

Chapter 12 Monitoring

Just Space starts from the position that the London Plan is meaningless if the implementation of its policies cannot be effectively monitored. We have been concerned in the past with the rather simplistic monitoring of the London Plan and its failure to address the social dimension of planning. Now we are presented with just 12 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), down from 24 KPIs in the current London Plan; the justification for this slimmed down schedule should be open to discussion.

Given the range of statutory duties on the Mayor, including the achievement of sustainable development, and the Mayor's A City for All Londoners, Just Space has proposed a rebalancing of indicators across the 3 dimensions of sustainable development. That there be more on social and economic dimensions with some of the environmental indicators, particularly the more nuanced ones, being adopted by the London Sustainability Development Commission (LSDC), whose monitoring role [see London Plan IIA SR para 7.5.4] would benefit from a higher profile.

Our proposed list of monitoring indicators which should all be reported in the Annual Monitoring Report is:

Fair and inclusive city: with a particular focus on equalities – gender, ethnicity and disability – and the socio-economic. Race on the Agenda, Women's Resource Centre, Equality Trust, My Fair City and disability organisations could assist on this.

Civil society: measuring its development across a range of issues and levels of participation - not just volunteering levels - including the diversity of voices being heard and the degree of achieving impact, levels of trust in authorities.

Health: at least, add in healthy life expectancy and infant mortality rates, together with groups with protected characteristics.

Economic: in-work poverty, household income after housing costs, gender and ethnicity disparities, diversity and range of offer of businesses, good jobs that are secure paying at least the London Living Wage. Note that these indicators have been given detailed expression in Just Space Towards a Community Led Plan.

Workspace: monitor low cost workspace and affordable workspace using all proposed use classes, beyond B1

Employment: monitor apprenticeships, local jobs, job types and sectors, the quality of jobs

Housing: monitoring of gains (and losses) of dwellings in each rental category and requiring the Mayor to work with boroughs to ensure that agreed rental levels and tenure mixes are sustained in the long run by providers

monitoring compliance with internal space standards and external playspace/open space standards

meeting the local and diverse needs of people, using such measures as the proportion of local waiting lists able to afford new homes locally on offer, community-led housing, specialist priorities.

Environment: measuring the progress towards lifetime neighbourhoods and lifetime suburbs (as an additional spatial development option).

Societal trends and issues: Whilst most indicators need to be quantitative, it is important to have an indicator(s) that is **qualitative** to allow for context and meaning. This can be achieved by making use of the Justmap surveys of London's community groups at an appropriate time before each Annual Monitoring Report.

Air Quality: of the proposed 12 KPIs in the Plan, given the prevailing illegal levels of polluted air, this is the least effective in measuring positive change. Currently, and this will continue to be so if the Plan is adopted, it is a policy requirement that developments should be at least Air Quality Neutral.

Since the primary focus of Air Quality policy is to remedy the illegal levels of pollution, especially for vulnerable people, there could be more incisive KPIs. For example, the populations living within legal and illegal areas of pollution and the population data could drill down to identify the sizes of the vulnerable cohorts and the trends over the years monitored. This would have the distinct merit of seeing if the Policy and Proposals are actually having positive effects.

There are many policies to cover here and we propose that the concluding section of each chapter should have its own sub set of monitoring indicators. It is also important that the GLA commission reports on the delivery of other policies for which there is not a KPI. One component of such work, which we have repeatedly called for, is longitudinal tracking of people and enterprises over the years to evaluate the impact of policies.

Some of the chapter responses have made comments on indicators that could be usefully used at this topic level whilst still having a set of higher level KPIs that are meaningful and relevant. Evaluation and monitoring, consequently, will be problematical without further targets, milestones and indicators relevant to the various Policies of the Plan.

Reviewing the progress of the Plan is not only an issue for the Plan-Monitor-Manage methodology of plan-making, compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations but one of wider democratic accountability whereby Londoners can participate in the process, enabled by ready and easy access to information.