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Report: Environmental Strategy

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Royal Victoria Dock West (RVDW) Environmental Strategy sets out a clear and ambitious framework to guide the sustainable development and long-term stewardship of the site. It supports the delivery of three Priority Projects; Floating Residential, Floating Wellness and Floating Park, ensuring that environmental performance, climate resilience and social value are embedded from the outset.

At its core, the Strategy responds to the unique character of the Royal Docks, recognising the opportunity to create a waterfront development that is environmentally resilient, socially inclusive and ecologically rich. It establishes a coordinated approach across four interconnected themes: biodiversity and ecology; climate change resilience and adaptation; social impact; and sustainability and net zero. Together, these themes provide a holistic framework that integrates environmental performance with high-quality place-making.

The Strategy is underpinned by a suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which provide measurable benchmarks to guide design, assess proposals and monitor performance over time. These are structured as Core Requirements, which must be delivered by specific Priority Projects, and Supporting Requirements, which should be considered across all projects to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach. This ensures that each project contributes to the overall environmental vision, while focusing on the areas where it can have the greatest impact.

Across the four themes, the Strategy seeks to deliver tangible environmental and social outcomes. This includes enhancing biodiversity and water quality, integrating nature-based solutions, and improving resilience to climate risks such as flooding and overheating. It also places strong emphasis on social value, promoting access to green and blue spaces, inclusive community participation, and improved health and wellbeing. These ambitions are supported by a commitment to reducing whole-life carbon and enabling the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient built environment.

The Environmental Strategy will inform future procurement processes, particularly for the Floating Residential and Floating Wellness projects. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they respond to the Strategy, including clear alignment with Core Requirements and a robust approach to addressing Supporting Requirements. This framework supports transparent evaluation while encouraging high-quality, ambitious and deliverable proposals.

This document is intended to function as a live framework that will evolve over time. As projects progress and new information emerges, the Strategy will be refined to reflect changes in policy, best practice and local priorities. In doing so, it will continue to guide the delivery of RVDW as a resilient, inclusive and environmentally responsible waterfront destination.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Greengage Environmental Ltd has been commissioned by Royal Docks Waterways (RDW), the client, to prepare a holistic Environmental Strategy relating to the onward management of the Royal Victoria Dock West and the delivery of its three Priority Projects: Floating Residential, Floating Wellness and Floating Park.

1.1 HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

The Environmental Strategy establishes a clear and coordinated framework to guide environmental performance across all projects at RVDW. It sets out a series of overarching objectives for RDW, designed to be embedded within the design, procurement, delivery and operational phases of each Priority Project. In doing so, it aligns with evolving national and regional planning policy, industry best practice, and the growing expectations placed on the built environment sector to respond proactively to the climate and ecological emergencies.

This document defines the environmental vision for RVDW and sets the direction for its long-term stewardship. It outlines clear expectations for developers and delivery partners, including the principles, standards, and performance requirements that must be addressed within competitive bids. By setting these requirements at the outset, environmental performance is positioned as a core consideration in both design and commercial proposals.

Design teams are responsible for ensuring that all external partners and stakeholders are aware of and apply this Strategy. Developers must demonstrate, through their submissions, how their proposals will meet and, where possible, exceed the objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined herein. Further detail on KPIs, including their rationale and reporting requirements, is provided in Appendix A.

1.2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

The Environmental Strategy is underpinned by a suite of KPIs, which provide a consistent mechanism for assessing emerging proposals, monitoring compliance, and driving continuous improvement as designs evolve, as well as during the operation and management of the projects following design. The document is intended to be used by all design teams, consultants and relevant stakeholders to ensure environmental considerations are fully integrated into decision-making from inception through to long-term stewardship.

The KPIs are structured around four core environmental themes:

1. ***Ecology - identifying priority species and sensitive receptors, and defining appropriate protection, enhancement and biodiversity net gain interventions.***

Biodiversity loss is recognised as one of the most pressing environmental challenges globally. In the UK context, the introduction of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements reinforces the need for developments to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state. For waterfront environments such as RVDW, ecological sensitivity is particularly pronounced, with aquatic habitats, bird species and intertidal ecosystems requiring careful consideration. Embedding ecological enhancement into design not only ensures regulatory compliance but also strengthens ecosystem services, improves climate resilience, and enhances the character and amenity value of the place.

2. ***Climate Change - addressing resilience to climate risks and adaptation measures to ensure long-term environmental robustness.***

   The increasing frequency of extreme weather events, including heatwaves, flooding and storm surges, requires developments to be designed with long-term resilience in mind. Integrating climate mitigation and adaptation measures from the outset reduces future retrofit costs, safeguards asset value, and ensures the safety and comfort of occupants.

3. ***Social Impact - ensuring environmental actions deliver measurable social value, informed by analysis of demographics, diversity, health, education, housing and economic activity.***

   Sustainable development extends beyond environmental metrics to encompass social equity and community wellbeing. The built environment has a direct influence on public health, access to green space, social cohesion and economic opportunity. By integrating social value considerations into environmental decision-making, the Strategy recognises that resilient places are those that respond to local needs and reduce inequalities. This approach aligns with contemporary planning policy, ensuring that environmental performance contributes tangibly to improved quality of life and inclusive growth.

4. ***Sustainability and Net Zero - focusing on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions**, **responsible material selection, embodied carbon reduction, operational energy performance and alignment with net zero ambitions.***

   The construction and operation of buildings and infrastructure account for a significant proportion of global carbon emissions. In response to legally binding carbon reduction targets and local net zero commitments, developments must demonstrably reduce both embodied and operational emissions. The transition to a low-carbon economy requires fundamental changes in how materials are sourced, buildings are constructed, and assets are operated. Embodied carbon within materials such as concrete and steel represents a substantial proportion of a project's lifetime emissions. Prioritising circular economy principles, low-carbon materials, efficient energy systems and whole-life carbon assessment ensures that developments align with national and regional net zero trajectories. Embedding these principles at RVDW supports long-term cost efficiency, regulatory compliance and investor confidence.

Together, these themes reflect the interconnected priorities shaping the environmental and construction sectors today. They respond to statutory requirements, climate science, biodiversity legislation, and community expectations, while also recognising the unique characteristics of a dockside environment. By structuring the Strategy around Climate Change, Ecology, Social Impact, and Sustainability and Net Zero, RDW ensures that

environmental performance is not treated as a standalone discipline, but as a fundamental driver of place-making, resilience and long-term value at RVDW.

1.3 KPI FRAMEWORK

To support a clear and consistent approach to environmental performance across RVDW, all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within this Strategy are structured under two categories: Core Requirements and Supporting Requirements.

This framework reflects the fact that all KPIs are relevant to the overall environmental ambitions for RVDW, but their degree of relevance and emphasis will vary between the three Priority Projects. To help bidders interpret this, the following notation is used throughout the document:

- A solid tick indicates that the KPI is a Core Requirement for that Priority Project and must be met as part of the proposal.
- A dashed tick indicates that the KPI is a Supporting Requirement. While it may not be directly relevant to that Priority Project, it should still be considered and addressed where appropriate.

This means that all KPIs should be considered by bidders across all Priority Projects. However, those identified with a solid tick are the KPIs that must be demonstrably met for that specific project, while those marked with a dashed tick should be considered as part of a broader, integrated response to the Strategy.

For example, ecological enhancement is likely to be most directly relevant to the Park Priority Project and may therefore be identified there as a Core Requirement. However, the Residential and Wellness Priority Projects should still consider how they can contribute to ecological enhancement, even where it is identified only as a Supporting Requirement.

This approach ensures that each Priority Project responds to the Strategy in a way that is both targeted and holistic: targeted in meeting the requirements most critical to its function, and holistic in recognising its contribution to the wider environmental ambitions of RVDW.

Core Requirements

Core Requirements are the KPIs that must be met for a specific Priority Project. They represent the principal environmental outcomes expected of that project and will form a key part of compliance and evaluation. These requirements are those considered fundamental to the successful delivery of the Strategy within the context of that particular project. Bidders must clearly demonstrate how their proposals will achieve them.

Core Requirements identify where a KPI is expected to be primarily delivered, reflecting the areas where each Priority Project has the greatest opportunity to contribute to the Strategy's objectives. As such, they represent the primary outcomes against which proposals will be assessed.

Core Requirements are typically those that:

- Are central to the purpose and environmental performance of the Priority Project;
- Are necessary to deliver the overarching objectives of the Strategy; and
- Represent the primary outcomes against which proposals will be assessed.

While Core Requirements define where KPIs must be met, they should be read alongside Supporting Requirements, which ensure that all Priority Projects contribute, where appropriate, to the wider environmental ambitions of RVDW.

Supporting Requirements

Supporting Requirements are KPIs that, while not identified as Core Requirements for a particular Priority Project, should still be considered and addressed where relevant and feasible.

They ensure that all Priority Projects contribute, where appropriate, to the wider environmental ambitions of RVDW, even where a KPI is not a primary driver of that specific project. Bidders should therefore demonstrate how their proposals have considered Supporting Requirements and identify opportunities to respond positively within their scheme.

For example, a KPI such as ecological enhancement may be identified as a Core Requirement for the Floating Park, where it is central to the project's purpose. However, the Residential and Wellness Priority Projects should still consider how they can support ecological outcomes, such as through planting, green roofs, or habitat features, even where this KPI is identified as a Supporting Requirement.

Supporting Requirements:

- Promote a coordinated and integrated approach across all Priority Projects;
- Encourage proportionate contributions to wider environmental objectives; and
- Support delivery of the Strategy beyond the primary scope of individual projects.

1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Within this document, responsibilities refer to the duties and accountabilities assigned to relevant parties in relation to the planning, delivery, and ongoing management of the park and its associated water environment.

These responsibilities are defined across two key phases:

- Planning and development, where obligations arise from planning requirements, consents, and design commitments; and
- Operational management, which relates to long-term maintenance, stewardship, and governance following project completion.

In some instances, a single party (such as RDW) may hold multiple roles across these phases, for example, acting as both developer and asset owner, resulting in responsibilities that evolve over time.

This document should therefore be read with an understanding that responsibilities may vary by both project stage (pre- and post-completion) and function (e.g. delivery, ownership, maintenance, or regulatory compliance).

2.0 THE VISION FOR ROYAL VICTORIA DOCK WEST

RVDW is envisioned as a crucial piece of social infrastructure and a distinctive public destination. Delivered effectively, it will make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life within the Royal Docks and the London Borough of Newham ('LBN'), while supporting the ongoing activities of the Royal Docks Waterways and enhancing the area's identity as a visitor destination. Given its prominent and highly accessible location, RVDW is uniquely positioned to accommodate a more active, diverse and animated public life within the Docks. However, proposals to increase public activity and access to the water must be carefully conceived and integrated. The ambition is to create a space that is lively but coherent, balancing operational requirements, economic viability, social value and environmental performance in equal measure.

To deliver this vision, three Priority Projects have been identified:

1. Floating wellness - a wellness centre, including lido-style swimming facilities and complementary uses to ensure everyone can safely access the water;
2. Floating park - a programme to enhance biodiversity and public water access across Royal Victoria Dock West; and
3. Floating residential - an area for high-quality mooring infrastructure, floating homes and facilities to create a long-term residential environment.

All three projects are being developed together within a single, long-term framework, guided by the same design principles, environmental standards and commitments to public access, safety and quality. This ensures that each project supports the others, and that the dock evolves as a coherent, well-balanced public place.

Figure 1: Visualisation of the proposals (Source: Royal Docks Waterways)

3.0 POLICY LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The objectives and KPIs set out in this document have been informed by a comprehensive review of strategic planning and legislative frameworks at regional, borough, and site-specific levels. Together, these documents establish the policy context within which RVDW will be delivered. Key references include:

- The London Plan (2021)[1] - setting the strategic spatial development framework for Greater London, including housing delivery, economic growth, climate resilience and inclusive design.
- The London Borough of Newham Local Plan (2018)[2] - outlining borough-level priorities for regeneration, town centres, sustainable development, and community infrastructure.
- Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham (2023)[3] - establishing a pathway toward a fair and inclusive transition to a low-carbon economy.
- 50 Steps to a Healthier Newham: Newham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2027[4] - detailing how to improve health and wellbeing in the borough.
- Royal Victoria Dock West Vision Document (2025)[5] - articulating the long-term ambition and character of the site.
- GLA Land and Property Limited Environmental Sustainability Framework (2025) - establishing an understanding of the key environmental sustainability requirements and communicate these, as well as successful implementation through the delivery process[6].
- GLA Land and Property Limited Climate Action Strategy (2025) - outlines the GLAP's framework for climate action against all GLAP's activities[7].

These documents collectively shape the environmental, social and economic aspirations of the projects and inform the performance metrics against which success will be measured. They are referenced throughout this Strategy to support the objectives and KPIs set out herein.

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[1] *Greater London Authority (2021): 'The London Plan'. Available from: https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf*
[2] *London Borough of Newham (2018): 'Newham Local Plan 2018'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1111/newham-local-plan-2018-pdf-*
[3] *London Borough of Newham (2023): 'Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/6800/newham-just-transition-plan-december-2023*
[4] *50 Steps to a Healthier Newham: Newham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2027 (2024)*
[5] *Royal Docks Waterways (2025) 'A Vision for Royal Victoria Dock West'.*
[6] *GLA Land and Property (2025) 'Climate Action Strategy'*
[7] *GLA Land and Property (2025) 'Environmental Sustainability Framework'*

4.0 BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY

4.1 CONTEXT

The Biodiversity & Ecology strategy for RVDW is informed by LBN's Green and Water Infrastructure (GWI) Strategy[8], which promotes the creation of a '15-minute' network of accessible green and blue spaces across the borough. The strategy recognises that green and blue infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting healthier, more resilient communities. Parks, waterways and accessible natural spaces encourage physical activity, support mental wellbeing, and provide opportunities for community use and social interaction. These shared environments strengthen social connectivity while contributing to a higher quality urban living environment.

Beyond these social and health benefits, green and blue infrastructure is also fundamental to climate resilience and environmental performance. Expanding tree canopy and increasing shaded areas can help mitigate the urban heat island effect and improve thermal comfort in densely built environments. At the same time, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and well-designed landscape infrastructure help absorb and slow rainfall, reducing pressure on drainage networks and lowering flood risk. Ecological resilience can also be strengthened through measures such as biodiversity net gain, green roofs, street tree planting and the creation of habitat corridors that allow wildlife to move more easily through the urban landscape.

Biodiversity, the variability among living organisms within an ecosystem, is a key indicator of environmental health. However, the UK has experienced a significant decline in biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, particularly since the mid-twentieth century. As a result, the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity is now a central consideration in the development process.

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of green and blue infrastructure across the area surrounding Royal Victoria Dock, highlighting both existing assets and gaps in provision. The dock itself forms the dominant blue infrastructure asset, representing a major waterbody within the local landscape. In contrast, green spaces such as public parks, playing fields and other recreational or ecological areas appear as smaller, dispersed patches throughout the surrounding neighbourhoods. While a variety of green space typologies are present, the figure also indicates that access to green space is unevenly distributed, with some residential areas having limited proximity to larger open spaces. This context reinforces the importance of integrating high-quality green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements within the RVDW development.

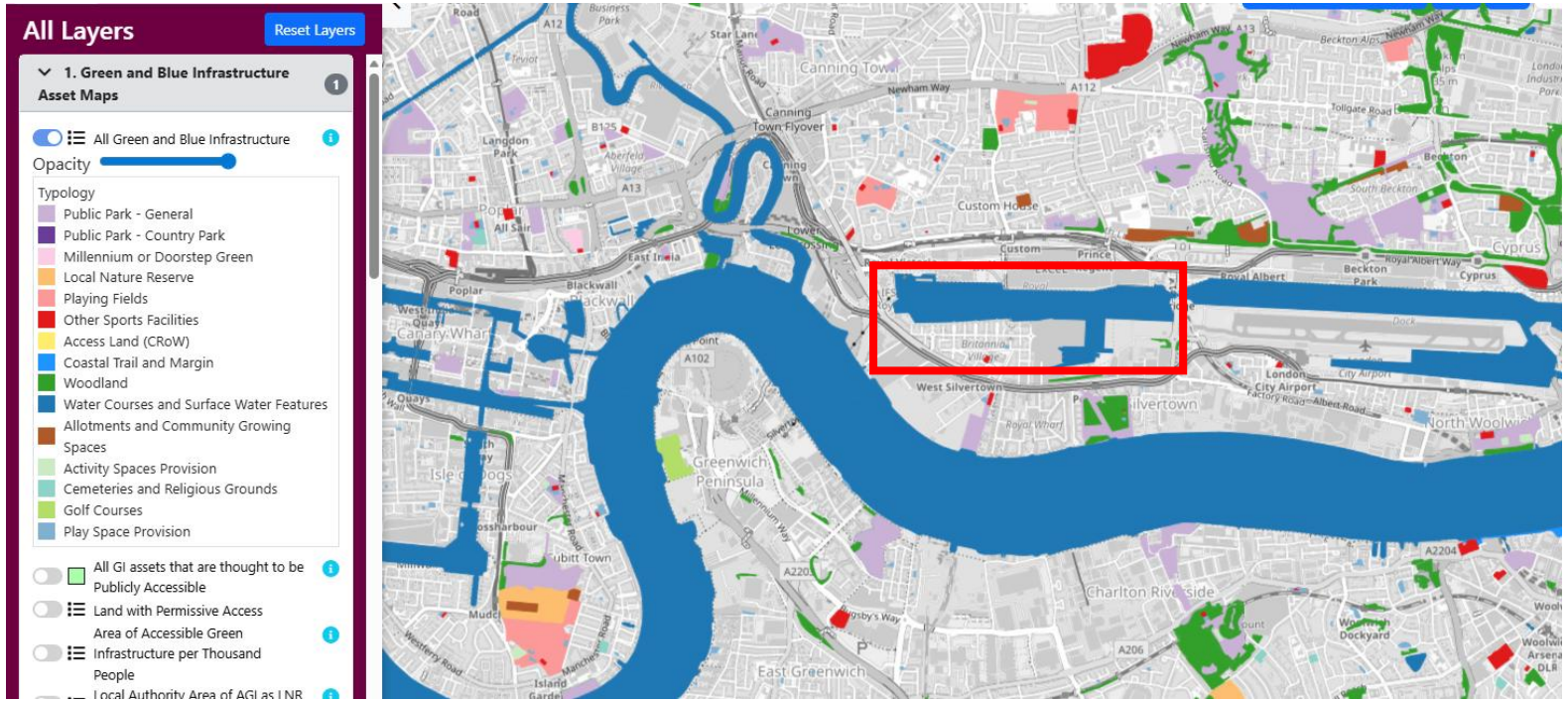
[8] *London Borough of Newham (2024) 'Newham Green and Water Infrastructure Strategy'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/7680/newham-g-w-strategy-2024-section-6-newham-s-green-and-water-space-priorities*

In addition to borough-level policy, the biodiversity strategy for RVDW is informed by the London Green Infrastructure Framework (LGIF)[9] and London's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)[10], which provide a strategic approach to planning, delivering and managing green infrastructure and biodiversity across London. The LGIF supports the identification of priority locations and functions for green infrastructure investment, ensuring that interventions deliver multiple benefits including climate resilience, urban cooling and ecological enhancement.

The LNRS establishes a spatial framework for restoring, creating and connecting habitats across London, with a focus on strengthening ecological networks and targeting areas of greatest opportunity for nature recovery. Within this context, the RVDW strategy prioritises habitat-led interventions that respond to the dockside setting, including wetland and aquatic habitats, while enhancing connectivity between green and blue infrastructure to support resilient and biodiverse urban environments.

[9] *Mayor of London (2026) 'London Green Infrastructure Framework'. Available from: London Green Infrastructure Framework | London City Hall*
[10] *Mayor of London (2026) 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy'. Available from: Local Nature Recovery Strategy | London City Hall*

Figure 2: Green and Blue Infrastructure Asset Map (Source: Natural England, 2025[11])



4.2 OBJECTIVES

The Biodiversity & Ecology strategic goal for RVDW aims to deliver a development that actively enhances local ecological value while supporting the long-term health of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Building on the existing blue infrastructure of the dock, the objective is to create a landscape that not only accommodates urban growth but also strengthens habitat quality, biodiversity and ecological connectivity. The development will therefore seek to integrate nature-based solutions that support thriving habitats, improve environmental quality and contribute to a more resilient urban ecosystem.

[11] *Natural England, 2025. 'Green Infrastructure Framework'. Available from: Green Infrastructure Map*

A key objective is the creation and restoration of land and freshwater habitats that achieve at least moderate ecological condition. This includes the introduction of features such as floating wetlands, reed beds and fish refuges within and around the dock environment, alongside enhancements to planting and green infrastructure on land. By delivering new and improved habitats, the development will increase the availability and diversity of ecological niches, supporting a wider range of species and contributing to measurable improvements in ecological condition across the site.

The strategy also seeks to increase biodiversity value and ecological presence across the dock environment itself. Through habitat creation, improved ecological connectivity and ongoing monitoring, the development aims to support a gradual increase in species richness over time. Monitoring methodologies such as environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis and acoustic surveys can help track these changes, ensuring that ecological outcomes are measurable and that management approaches can adapt as ecosystems develop.

Protecting and enhancing water quality is another critical objective, given the central role of the dock as a defining ecological and landscape feature. Maintaining healthy aquatic conditions will support resilient and functioning ecosystems within the waterbody, benefiting fish, invertebrates and plant communities. Measures that protect water quality and maintain appropriate dissolved oxygen levels will help ensure that the dock environment remains capable of sustaining diverse aquatic life while also contributing to the broader ecological resilience of the Royal Docks area.

Overall, the biodiversity and ecology objectives for RVDW focus on delivering a development where nature is embedded within the urban fabric. By restoring habitats, improving water quality and enabling biodiversity to increase over time, the scheme will contribute to healthier ecosystems while enhancing the environmental character and resilience of the waterfront landscape.

4.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 4.1 below sets out the proposed Key Performance Indicators and Measures of Success under this theme.

Table 4.1 Biodiversity & Ecology KPIs

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
Create and restore land and freshwater habitats that align with local ecological priorities and contribute to wider ecological	Annual increase in newly created and enhanced land and freshwater habitats in moderate to good ecological condition - e.g. floating	✓	✓	⋰	Developer

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
networks, achieving moderate or higher ecological condition.[12]	wetlands, reed beds, fish refuges (m2).				
Increase biodiversity value and ecological presence across the dock.	Year-on-year increase in species richness recorded through an agreed monitoring methodology (e.g. eDNA and/or acoustic surveys) (%).	✓	✓	✓	RDW
Protect and enhance water quality to support resilient, functioning aquatic ecosystems.	Dissolved Oxygen maintained above 6mg/L (DO).	✓	✓	✓	RDW

4.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Developer holds primary responsibility for delivering biodiversity and ecological enhancement objectives through the design and construction of the Priority Projects. This reflects their role in embedding habitat creation, ecological features, and biodiversity net gain within the scheme.

- Developers and design teams are responsible for integrating ecological enhancements into project design and delivery. This includes the creation and restoration of habitats, incorporation of planting and habitat features, and ensuring that biodiversity objectives are embedded within construction and landscape strategies.

[12] *Baseline ecological conditions will be established through initial habitat surveys and species monitoring, which will form the reference point for measuring change over time. Increase to be measured relative to baseline conditions, with monitoring undertaken at defined intervals and reported as percentage change in species richness and habitat condition. Habitat creation and enhancement will be prioritised in line with local ecological priorities, with typologies such as wetland, reedbed and aquatic habitats reflecting the dockside context and supporting target species.*

- RDW is responsible for long-term ecological monitoring, water quality management, and the implementation of adaptive management strategies to maintain and enhance ecological performance over time.
- Operators and end users must ensure that day-to-day activities and operational practices do not adversely impact ecological features, habitats, or water quality, and that ecological assets are appropriately maintained.

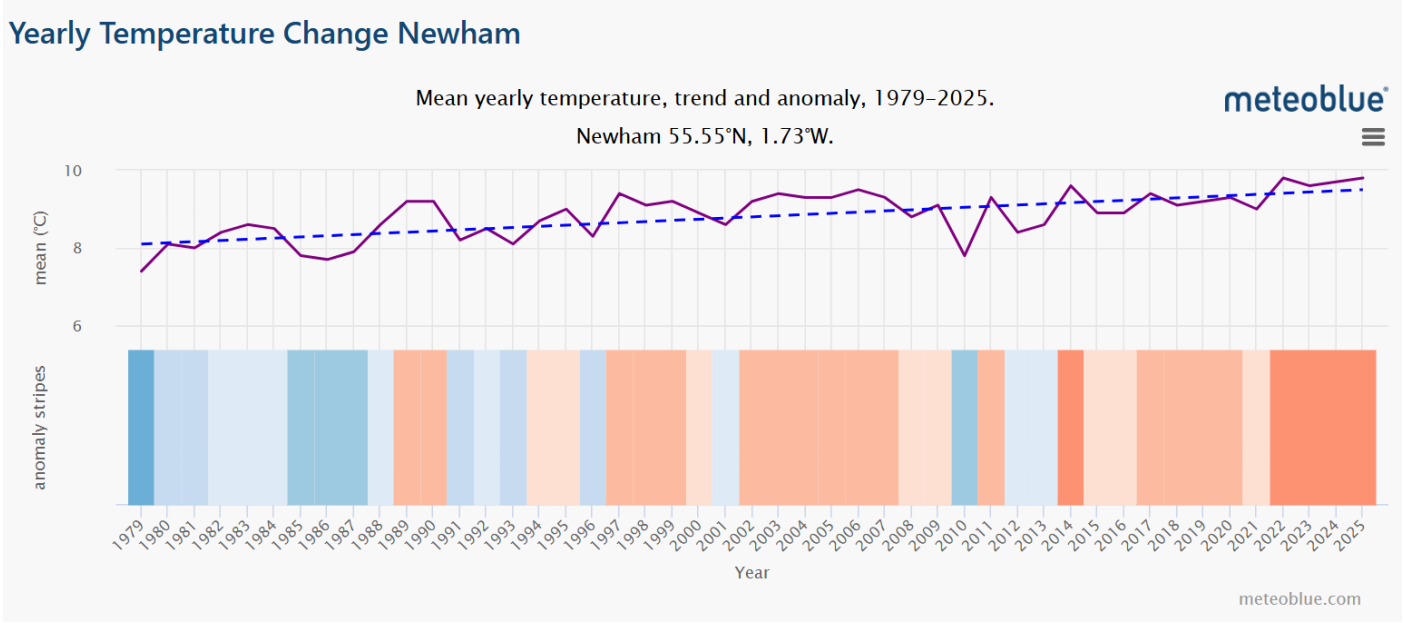
While the Floating Park may play a primary role in habitat delivery, reflecting its function and scale, all Priority Projects are expected to contribute to ecological outcomes where feasible. This includes incorporating planting, habitat features, and biodiversity enhancements within Residential and Wellness developments, even where ecology is identified as a Supporting Requirement.

5.0 CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

5.1 CONTEXT

Newham is among the London boroughs most exposed to climate risks; specifically extreme heat and flooding, with it being identified as the second-most vulnerable area to extreme heat in the UK[13]. Figure 3 below shows the mean yearly temperature in Newham from 1979-2025, including the long-term trend and yearly anomalies. The purple line represents the average temperature for each year, while the dashed blue line shows the overall warming trend across the period. The coloured bars below (blue for cooler years and red/orange for warmer years) highlight temperature anomalies compared to the long-term average. Overall, the data indicates a clear rise in average annual temperatures over time, with more frequent and stronger warm anomalies in recent years, reflecting a consistent warming pattern in Newham.

Figure 3: Mean yearly temperature, trend and anomaly, 1979-2025 (Source: Meteoblue[14])



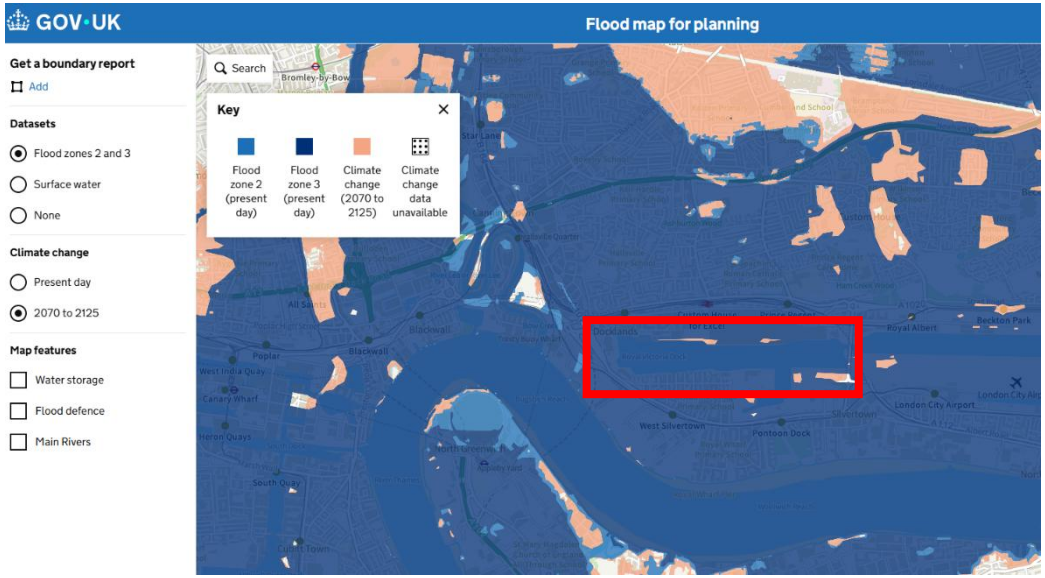
[13] *London Borough of Newham (2023): 'Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/6800/newham-just-transition-plan-december-2023*

[14] *Meteoblue (2025): 'Yearly Temperature Change Newham'. Available from: https://www.meteoblue.com/en/climate-change/newham_united-kingdom_2641638*

Large parts of the Royal Docks are also located within flood zones. Figure 4 shows the UK Government's Flood Map for Planning[15] for the Newham area. A red line has been added to the figure to broadly define the RVDW site boundary, allowing the relationship between the site and the identified flood zones to be clearly understood.

The map mainly shows flood risk from rivers and the sea (including the River Thames). The figure below shows that much of Newham, especially areas near the Thames and Royal Docks, is shown as being within higher flood risk zones (predominantly Flood Zone 3). This means that land here has a high probability of flooding; a 1 in 100 or greater annual chance of river flooding, or a or a 1 in 200 or greater annual chance of sea flooding. Flood Zone 2 means land that has a medium probability of flooding from rivers or the sea; between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual chance of river flooding (or 1 in 200 to 1 in 1,000 for sea flooding). The orange areas on the map represent projected flood risk under future climate change conditions (2070-2125), showing where flood zones are expected to expand due to factors such as sea level rise, increased rainfall intensity, and higher river flows. The shading in Figure 4 indicates that flood risk is expected to extend further inland, particularly around the River Thames, Royal Docks, and other low-lying areas. Overall, the orange areas suggest that climate change is likely to increase both the extent and severity of flood risk in Newham, meaning future development will need stronger flood mitigation measures and careful planning to manage this growing risk.

Figure 4: UK Government's Flood Map for Planning (Source: Environment Agency)



[15] What flood information do you need - Flood map for planning - GOV.UK

In 2019, Newham Council declared a climate emergency and published its first Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2020[16] outlining key environmental measures and targets. However, this plan focused primarily on ways to reduce carbon emissions and did not address the scope of complex and interconnected challenges faced by Newham and its residents. Therefore, Newham developed its 'Just Transition Plan', which builds upon the Climate Emergency Action Plan and is focused on creating a liveable, resilient and just borough operating within planetary parameters. It is guided by the three principles of increasing equity, reducing emissions, and future-readiness.

In addition to borough-level policy, the approach to climate mitigation and adaptation at RVDW is informed by the GLA Land and Property (GLAP) Climate Action Strategy, which establishes the framework for climate action across GLAP's activities as a landowner, development partner and estate manager. As the Mayor's landowner, GLAP has a responsibility to ensure that its developments and estate are resilient to climate change and contribute to a net zero, climate-resilient London. This includes embedding climate risk into decision-making, delivering developments that are fit for the future, and using its landholdings to enhance green and blue infrastructure to support wider urban resilience. Within this context, the RVDW Environmental Strategy aligns with GLAP's dual role as both landowner and enabler, setting clear expectations for development partners to deliver climate-resilient design, integrate nature-based solutions, and contribute to resilience outcomes both within and beyond individual site boundaries.

5.2 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Climate Resilience & Adaptation strategic goal is to ensure that RVDW is designed to respond proactively to the increasing physical risks associated with climate change, particularly extreme heat, flood risk and long-term climate uncertainty. Given LBN's high vulnerability to overheating and its location within significant flood zones, the development must be carefully planned to address these risks from the outset.

Development at RVDW should minimise overheating risk through passive design and microclimate strategies that improve thermal comfort across the site. It must also integrate robust flood risk mitigation measures appropriate to its dockside and tidal environment, ensuring that the site can safely manage both current and projected flood scenarios. In addition, the development should provide safe access during extreme weather events so that residents, workers and visitors can move safely even during periods of environmental stress.

The scheme should incorporate adaptive design principles that allow buildings and infrastructure to respond to projected future climate scenarios, including anticipated flood extents for the period between 2070 and 2125. Climate resilience across the site should also be strengthened through the integration of nature-based and blue–green infrastructure solutions, helping to manage water, moderate temperatures and enhance ecological value.

Overall, the direction of travel is toward a waterfront development that is demonstrably future-ready. RVDW should be safe, comfortable and fully operational under projected future climate conditions, reducing reliance on retrofit interventions or reactive measures later in the building lifecycle.

[16] *London Borough of Newham (2020) 'Climate Emergency Action Plan'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1882/climate-emergency-action-plan*

5.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 5.1 below sets out the proposed Key Performance Indicators and Measures of Success under this theme.

Table 5.1 Climate Resilience & Adaptation KPIs

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
Increase tree canopy cover and shaded areas to improve microclimate and seasonal comfort[17].	Public realm area shaded at peak summer conditions (%) against current baseline.	✓	⁄	✓	Developer
Demonstrate compliance with CIBSE TM59 (residential) and TM52 (non-residential) overheating criteria under DSY1–DSY3 climate scenarios through dynamic thermal modelling.	All assessed occupied spaces meet the relevant CIBSE overheating thresholds under DSY3, with passive design measures integrated to achieve compliance.	⁄	✓	✓	Developer
Integrate nature-based solutions to attenuate runoff and reduce flood risk.	Surface water attenuation delivered through nature-based solutions (m3).	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Incorporate infrastructure that is flood-adaptive.	100% of new infrastructure designed for 2070–2125 climate change water level projections.	✓	✓	✓	Developer

[17] *Increase tree canopy cover across the RVDW site (%), relative to baseline conditions, measured based on projected canopy extent at tree maturity (e.g. 20–25 years), with each project contributing proportionately to the overall target.*

5.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Developer holds primary responsibility for delivering climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation objectives across all Priority Projects. This reflects their role in embedding these requirements within the design and construction of each scheme.

- Developers and design teams are responsible for integrating climate adaptation measures into the design and delivery of projects. This includes incorporating nature-based solutions for flood attenuation, designing for future climate scenarios, and demonstrating compliance with relevant standards (e.g. CIBSE TM52 and TM59) through modelling and passive design strategies.
- RDW is responsible for establishing minimum climate resilience and environmental performance requirements through procurement documentation and development agreements. During operation, RDW will oversee the long-term performance of climate-related measures, including monitoring outcomes, maintaining blue-green infrastructure, and implementing adaptive management in response to evolving climate conditions.
- Operators and end users must ensure that buildings and spaces are operated in a manner that supports energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and the effective functioning of resilience measures.

While the Developer is responsible for delivery, achieving climate objectives requires coordination across all parties. Some interventions, such as tree canopy, shading and nature-based drainage, may be more prominently delivered within specific Priority Projects. However, all developments must demonstrate how they contribute to emissions reduction, climate resilience, and the long-term adaptability of RVDW.

6.0 SOCIAL IMPACT

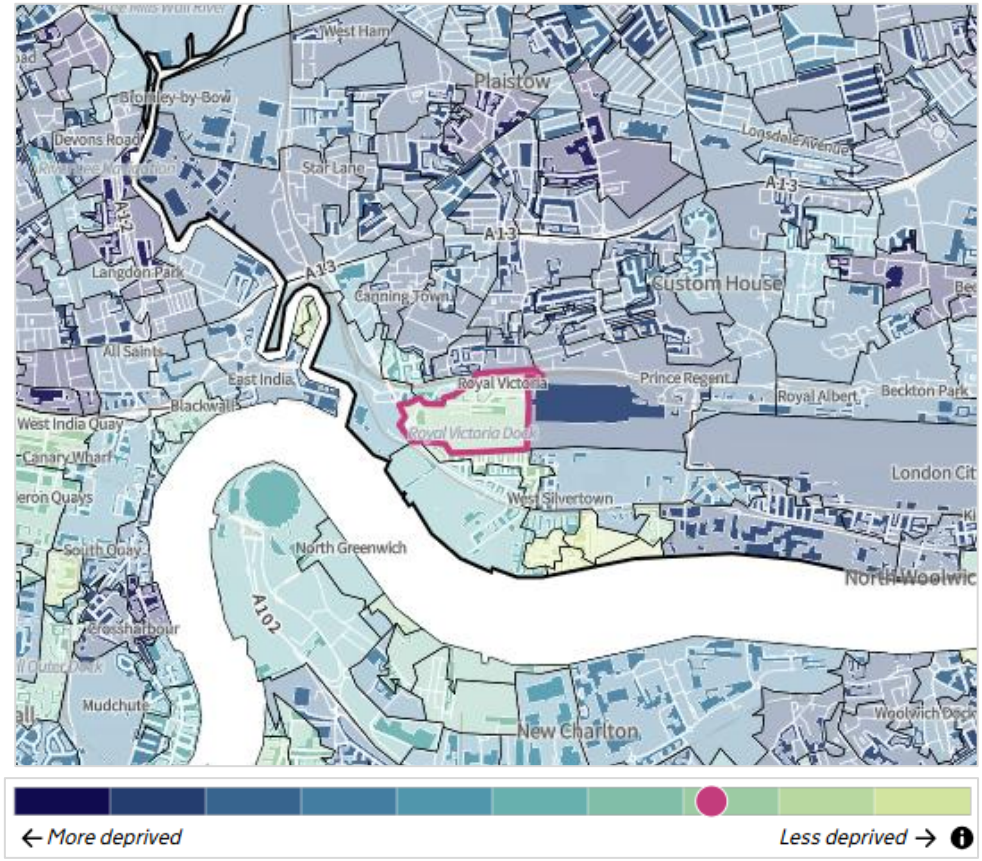
6.1 CONTEXT

The Social Impact strategic goal for RVDW is shaped by the wider socio-economic conditions of the surrounding area and by the London Borough of Newham's policy framework for improving health and wellbeing. Within LBN, health indicators suggest that residents in Royal Victoria report relatively high levels of good physical health overall, and levels of mental wellbeing in Newham compare positively with the London average across several measures such as happiness and life satisfaction. However, significant differences in life expectancy remain between the most and least deprived parts of the borough. Between 2018 and 2020, life expectancy differed by approximately 6.6 years for women and 8.1 years for men between the most and least deprived communities[18], demonstrating the continued influence of social, economic and environmental factors on health outcomes.

Measures of deprivation further highlight structural challenges within the local area. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025[19], the site lies within the Newham 034N neighbourhood, which is less deprived than many other areas in the borough overall. However, the area performs relatively poorly in the domain of Barriers to Housing and Services, indicating financial and physical constraints in accessing housing and essential services. In this category, the area is more deprived than approximately 74% of neighbourhoods across England, reinforcing the importance of improving accessibility to housing, services and community infrastructure. The area surrounding Newham 034N neighbourhood, particularly to the north, are significantly more deprived across all domains. This is demonstrated in Figure 5 overleaf.

[18] *50 Steps to a Healthier Newham Newham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2025) Executive summary*
[19] *Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2025)* *Local Deprivation Explorer 2025*

Figure 5: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025



The borough's '50 Steps to a Healthier Newham' Strategy provides an important policy framework for addressing these challenges. The strategy sets out a coordinated, preventative approach to improving health outcomes by focusing on the wider determinants of health, including housing quality, employment, the built environment and community wellbeing. It emphasises collaboration with local organisations and communities to mobilise action and integrate existing initiatives that are already improving health across Newham. Importantly, the strategy promotes the delivery of co-benefits across health, climate action, equity and an inclusive economy, while advocating for policies that prioritise prevention and health equity both within Newham and beyond.

Within this context, the social impact theme focuses on enhancing quality of life and enabling communities and individuals to live healthy, active and fulfilling lives, supporting the wider RVDW vision. This includes ensuring that the design of buildings and public spaces maximises health and social benefits for residents, workers and visitors, while also contributing positively to the wider neighbourhood. By responding to local demographic characteristics, addressing barriers to access, and supporting healthier lifestyles, development at RVDW can help foster stronger, more inclusive communities and support Newham's long-term ambitions for improved wellbeing and social equity.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

The Social Impact strategic goal aims to ensure that the development actively benefits local communities by creating inclusive, accessible, and welcoming spaces that strengthen social integration, health, and community life. The objective is to ensure that the site is not only a physical destination but also a social asset for the surrounding neighbourhoods, particularly for residents of Newham. By prioritising accessibility, affordability, and community participation, the theme seeks to foster stronger connections between people, improve wellbeing, and support a more vibrant and inclusive local environment.

A key objective is to increase participation from diverse local groups across the site, including within the floating wellness facilities, through inclusive community programming. This will involve delivering a programme of free or low-cost community events in partnership with local organisations and stakeholders. These activities are intended to reduce barriers to participation and ensure that people from different cultural, social, and economic backgrounds feel welcome and represented.

One of the other strategic goals is to increase the amount of publicly accessible green and blue space within the RVDW site. Enhancing access to nature and water environments can provide important benefits for physical health, mental wellbeing, and community interaction as well as the ecological benefits. By creating more open, accessible spaces along the waterfront, the development will encourage recreation, relaxation, and informal social gathering. This will help ensure that the site contributes positively to the local public realm and supports healthier, more connected communities. To further support healthy communities, water quality should meet safe contact standards for recreational use, by consistently achieving an 'Excellent' bathing water classification. This ensures the water environment remains safe for public recreation while supporting environmental quality and community wellbeing through ongoing monitoring and effective water management practices.

Another key objective is to foster a strong sense of community among residents, promoting feelings of belonging and pride in the place where they live. This will involve delivering well-designed, inclusive neighbourhoods that provide high-quality public spaces and opportunities for social interaction. By creating places that are safe, welcoming and reflective of local character, the aim is to support positive resident experiences. The success of this objective will be monitored through Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE), measuring the percentage of residents who report a sense of belonging and pride in their community.

6.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 6.1 below sets out the proposed Key Performance Indicators and Measures of Success under this theme.

Table 6.1 Social Impact KPIs

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
Deliver inclusive, free or low-cost community events that increase representation and participation from diverse local groups.	Minimum number of events per year delivered in partnership with local organisations, with attendance data demonstrating participation from diverse local communities.	✓	✓	✓	Operator
Increase in residents who feel a sense of 'belonging' or 'pride' in their community.	Residents reporting feelings of 'belonging' and 'pride' (POE) (%).	✓	✓	✓	Operator
Increase publicly accessible green and blue space within the RVDW site.	Total area of publicly accessible green/blue space delivered (m2).	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Ensure water quality meets safe contact standards for recreational use.	Continue consistent 'Excellent' rating for bathing water quality.	✓	✓	✓	RDW

6.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The delivery of social impact objectives at RVDW is distributed across multiple parties, with primary responsibility defined by the nature of each KPI.

- Developers and design teams are responsible for delivering the physical infrastructure that enables social outcomes. This includes the provision of publicly accessible green and blue space, inclusive design, and the integration of spaces that support community use during the design and construction stages.
- Operators hold primary responsibility for delivering ongoing social value through the use and activation of spaces. This includes organising inclusive, free or low-cost community events, fostering participation from diverse local groups, and promoting a sense of belonging and community pride. Operators are also responsible for monitoring participation levels, collecting relevant data, and reporting performance against defined KPIs.
- RDW is responsible for ensuring that water quality meets safe contact standards for recreational use and for maintaining this performance over time through appropriate management and monitoring.

While responsibilities vary, all parties must work collaboratively to support inclusive and accessible outcomes. Developers must ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable social activity, while operators must ensure these spaces are effectively activated and managed to deliver long-term community benefit.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY & NET ZERO

7.1 CONTEXT

The sustainability and net zero strategy for RVDW is informed by both local and national climate objectives. LBN's Just Transition Plan (2023)[20] recognises that climate action must address wider systemic challenges, including social, economic and health inequalities, rather than focusing solely on greenhouse gas reduction. In line with this approach, the borough has committed to becoming carbon neutral in its own operations by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions across the borough by 2045. Local planning policy supports these ambitions through measures such as improving resource efficiency through retrofitting, setting BREEAM targets for residential and non-domestic development, establishing water efficiency standards, addressing overheating through energy and glazing strategies, and ensuring climate change considerations are embedded within landscape design.

These local ambitions align with the UK's national commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which will require a substantial reduction in energy consumption across all sectors. Buildings currently account for approximately 49% of UK carbon emissions, with a significant proportion linked to operational energy demand. In addition, embodied carbon within construction materials represents a large share of whole-life carbon emissions from buildings. As a result, reducing both operational and embodied carbon is essential to meeting climate targets. Applying circular economy principles and resource-efficient design can minimise material use, reduce waste and significantly lower the overall carbon impact of development.

In addition to national and borough-level policy, the sustainability and net zero approach for RVDW is informed by the GLA Land and Property (GLAP) Sustainability Strategy, which sets out how sustainability is embedded across GLAP's portfolio in its role as a landowner and development partner.

The strategy emphasises the need to reduce both operational and embodied carbon, promote circular economy principles, and deliver resource-efficient development that minimises waste and material use. It also highlights GLAP's role in using its landholdings to set clear sustainability requirements for development partners, ensuring that new development contributes to wider environmental objectives, including climate mitigation, climate resilience, and efficient use of natural resources.

Within this context, the RVDW Environmental Strategy aligns with GLAP's ambition to drive high-performing, low-carbon development across its estate, supporting whole-life carbon reduction and embedding circular economy principles from the earliest stages of design and delivery.

[20] *London Borough of Newham (2023). 'Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham'. Available from: https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/6800/newham-just-transition-plan-december-2023*

7.2 OBJECTIVES

The Sustainability & Net Zero strategic objective for RVDW seeks to deliver developments that significantly reduce whole-life carbon emissions while supporting a transition toward a low-carbon, resource-efficient built environment. In line with both national net zero commitments and the London Borough of Newham's climate ambitions, the project aims to minimise the environmental impact of construction and operation by addressing both operational and embodied carbon from the earliest stages of design.

A central objective is to create a circular development model in which materials and resources are used more efficiently and responsibly. This includes increasing the use of recycled and reused content within construction materials and ensuring that all materials are responsibly sourced, supporting more sustainable supply chains and reducing the environmental impacts associated with extraction and manufacturing. Through careful material selection and design optimisation, the scheme will also seek to minimise embodied carbon and benchmark performance against recognised best practice to ensure continuous improvement across the project lifecycle.

Alongside reducing embodied emissions, the development will support the transition away from fossil fuels by prioritising low-carbon energy systems and highly efficient building design. Operational energy demand will be reduced through energy-efficient design strategies, while on-site renewable energy generation will play an important role in supporting low-carbon building operation. Together, these measures aim to deliver buildings that are aligned with a net-zero future while remaining adaptable to evolving energy systems and technologies.

Overall, the Sustainability and Net Zero theme establishes a framework for delivering a resilient, future-ready waterfront development that reduces waste, minimises carbon emissions and contributes positively to Newham's long-term decarbonisation goals.

7.3 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Table 7.1 below sets out the proposed Key Performance Indicators and Measures of Success under this theme.

Table 7.1 Sustainability & Net Zero KPIs

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
Increase recycled and reused content within construction materials, supporting circular economy principles.	≥ 20% recycled or reused content by value, with preference for locally sourced materials.	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Ensure responsible sourcing of all construction materials.	100% of timber and key materials certified to FSC, PEFC or equivalent traceable standard.	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Increase recovery of demolition materials.	Demolition materials recovered, with project-specific targets set within Site Waste Management Plans (%).	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Transition away from fossil fuels to low-carbon alternatives.	100% of regulated energy demand met without on-site fossil fuel combustion.	✓	✓	✓	Developer
Reduce and benchmark embodied carbon through design optimisation[21].	Whole Life Carbon assessments completed at RIBA Stage 2 and Stage 4 to establish baseline and identify opportunities for embodied carbon reduction (%).	✓	✓	✓	Developer

[21] *Targets to be defined at design stage in alignment with GLAP requirements.*

Key Performance Indicator	Measure of Success	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility
		Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential	
Increase on-site renewable energy generation.	Energy Use Intensity (EUI) (kWh/m²/year) reduced through efficient design[22], with remaining regulated energy demand met through on-site renewable energy generation (%).	✓	✓	✓	Developer

7.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Developer holds primary responsibility for delivering sustainability and net zero objectives across all Priority Projects. This reflects their role in embedding low-carbon design strategies, material selection, and energy performance requirements within the design and construction of each scheme.

- Developers and design teams are responsible for integrating low-carbon design principles and sustainability measures from the outset. This includes undertaking whole life carbon assessments at key design stages, reducing embodied carbon through design optimisation, specifying responsibly sourced materials, and ensuring alignment with defined performance targets for energy use and renewable generation.
- Contractors are responsible for implementing these requirements during construction. This includes sourcing certified materials, delivering targets for recycled and reused content, maximising recovery of demolition materials, and ensuring that construction practices align with the project's sustainability specifications and waste management plans.
- Operators and facility management teams, where relevant, are responsible for supporting the long-term performance of installed systems. This includes the effective operation and maintenance of energy systems and on-site renewable technologies to ensure that design intent is maintained over time.

[22] *EUI to be reduced in line with targets set in GLAP Environmental Sustainability Framework.*

While the Developer retains primary responsibility for delivery, achieving net zero outcomes requires a coordinated approach across design, construction, and operation. All parties must ensure that decisions made at each stage support the reduction of embodied and operational carbon and contribute to the long-term sustainability performance of RVDW.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

This Environmental Strategy represents the current position as of March 2026 and establishes the framework that will guide the next phase of development at Royal Victoria Dock West (RVDW). It is intended to support immediate decision-making while also providing a structure that can evolve over time as projects progress.

Immediate Application

The Strategy will be used as a key reference document within upcoming procurement processes, particularly for the Floating Residential and Floating Wellness projects. It sets out clear expectations for environmental performance and establishes a consistent framework against which proposals can be assessed. Bidders will be expected to demonstrate how their proposals respond to the Strategy by:

- Clearly evidencing compliance with Mandatory Requirements;
- Setting out how Core KPIs will be achieved and, where possible, exceeded; and
- Identifying any Enhanced Opportunities that deliver additional environmental or social value.

Proposals should use this framework to translate strategic objectives into deliverable actions, demonstrating how environmental performance will be embedded within design, construction and long-term operation.

Role in Procurement and Delivery

The Strategy is intended to support a transparent and consistent approach to evaluation during procurement. It enables RDW to compare proposals on a like-for-like basis, while also encouraging innovation and ambition.

Following appointment, successful bidders will be expected to develop their proposals into detailed action plans aligned with this Strategy. This will include defining how KPIs will be monitored, reported and managed over time, ensuring that environmental and social outcomes are delivered in practice.

A Living and Evolving Document

This Strategy is intended to function as a live document. As the RVDW projects progress, the Strategy will be reviewed and updated to reflect:

- Evolving design proposals and delivery models;
- Changes in policy, regulation and best practice;

- Lessons learned through implementation and operation; and
- Ongoing stakeholder and community engagement.

Future iterations may refine KPIs, introduce new measures, or adjust priorities to ensure the Strategy remains relevant and effective.

Future Integration

As development progresses, the Strategy will continue to inform coordination between the Floating Park, Floating Wellness and Floating Residential projects. It will support alignment across different delivery partners, ensuring that environmental performance is addressed consistently and collaboratively across the site.

In doing so, the Strategy will help ensure that individual projects contribute to a coherent, high-quality and resilient overall place, delivering long-term environmental and social value for the Royal Docks and the surrounding community.

Further Guidance

This document provides a strategic framework to guide development teams in responding to the Environmental Strategy and establishing an appropriate level of ambition. It is intended to be read as a gateway document, setting out the overarching principles and performance expectations, while recognising that more detailed technical guidance is provided through supporting publications.

Development proposals should align with the requirements and approaches set out within the GLA Land and Property Environmental Sustainability Framework , which establishes a structured set of environmental metrics, KPIs and reporting mechanisms across key themes including operational energy, embodied carbon, climate resilience and water. This framework provides the basis for consistent implementation, monitoring and reporting of environmental performance across GLAP projects.

In parallel, proposals should respond to the strategic direction set out in the GLAP Climate Action Strategy , which outlines GLAP's commitment to achieving net zero carbon, improving climate resilience, and supporting a just transition for London. This includes embedding climate mitigation and adaptation into all stages of development and working collaboratively across the supply chain to deliver long-term environmental outcomes.

Given the dockside context of RVDW, proposals should also be informed by the Royal Docks Water Activation Design Guide , which promotes a holistic and joined-up approach to the design, activation and stewardship of water spaces. The guide sets out key themes, including ecology, environmental performance, access, safety and long-term stewardship, which should be considered alongside this Strategy to ensure proposals respond appropriately to the unique characteristics of the dock environment.

Further best practice should also be drawn from recognised industry standards and guidance, including the London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI), the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard (UKNZCBS), and other relevant technical resources. Together, these documents should inform design development and demonstrate how environmental performance targets will be achieved in practice.

9.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The long-term sustainability of RVDW will depend not only on the measures implemented during the design and construction phases, but also on how the project continues to adapt to evolving environmental standards, material innovations and community initiatives. The following sections outline potential areas where the project could strengthen its approach over time, including engagement with circular construction networks, material selection strategies, community initiatives and funding opportunities for long-term stewardship of the park.

9.1 CIRCULAR CONSTRUCTION AND LOCAL MATERIAL REUSE NETWORKS

As circular economy practices within the construction sector continue to develop, RVDW could explore opportunities to engage with emerging local infrastructure that supports material reuse. The Royal Docks is becoming a focal point for circular construction innovation, including initiatives such as the Tipping Point East Circular Construction Hub[23], which is establishing facilities for material interception, processing and redistribution, alongside research and skills development in circular construction practices.

As these initiatives develop, the project could investigate opportunities to incorporate reclaimed materials, support local material reuse supply chains and design buildings with adaptability and future disassembly in mind. Engaging with circular construction networks within the Royal Docks could help reduce embodied carbon, minimise construction waste and contribute to the development of a more circular local built environment.

9.2 MATERIAL SELECTION

Future construction associated with the development should continue to prioritise material choices that minimise embodied carbon while supporting responsible sourcing practices. This may include undertaking embodied carbon assessments during design stages, increasing the proportion of recycled and reused materials, and specifying products with verified environmental credentials such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and responsible sourcing certifications.

Opportunities could also be explored to reduce reliance on carbon-intensive materials, for example by incorporating lower-carbon concrete mixes using supplementary cementitious materials such as ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS), or by considering alternative structural systems and materials where feasible. By embedding embodied carbon analysis and responsible sourcing within procurement and design decisions, future phases of the project can contribute to wider industry efforts to decarbonise construction.

[23] *Greater London Authority (2026): 'UK's first Construction Hub launches in the Royal Docks, supporting Mayor's ambition for London to be zero carbon by 2030'. Available from: https://www.london.gov.uk/uks-first-circular-construction-hub-launches-royal-docks-supporting-mayors-ambition-london-be-zero*

9.3 OTHER INITIATIVES

Beyond construction practices, the project could continue to engage with local stakeholders and community groups to support broader sustainability and social initiatives. This may include collaboration with local authorities, businesses and community organisations to promote active travel through walking and cycling initiatives, as well as participation in volunteering opportunities, community events and environmental stewardship activities within the park and surrounding public realm.

The development could also explore opportunities to engage with local boat users and water-based communities along the Royal Docks, particularly in relation to transitions away from fossil fuels and coal-based energy sources. Supporting awareness and dialogue around cleaner energy alternatives for boats and waterside activities could contribute to improved local air quality and align with wider decarbonisation goals for the area.

9.4 FUNDING FOR THE PARK

Ensuring the long-term maintenance and enhancement of the park will require a robust and sustainable funding approach. The project will explore opportunities to align with wider funding strategies that support green infrastructure, biodiversity improvements and community-led programming within public spaces. This may include partnerships with local authorities, grant funding streams, sponsorship opportunities or collaboration with environmental and community organisations.

Connecting park management and improvement initiatives to a clear funding strategy can help ensure that the space continues to provide ecological, social and recreational value over time. Establishing long-term funding mechanisms may also support ongoing landscape management, biodiversity monitoring, community events and educational activities, helping the park remain a well-maintained and actively used asset for the surrounding community.

10.0 SUMMARY

This Environmental Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to guide the sustainable development and long-term stewardship of RVDW. The Strategy supports the delivery of the three Priority Projects; Floating Residential, Floating Wellness and Floating Park, ensuring that environmental considerations are embedded at every stage of design, procurement, delivery and operation.

The Strategy establishes a clear environmental vision for RVDW and defines a set of overarching objectives that must inform all future proposals across the site. It adopts a holistic approach, recognising the interconnected nature of environmental performance and place-making, particularly within the sensitive dockside environment.

To support this, the document sets out key principles and performance expectations across four core themes: ecology, climate change, social impact, and sustainability and net zero. These themes collectively address biodiversity protection and enhancement, climate mitigation and resilience, responsible material use and energy performance, and the delivery of wider social value for local communities.

A suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) underpins the Strategy, providing measurable benchmarks against which proposals can be assessed and environmental performance monitored over time. These KPIs are structured as Core Requirements, which must be delivered by specific Priority Projects, and Supporting Requirements, which should be considered across all projects to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach. This framework ensures that each project delivers against its primary environmental role, while also contributing to the wider ambitions of RVDW.

The Strategy also establishes clear roles and responsibilities for delivery. Developers hold primary responsibility for embedding environmental performance within design and construction, supported by RDW and operators in the long-term management, monitoring and stewardship of environmental outcomes.

Further detail on the KPIs and objectives, including the rationale for their inclusion and reporting requirements, is set out in Appendix A. The Strategy should be read alongside relevant supporting guidance, including GLAP environmental and climate frameworks and other industry best practice, to inform detailed design development and implementation.

By establishing clear expectations, defined responsibilities and measurable standards, the Strategy acts as a guiding document for developers, design teams and stakeholders. It ensures that environmental performance is embedded within competitive bids and project delivery, helping to create a resilient, low-carbon and ecologically enhanced dockside environment that delivers lasting environmental and social value.

APPENDIX A - RVDW ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY TRACKER

Royal Victoria Dock West
553911
25/03/2026

Key	Definition
✓	Core requirement (must be met and tracked)
✓	Supporting requirement (must be considered and responded to where applicable)
Primary Responsibility	Indicates the primary party responsible at the relevant stage. It is recognised that responsibility is often shared across stakeholders, and may shift or overlap between developer, operator and RdW as projects evolve
Delivery Stage	Indicates when the KPI is primarily addressed; some KPIs may span multiple stages

Themes	Strategic Objectives	Requirements and Key Performance Indicators	Measures of Success	Rationale	Frequency	Priority Project			Primary Responsibility	Delivery Stage
						Floating Park	Floating Wellness	Floating Residential		
Biodiversity and Ecology	To achieve healthy habitats and high water quality that sustain resilient ecosystems.	Create and restore land and freshwater habitats that align with local ecological priorities and contribute to wider ecological networks, achieving moderate or higher ecological condition.	Annual increase in newly created and enhanced land and freshwater habitats in moderate to good ecological condition - e.g. floating wetlands, reed beds, fish refuges (m^2)	Habitat creation and enhancement increase biodiversity, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and support functioning freshwater and terrestrial habitats across the dock.	Reported annually following ecological condition assessments. Baseline ecological conditions will be established through initial habitat surveys and species monitoring, which will form the reference point for measuring change over time. Increase to be measured relative to baseline conditions, with monitoring undertaken at defined intervals and reported as percentage change in species richness and habitat condition. Habitat creation and enhancement will be prioritised in line with local ecological priorities, with typologies such as wetland, reedbed and aquatic habitats reflecting the dockside context and supporting target species.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Increase biodiversity value and ecological presence across the dock.	Year-on-year increase in species richness recorded through an agreed monitoring methodology (e.g. eDNA and/or acoustic surveys) (%).	Tracking species richness helps measure ecological recovery and biodiversity gains resulting from habitat creation and management interventions.	Annually, aligned with ecological surveys (eDNA/acoustic monitoring).	✓	✓	✓	RdW	Operation & Management
		Protect and enhance water quality to support resilient, functioning aquatic ecosystems.	Dissolved Oxygen maintained above 6mg/L (DO)	Dissolved Oxygen is essential for understanding ecosystem health: oxygen in water supprots aquatic life and reflects how balanced the ecosystem is.	Measured weekly at consistent times of day.	✓	✓	✓	RdW	Operation & Management
Climate Change Mitigation, Risk and Adaptation	To ensure RVDW functions as a thermally comfortable, flood-resilient, water-healthy, blue-green waterfront under current and future climate conditions.	Increase tree canopy cover and shaded areas to improve microclimate and seasonal comfort.	Public realm area shaded at peak summer conditions (%).	Tree canopy provides cooling, reduces urban heat island effects, improves air quality, and enhances comfort and biodiversity in public spaces.	Annually, with updates following completion of planting projects.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Demonstrate compliance with CIBSE TM59 (residential) and TM52 (non-residential) overheating criteria under DSY1–DSY3 climate scenarios through dynamic thermal modelling.	All assessed occupied spaces meet the relevant CIBSE overheating thresholds under DSY3, with passive design measures integrated to achieve compliance.	Monitoring overheating risk ensures buildings remain safe, comfortable, and climate-resilient under future temperature scenarios.	At design stage and post-construction verification, with modelling reviewed per project phase.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Integrate nature-based solutions to attenuate runoff and reduce flood risk.	Surface water attenuation delivered through nature-based solutions (m^3).	Green infrastructure and SuDS features reduce surface water runoff, increase water storage capacity, and improve flood resilience.	Annually, with updates following project completion or infrastructure installation.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Incorporate infrastructure that is flood-adaptive.	100% of new infrastructure designed for 2070–2125 climate change water level projections.	Designing infrastructure for projected climate change water levels ensures long-term resilience and reduces future flood damage risks.	At design approval stage for all new infrastructure projects.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
Social Impact	To deliver inclusive and accessible places that strengthen social integration, health, and community life.	Deliver inclusive, free or low-cost community events that increase representation and participation from diverse local groups.	Minimum number of events per year delivered in partnership with local organisations, with attendance data demonstrating participation from diverse local communities.□	Community programming supports social inclusion, strengthens local engagement, and improves wellbeing across diverse groups.	Reported annually, with monitoring after each event.	✓	✓	✓	Operator	Operation & Management
		Increase in residents who feel a sense of 'belonging' or 'pride' in their community	Residents reporting feelings of 'belonging' and 'pride' (POE) (%)	Resident post occupancy evaluation (poe) or survey to capture data from willing participants.	Reported annually.	✓	✓	✓	Operator	Operation & Management
		Increase publicly accessible green and blue space within the RVDW site.	Total area of green and blue infrastructure created/enhanced (m^2)	Expanding accessible green and blue infrastructure improves biodiversity, climate resilience, and public wellbeing.	Annually, with updates following project completion.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Ensure water quality meets safe contact standards for recreational use.	Continue consistent 'Excellent' rating for bathing water quality.	Monitoring bathing water quality protects public health and ensures water bodies are safe for recreational use.	Monthly during the bathing season, or as required by regulatory monitoring guidance.	✓	✓	✓	RdW	Operation & Management
Sustainability and Net Zero	To deliver a low-carbon, circular development that reduces waste, minimises embodied emissions, and supports net-zero operation.	Increase recycled and reused content within construction materials, supporting circular economy principles.	≥ 20% recycled or reused content by value, with preference for locally sourced materials.	Increasing recycled and reused material content reduces demand for virgin resources, lowers embodied carbon, and supports circular economy principles within construction.	Per project at procurement stage and reported annually.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Ensure responsible sourcing of all construction materials.	100% of timber and key materials certified to FSC, PEFC or equivalent traceable standard.	Key materials are defined as the primary materials used in a project that make up a significant portion of its structure, cost, or environmental impact. They typically include materials used in large quantities or that are critical to construction or manufacturing, such as timber and timber products, steel, concrete, aluminium, glass, stone, and other major structural or finishing materials. Responsible sourcing certifications (e.g., FSC, PEFC) ensure materials are obtained from sustainably managed and traceable supply chains, reducing environmental and social risks.	Verified at procurement stage for each project.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Increase recovery of demolition materials.	Demolition materials recovered, with project-specific targets set within Site Waste Management Plans (%).	Recovering and reusing demolition materials reduces waste sent to landfill, conserves resources, and supports circular construction practices.	Measured at demolition and construction completion stages per project.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Transition away from fossil fuels to low-carbon alternatives.	100% of regulated energy demand met without on-site fossil fuel combustion.	Eliminating on-site fossil fuel combustion reduces operational carbon emissions and supports alignment with net-zero energy strategies.	Assessed at design stage and verified post-construction.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Reduce and benchmark embodied carbon through design optimisation.	Whole Life Carbon assessments completed at RIBA Stage 2 and Stage 4 to establish baseline and identify opportunities for embodied carbon reduction (%).	Whole Life Carbon assessments help identify opportunities to reduce embodied emissions through material selection, efficient design, and construction practices.	At RIBA Stage 2 and Stage 4 design reviews.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery
		Increase on-site renewable energy generation.	Energy Use Intensity (EUI) (kWh/m^2/year) reduced through efficient design , with remaining regulated energy demand met through on-site renewable energy generation (%).	On-site renewable energy reduces reliance on grid electricity and fossil fuels, lowering operational carbon emissions and improving long-term energy resilience.	Assessed at design stage and reported annually once operational.	✓	✓	✓	Developer	Planning & Design Construction & Delivery