

How we are going to get there

Policy SP7:Green Grid

SP7.1 In order to deliver new and enhanced green infrastructure commensurate with growth the Council will apply a presumption in favour of development provided applications assist in the delivery of a Green Grid and meet the requirements of Policy SP7 and other applicable policies of the development plan.

Green spaces

SP7.2 The Council will protect and safeguard the extent of the borough's Metropolitan Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and local green spaces.

SP7.3 The Council will establish a network of multi-functional open spaces, a 'Green Grid', comprising those parts of the All London Green Grid together with other green spaces within the borough as shown in Figure 6.2 Section 7 – The Places of Croydon. The Council and its partners will:

- a) Seek the provision and creation of new green spaces. With particular focus for areas deficient in access to nature, play areas, and publicly accessible recreational open space;
- b) Improve access and links to and through green spaces to encourage walking, cycling and horse-riding;
- c) Assist in the delivery of the Mayor's All London Green Grid through the implementation of the London Downlands and Wandle Valley Area Frameworks;

d) Maintain and improve the quality, function and offer of open spaces across the borough for all users; and

e) Maximise opportunities for street tree planting, green roofs, green walls and green landscaping to assist urban cooling in a changing climate.

Biodiversity

SP7.4 The Council and its partners will enhance biodiversity across the borough, assist ecological restoration and address spatial deficiencies in access to nature by:

- a) Protecting and enhancing sites of importance for biological and geological diversity;
- b) Improving the quality of current sites through habitat management;
- c) Exploring options to increase the size of wildlife areas of existing sites and creating new areas for wildlife;
- d) Enhancing connections between, or joining up sites, either through direct physical corridors, or through a series of linked sites;
- e) Reducing the pressures on wildlife and sensitive sites by improving the wider environment around wildlife sites by establishing buffer areas; and
- f) Promoting the naturalisation of landscapes and the enhancement of Croydon's natural landscape signatures.