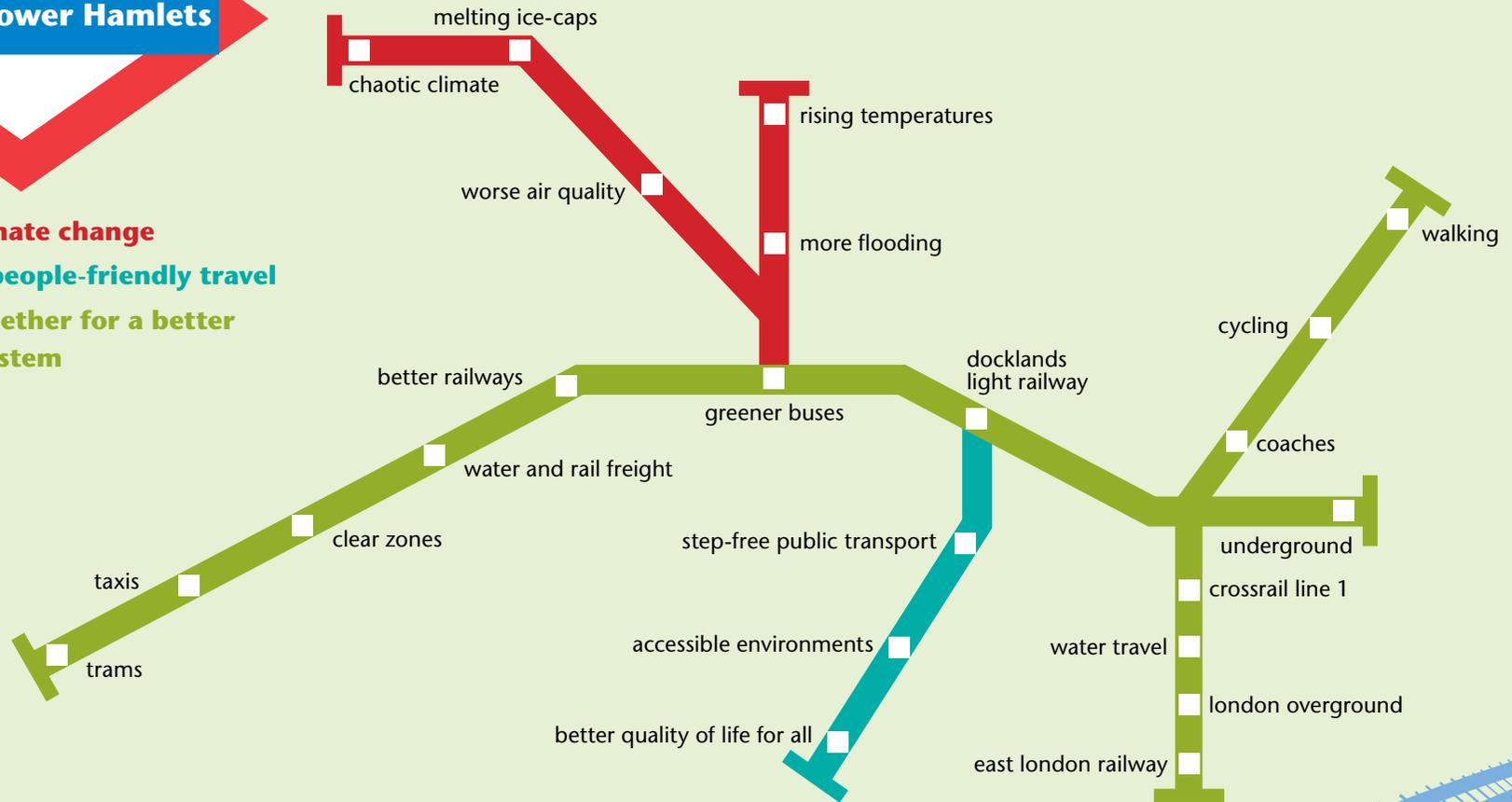
TOWER HAMLETS

Next stop

– Climate and people-friendly travel

Network Tower Hamlets

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



Foreword

– Time for change – changing the way we travel

Making connections – towards a climate-friendly transport future – 2008–2033 explains how Tower Hamlets Council is working with our partners to develop a green, climate and people-friendly transport network.

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.

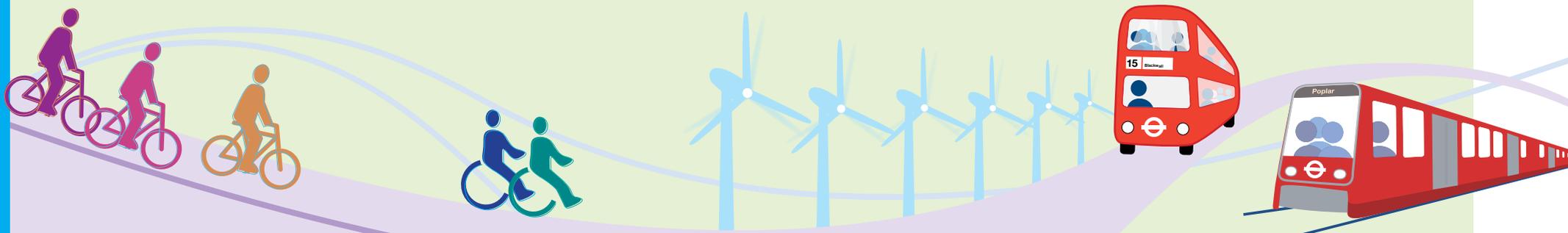
Autumn 2008



Councillor Marc Francis
Lead Member
Housing and Development



Councillor Abdal Ullah
Lead Member
Cleaner, Safer, Greener



Climate change

– Towards zero carbon travel

Green city living > 1

– Promoting walking, cycling and creating better public spaces

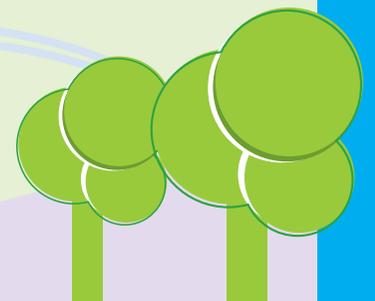
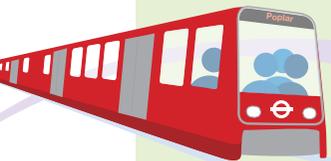
Making connections

Green city living > 2

– Promoting public transport

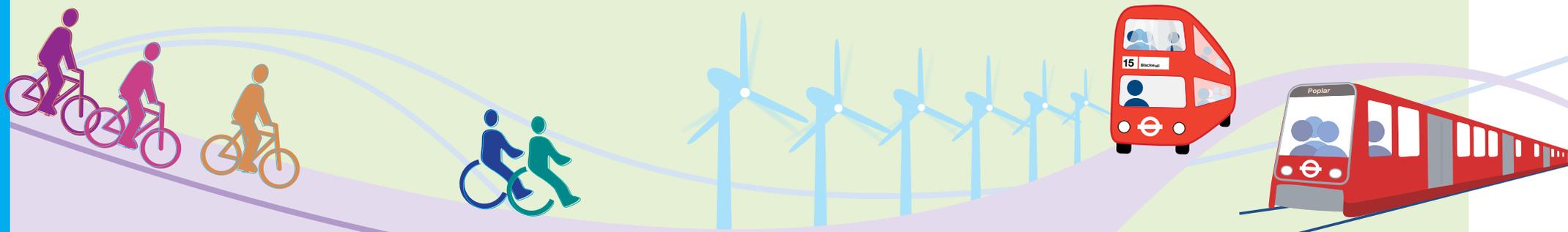
Green city living > 3

– 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



Introduction

– What this **Making connections** booklet does

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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.

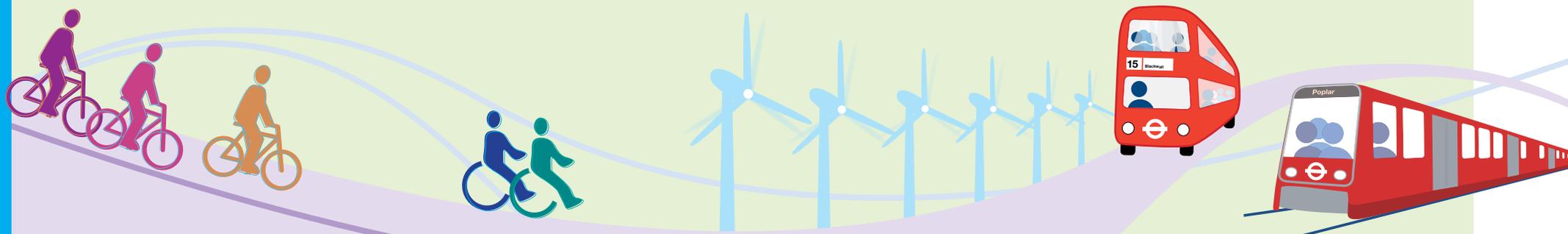
The council has produced a set of plans that set out how we will achieve this.

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.



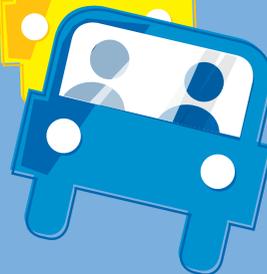
pollution levels are around 4 times higher inside a car than outside on the street



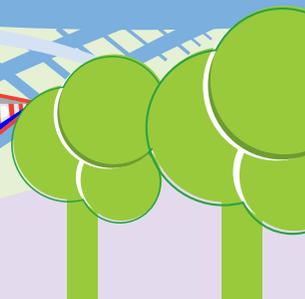
around **25%** of EU carbon emissions are from

road transport

up to **20,000** people die early each year in the UK due to motor traffic-related air pollution



nearly 25% of all citizens in the UK are now **obese**



Our green travel future

– Context

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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.

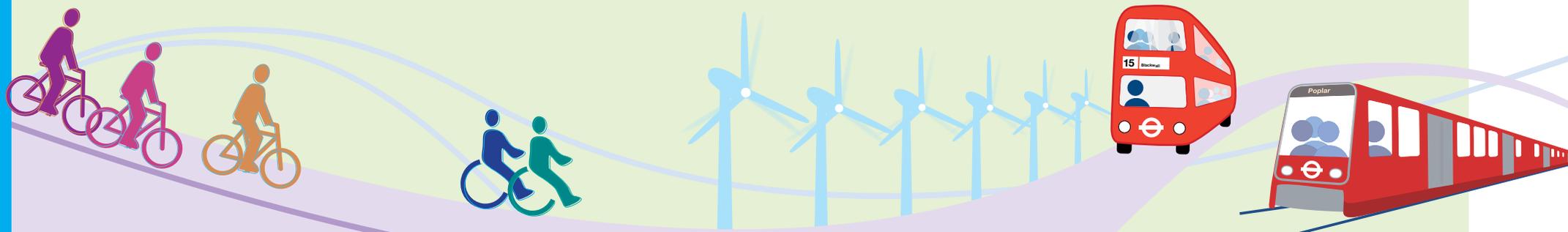
Tower Hamlets Council is already responding to this challenge and is taking strides to promote greener, more climate-friendly travel. Walking, cycling and public transport initiatives already form part of the council's ongoing commitment to create a healthier and more accessible environment to reduce 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



Climate change

– Towards zero carbon travel

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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

- > **clear zones** – the main focus of this initiative is to improve air quality and reduce CO₂ emissions by encouraging a shift to walking, cycling and public transport and to make our streets more liveable

4. Greener, climate-friendly travel

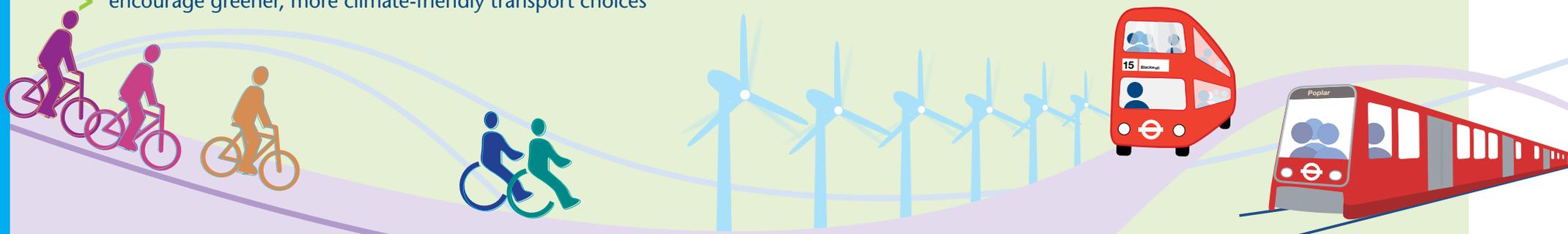
Increasing the percentage of **car free developments** and encourage the development of local **community car clubs** as an alternative to building schemes that are car dependent to:

- > 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

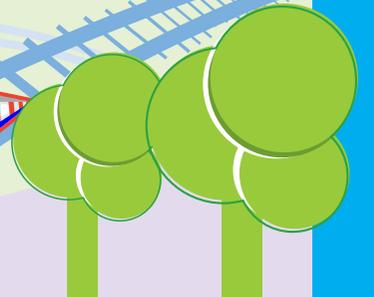
5. Costing travel options

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



cycling
green spaces
walking
bike hire schemes
high street 2012
travel plans



Green city living > 1

– Promoting walking, cycling and creating better public spaces

11

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

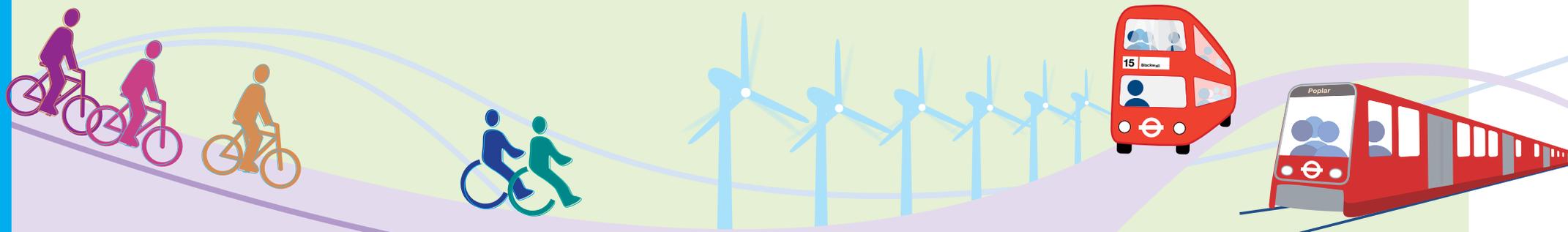
Working to **retain and enhance green areas** and trees from being lost by the creation of inappropriate car parking provision to:

- > protect and maintain biodiversity, reduce flooding and maintain our 'green city lungs' that help absorb CO₂

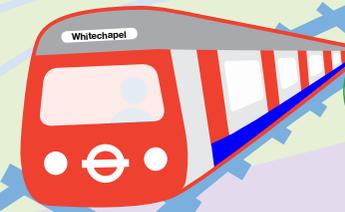
4. London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

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



Green city living > 2

– Promoting public transport

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

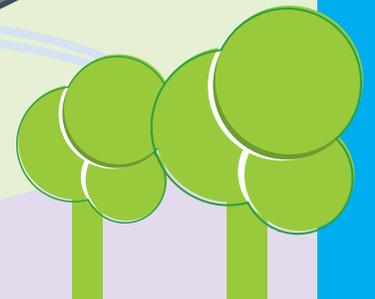
Working in partnership to:

- > provide an inclusive transport system and better public spaces that are accessible to everyone



intercity
train travel emits
up to **75%** less
carbon than going
by car or air

Eurostar journeys
emit **10 times less**
than flying



Green city living > 3

– Reducing the need to travel

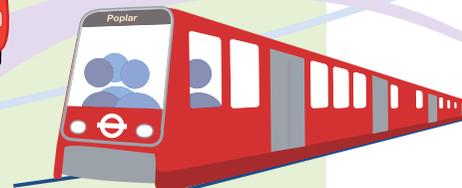
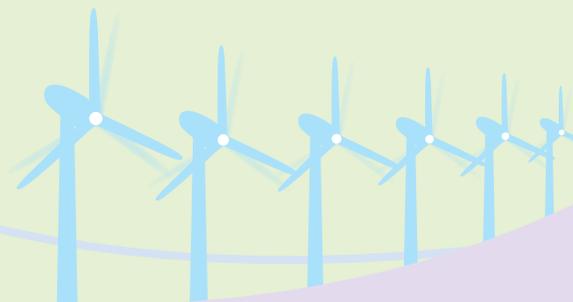
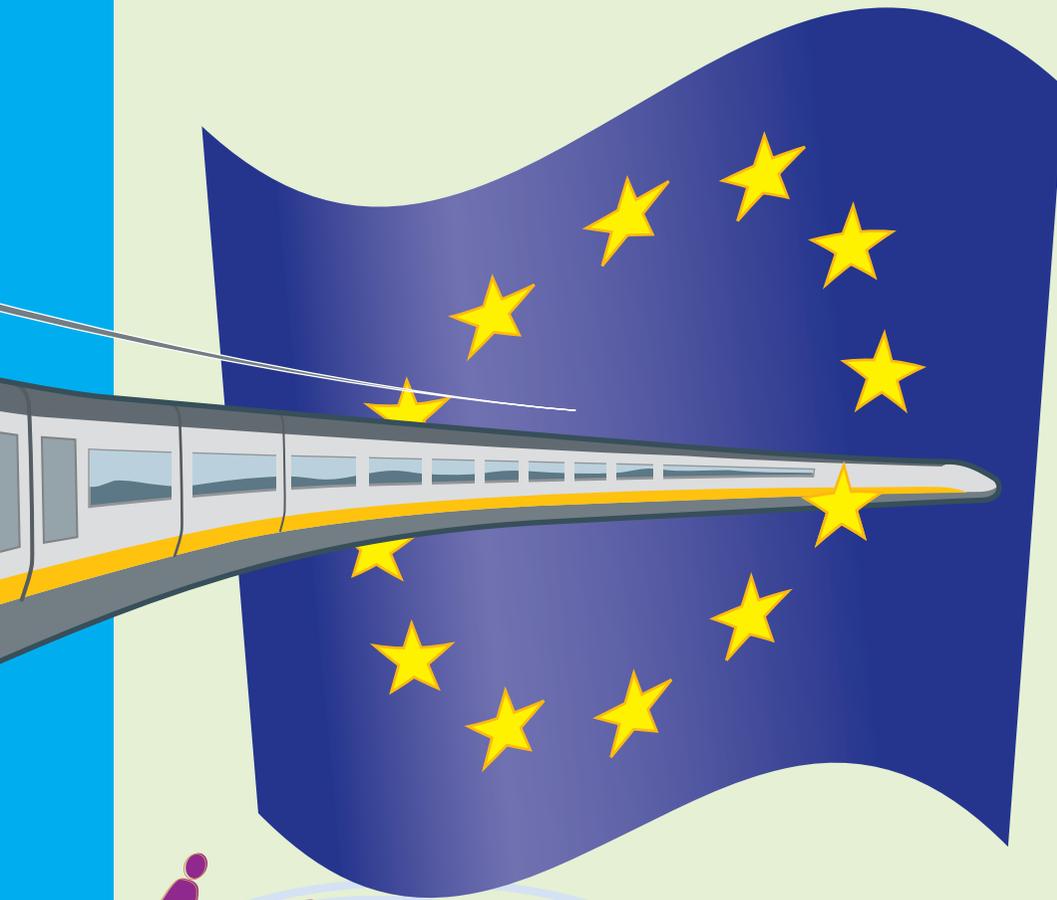
15

Shaping our borough

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.



Transport for London

Greater London Authority

London Development Agency

Network Rail

British Waterways

Energy Saving Trust **Carbon Trust**

London Councils

Thames Gateway London Partnership

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Local Government Association

Homes and Communities Agency **NHS**

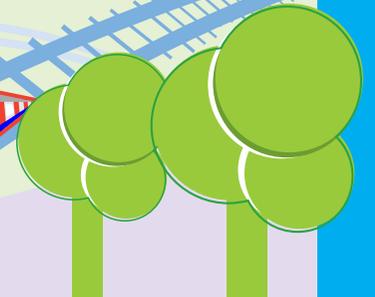
Cross River Partnership

Sustrans Living Streets

EU city networks

London Cycling Campaign

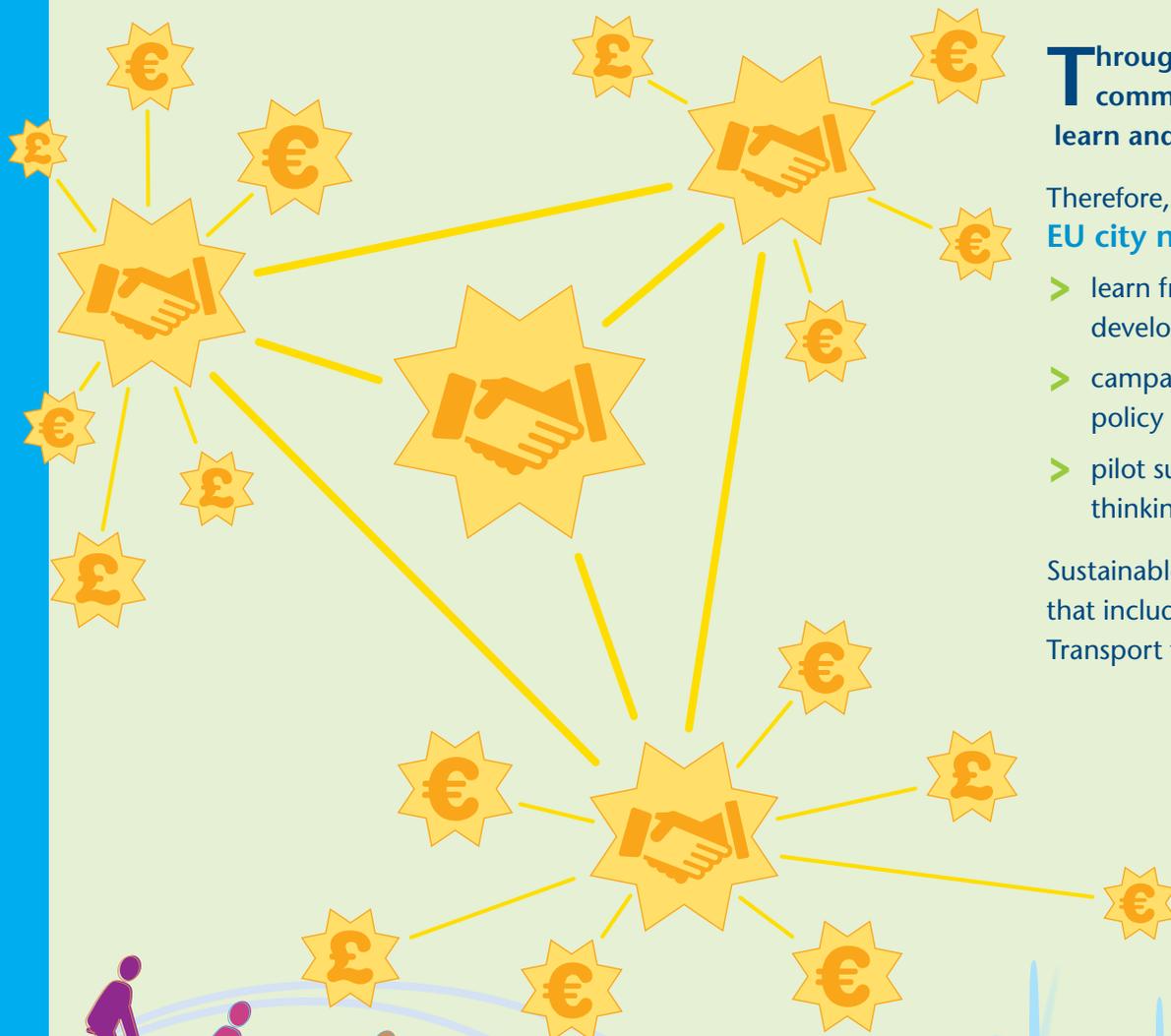
Other local councils and organisations



Partnerships and funding

– Working together

17

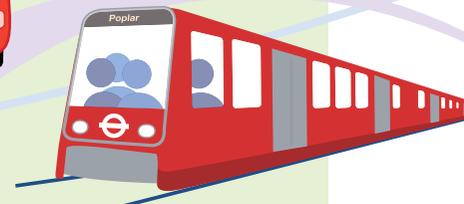
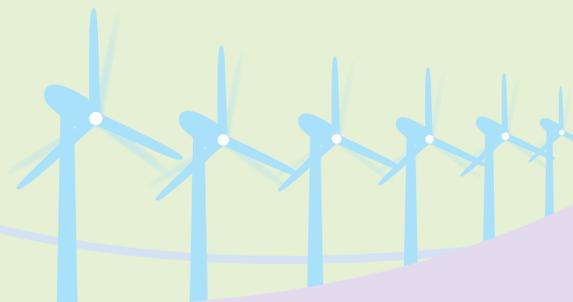
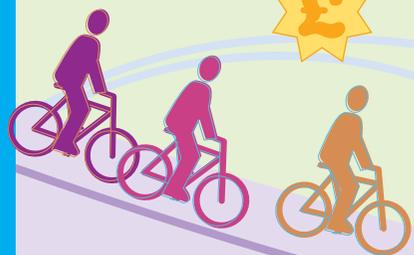


Through working together with our partners in the local community, transport providers and others, we can learn and become better informed as a result.

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

18



Roche Road: Tower Hamlets

Walking bridge

Bike hire scheme



Velib scheme: Paris



Finsbury Park: Islington

TfL cycling facilities

TfL public transport interchange incorporating solar panels

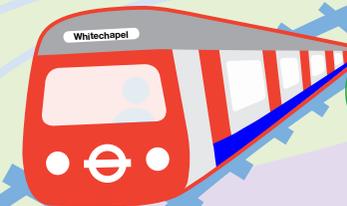


Vauxhall Cross: Lambeth



image: streetCar

Community car club



Action plan measures

– 2008–2033

19

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 > 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

Green city living > 1

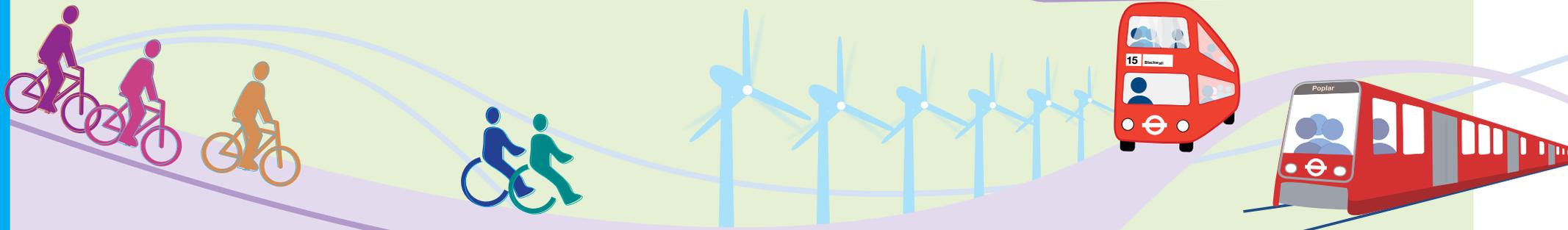
– Promoting walking, cycling and creating better public spaces

- > promote walking, cycling and training initiatives
- > encourage travel plans
- > develop High Street 2012
- > safer streets for all

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



Useful contacts

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For more information on
Making connections contact:

Strategic Transport team
Major Project Development Division
Development and Renewal Directorate
Tower Hamlets Council
tel: 020 7364 2541
email: planning@towerhamlets.gov.uk
web: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Other contacts:

Greater London Authority

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: 020 7222 0101
web: www.est.org.uk

Carbon Trust

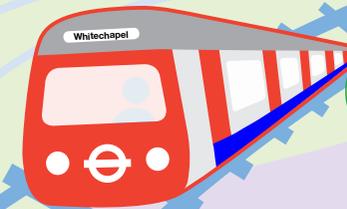
tel: 0800 085 2005
web: www.carbontrust.co.uk

Tower Hamlets Wheelers

web: www.towerhamletswheelers.org.uk

carplus – rethinking car use

tel: 0113 234 9299
web: www.carplus.org.uk



Translations

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm



THTV/3/07

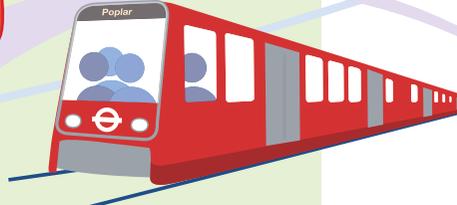
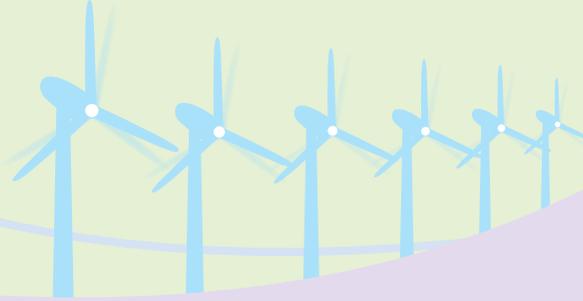
English	For free translation phone
Arabic	للترجمة المجانية الرجاء الاتصال هاتفياً.
Chinese	欲索取免費譯本，請致電。
French	Pour une traduction gratuite, téléphonez
Hindi	मुफ्त अनुवाद के लिए फोन कीजिए
Malayalam	സൗജന്യമായി ബന്ധപ്പെടുക
Somali	Turjubaan lacag la'aan ah ka soo wac telefoonka.
Portuguese	Para uma tradução grátis, telefone.
Bengali/Sylheti	বিনামূলিতে অনুবাদের জন্য টেলিফোন করুন
Gujarati	મફત ભાષાંતર માટે ફોન કરો.
Punjabi	ਮੁਫਤ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਲਈ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ
Urdu	مفت ترجمے کے لیے فون کیجئے۔
Serbo-Croat	Za besplatne prevode pozovite
Spanish	Para obtener una traducción telefónica gratuita llame al:
Russian	Перевод – бесплатно. Звоните.
Albanian	Për një përkthim falas telefononi.
Tamil	இலவச மொழிபெயர்ப்பிற்கு தொலைபேசி செய்யுங்கள்.
Greek	Για δωρεάν μετάφραση, τηλεφωνήστε.
Turkish	Ücretsiz çeviri için telefon edin.
Vietnamese	Điện thoại để được thông dịch miễn phí.
Kurdish	بۆ وەرگیران (تەرجومەکردن) بە خۆباریی، تەلهفۆن بکە.
Lithuanian	Del nemokamo vertimo skambinkite
Polish	Po bezpłatne tłumaczenia prosimy dzwonic

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www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

