


**Measuring up:
Why measure? What should we
measure? What does it matter?**

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Why measure?

This should be fairly obvious....

- **To know what we need to tackle**
- **To know what our actions are doing to our environment and our health**
- **To see if what we're doing is making a difference**

And so on....

What should we measure?

What are we trying to achieve?

- To improve our environment?
- To deliver genuinely sustainable development?

Environmental measures? No shortage....

There are the measures used by the GLA

- 1 Area of Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land in each borough.
- 2 Area of derelict land in each borough.
- 3 Number of allotment sites in each borough.
- 4 Changes in area of recreational open space in each borough (hectares).
- 5 Length of non-tidal river restored per annum (metres).
- 6 Average domestic water consumption per capita (litres per day).
- 7 Average domestic water consumption per household (litres per day).
- 8 Water supply losses due to leakage.

And these...

- 9 Number of closures per annum of the Thames Barrier to prevent flooding.
- 10 Number of flood alerts per annum within Greater London.
- 11 Number of properties flooded per annum in each borough.
- 12 Number of properties flooded from sewers per annum.
- 13 Groundwater levels at Trafalgar Square.
- 14 Number of pollution incidents in a year having a significant or major impact on either air, land or water.
- 15 Percentage of rivers in London where the chemical quality is classed as 'good' or 'very good'.
- 16 Percentage of rivers in London where the biological quality is classed as 'good' or 'very good'.
- 17 Bird populations in London.

And these...

- 18 Total area of wildlife sites identified in each borough (hectares).
- 19 Total emissions (tonnes per year) of the main air pollutants in Greater London.
- 20 Percentage of London covered by Air Quality Management Areas.
- 21 Number of vehicles recorded at selected points.
- 22 Number of journeys and distance travelled (per person per year).
- 23 Number of road casualties per year.
- 24 Quality of the street environment.
- 25 Percentage of highways of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness by borough.
- 26 Cleanliness Index of the Thames foreshore by borough.
- 27 Cleanliness Index of the canal network by borough.

And these...

- 28 Municipal solid waste (MSW) produced by weight.
- 29 Municipal waste management method (ie percentage to landfill, incineration and recycling).
- 30 Number (percentage) of households served by a kerbside collection of dry recyclables.
- 31 Total energy consumption.
- 32 Greenhouse gas emissions per annum.
- 33 Energy produced in London per annum from renewable sources.
- 34 Number of households in fuel poverty.
- 35 London's ecological footprint.
- 36 Ecological footprint per capita.

So...

- Some are London wide
- Some data quality is poor
- Some are much more affected by national than local action
- Many are pretty meaningless to a lot of people....
- One study estimates that London's ecological footprint is now 49 million hectares – 293 times the size of London...

So what should it be?

What does all this mean for Sutton?

- Sutton has 637 hectares of green belt. You could compare this to Tower Hamlets (0 hectares) or Hillingdon (4982 hectares) (**does this mean much?**)
- Sutton has 526 hectares of municipal open land. You could compare this to Tower Hamlets (121 hectares) or Hillingdon (37 hectares) (**means a bit more?**)
- Sutton has 26.8% of land which is green space. You could compare this to Tower Hamlets (6.1%) or Hillingdon (44.7%) and the picture become a bit clearer....

And what does this do for the health of people in Tower Hamlets?

It's about change...

- How things are changing
- Why things are changing
- What we need to change

Consider open spaces again:

According to the GLA, from 1998 – 2000 Sutton gained 1 recreational open space and lost 4.

Tower Hamlets gained 1 and lost 2, while Hillingdon gained 14 and lost 1.

Richmond gained 7 and lost none, while Lewisham gained 9 but lost 10

And it's about who's worried....

table 21 Public perceptions of some of London's environmental problems

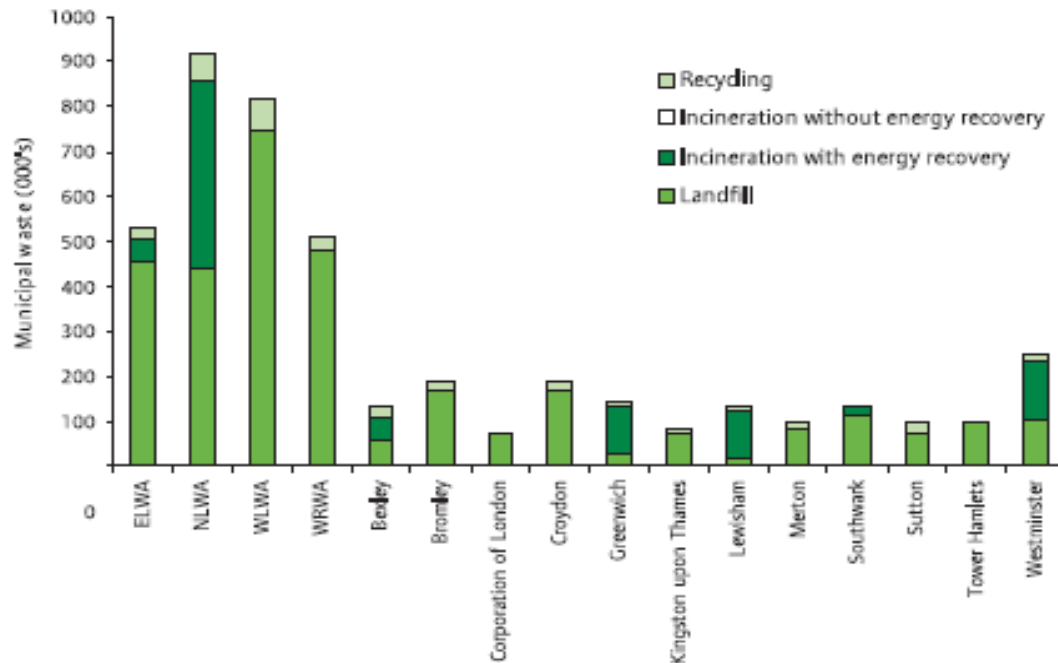
	Major problem			No problem		Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Litter	38	32	17	9	4	1
Air quality	32	31	20	9	5	3
Fly-tipping and illegal dumping	30	30	21	9	8	3
Noise	26	31	21	13	9	1
Pollution of rivers and streams	20	26	23	13	7	12
Loss of green spaces	16	25	27	18	10	3
Access to nature	9	19	25	26	17	4
Quality of parks/open spaces	7	18	25	29	20	2

The 'cleaner and greener' angle

- Litter and clean streets remain high priorities for many people, and everyone complains...
- Sutton is actually high on the list
 - 98% of Suttons' roads are at a high or acceptable standard (compare with Croydon 95%, Enfield 84%, Hackney 50%)
 - One of the four highest boroughs in terms of door-to-door recycling

But there are other issues.... (again, Sutton comes out well)

figure 32 Municipal waste by management type and waste disposal authority 2000-01



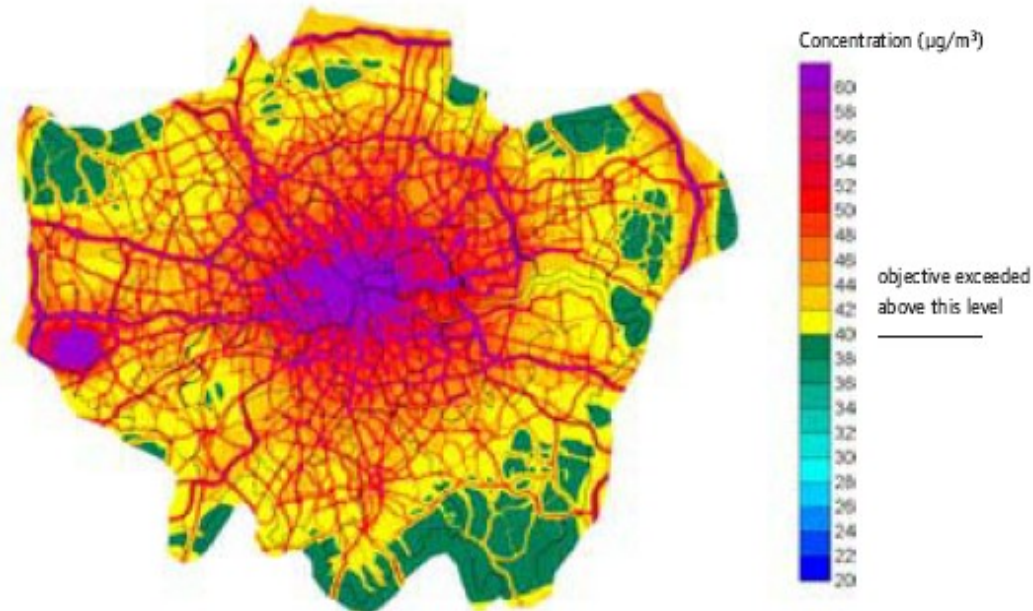
source Greater London Authority Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2002

Drawing the strands together

- Every borough starts from a different points and has different pressures and priorities.
- It's not just about London issues
- It's also not just about issues at a London or borough level – borough measures and indicators can conceal local variations and inequalities.

It's also about change – how we change this....

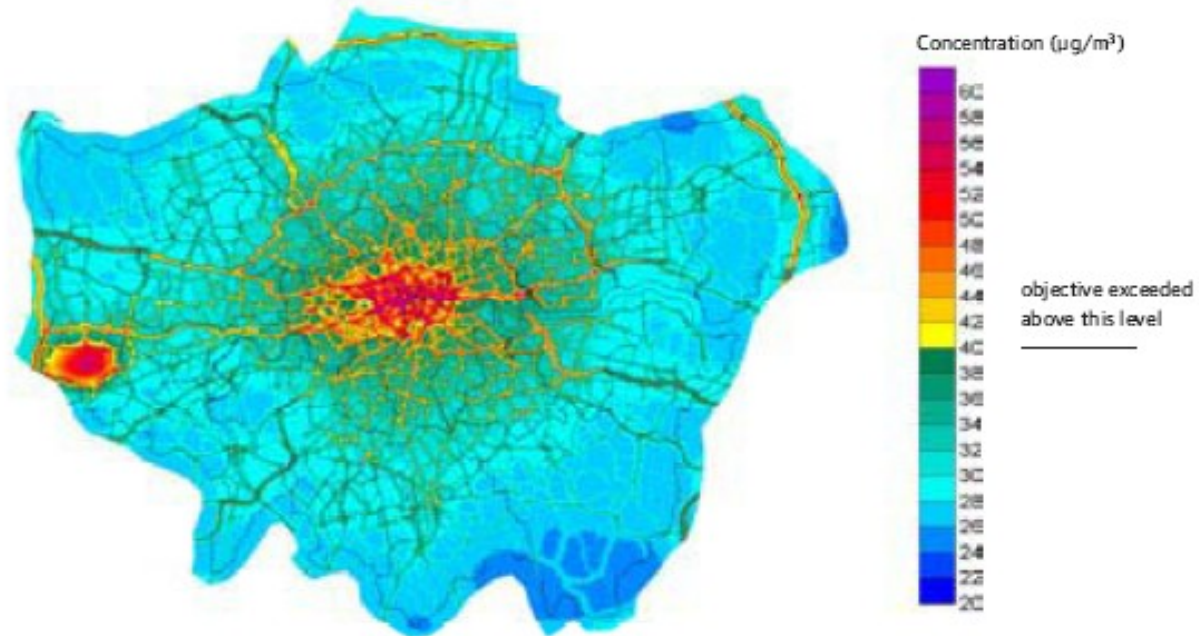
figure 24 'Current' modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations



1999 annual mean NO_2 concentrations in micrograms per cubic metre ('poor' weather year), above 40 micrograms per cubic metre indicates where the 2005 objective is exceeded

To this.... (and beyond...)

figure 25 Future modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations



2005 projections of annual mean NO₂ concentrations in micrograms per cubic metre ('poor' weather year), incorporating measures from the Mayor's Strategies

So where does what we do fit in to this?

- A big focus on individual & household action, but this has mostly reached those ready to change
- There is a need for more collective and community action
- Local action has a key part to play in building engagement

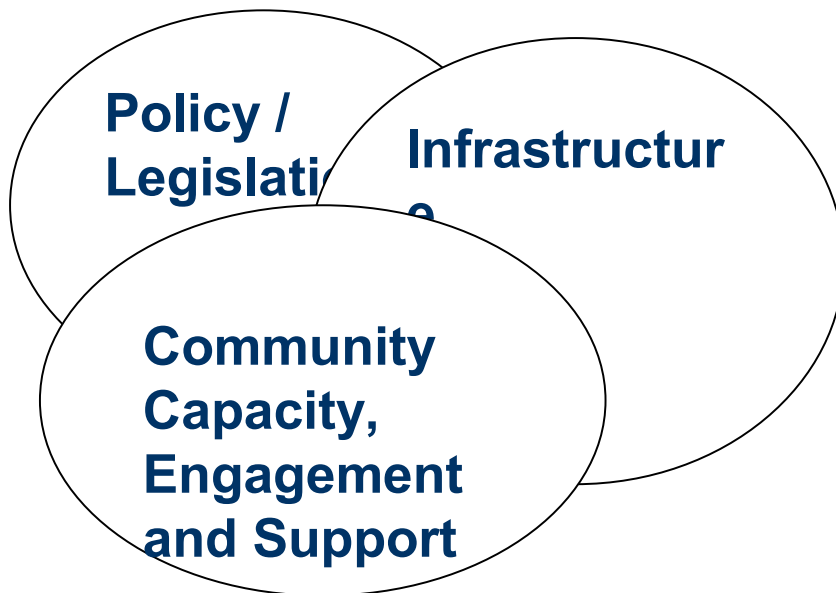
We are part of the process of sustainable change

Long-term change needs

- Effective Policy
- An Infrastructure to help make the change
- Support from people and communities (which means building capacity to engage)

Three aspects to long-term change

- These three are all linked: it is difficult to deliver change without action on all three.



Making change happen locally

- Individuals: action and encouragement
- Councils: infrastructure, information, encouragement and leadership
- Communities: people working together can help overcome suspicion and help generate not just action but a recognition of and demand for long-term policy change