

MOVEMENT STRATEGY UPDATES FOR THE BOARD

To note:

The Movement Strategy Vision, Principles and Outcomes below reflect all comments made by trustees both at the Board meeting on 5 November and subsequent to the meeting.

The deadline for any further comments is Monday 13 January 2020, with the intention of publishing in early February 2020.

Vision

The Royal Parks Movement Strategy will play an important role in protecting the park environments and enhancing the park visitor experience.

Movement Principles

We will protect and conserve our parks' special qualities

- Any changes or developments that affect the way visitors move within our parks should protect and enhance the heritage, character, biodiversity, wildlife and listed landscapes of the parks and must result in no net loss of trees or green space
- Our parks are places that people visit for relaxation and recreation. To make that possible, we will prioritise walking within our parks wherever possible and ensure our parks are accessible for all people, including families and those with limited mobility

We will encourage the use of more sustainable ways to access and travel through our parks

- We will encourage visitors to use active and sustainable modes of transport as their first choice for park visits whenever they can

Our park roads are not intended to be primarily commuter through-routes for motor vehicles

- Park roads are primarily for the use of park visitors coming to the parks, not for commuters just travelling through the parks. Over time, we will discourage the through-movement of motor vehicles within our parks

We will achieve more by delivering key projects through collaboration and partnership

- The transport and movement decisions of our visitors do not begin and end at our park boundaries. We will collaborate with key partners on projects both within and outside the parks, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the benefit of our visitors

We will make evidence-based decisions

- To make appropriate decisions concerning movement, we will use available and relevant evidence and data. We will monitor and report outcomes against objectives and embed continuous improvement into our approach

We will be proactive in our approach to future transport challenges and opportunities

- The transport world is changing rapidly. We will ensure that we are prepared for these changes and opportunities, so that we can anticipate and respond to change in an informed, considered and prompt way that aligns with our purpose

Outcomes**OUTCOME 1: ENSURE NO NET LOSS OF GREEN SPACE**

Protecting the park environment for all park visitors today and into the future and providing landscapes that enhance opportunities for wildlife and biodiversity. As the parks develop and change, we must ensure there is no permanent net loss of green space (by area) from a 2015 baseline, measured year on year. We will continue to protect our precious green spaces by:

- Embedding this principle into all park strategies and projects
- Offsetting any additional hard spaces with new green space
- Where possible, ensuring that proposals seek to increase or reclaim the amount of green space

OUTCOME 2: DEVELOP A VISITOR DISPERSAL AND SIGNAGE PLAN FOR EACH PARK

As the number of park visitors grows, our spaces are put under increased pressures. In order to ensure we protect the parks and enhance the visitor experience we will:

- Develop comprehensive signage plans that include wayfinding, learning and enforcement
- Develop a strategy for visitor dispersal
- Undertake work to understand visitor numbers
- Ensure signage plans in all parks are consistent, but also that the programme is nuanced enough to ensure each park maintains and celebrates its own identity

The benefits of completing this work include:

- Decluttering the parks
- Improved enforcement of park regulations
- Positive behaviour change
- Improved park intelligence and asset maintenance
- Improved visitor experience

OUTCOME 3: PROVIDE SAFER AND MORE ENJOYABLE WALKING EXPERIENCES FOR PARK VISITORS

Walking within our parks will always be our preferred method for visitors experiencing our park environments. There are some spaces, both within the parks and surrounding our parks, that provide a less than pleasant pedestrian and access experience. We intend to enhance the walking experience by:

- Ensuring all park entrances are accessible for all people, including families and people with disability or limited mobility
- Identifying locations where additional crossing points may be required
- Reducing the amount of time people wait for a green light and giving more time to cross at signalised crossings
- Providing appropriate refuge facilities for walking
- Continuing to promote considerate cycling
- Enhancing wayfinding signage

OUTCOME 4: REDUCE SPEED THROUGHOUT OUR PARKS

A reduction in speed is proven to increase the safety of all park users. It is also expected to improve the experience of the majority of visitors. We have already introduced a 20mph speed restriction for motor vehicles on the roads used by the public in the outer parks and are currently working towards achieving

this across all our parks. We will also seek to reduce speeds for all vehicles, using a package of measures including:

- Increasing pedestrian crossing points
- Introducing physical infrastructure where appropriate
- Promoting considerate cycling behaviour
- Working with parks police on enforcement

OUTCOME 5: PROMOTE CONSIDERATE CYCLING BEHAVIOUR

A number of cyclists do not demonstrate the behaviour expected by The Royal Parks when riding within our parks. In order to eliminate cycling in non-permitted areas and reduce conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians, we will:

- Continue to promote the pathway code of conduct with pedestrian priority as the key pillar
- Work with parks police to reinforce signage and target negative behaviours
- Undertake a behaviour change campaign

OUTCOME 6: REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF THROUGH TRAFFIC WITHIN OUR PARKS

From numerous traffic studies we know that most vehicles using park roads are not stopping within the parks but are simply using the park road network as a short cut. By reducing this traffic, we will:

- Decrease emissions within the park environment
- Increase safety and make the park visitor experience more enjoyable
- Increase the safety of the parks' wildlife and ecosystems
- Reduce wear and tear on our roads and therefore maintenance costs
- Investigate the use of technology to reduce speed

Working towards the goal of significantly reducing non-park, car-based traffic within our park, we will:

- Explore opportunities to close or restrict park roads to through traffic
- Explore and implement regular car-free days. Many of our parks already do this (e.g. The Mall is closed on Sundays). We will look to expand and increase these days where appropriate
- Explore opportunities to use technology to restrict commercial traffic on park roads (e.g. Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras)
- Re-programme reclaimed spaces for park visitor usage

OUTCOME 7: MINIMISE THE MOVEMENT OF OPERATIONAL VEHICLES WITHIN THE PARKS

There is a limited amount of essential traffic within the parks, which includes The Royal Parks' service vehicles, concession deliveries, events and waste management. We will seek to consolidate and minimise these vehicle movements and patterns where appropriate by:

- Working with our events teams to improve traffic management plans for set up and event patrons
- Optimise waste collection in line with the Sustainability Action Plan
- Continue to reduce staff vehicles where possible
- Transition existing fleet to electric where possible