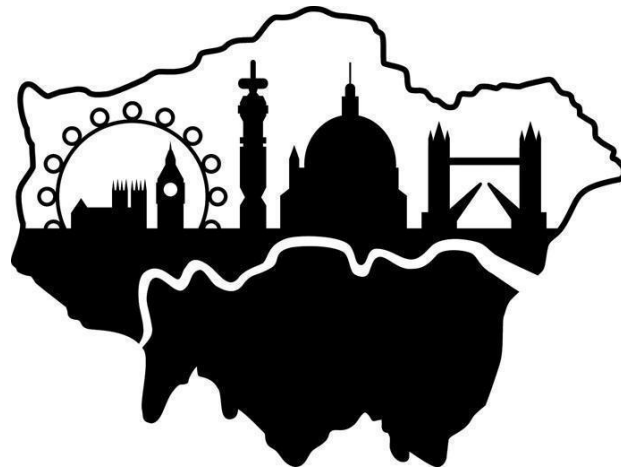


# **THE LONDON FORUM**

of Amenity and Civic Societies

**Founded 1988**

Registered Charity Number 1093134



## **37th ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2024-25**

Approved by members at the London Forum AGM Thursday 16 October 2025

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Constitution

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies (“London Forum” or “the Forum”) is an unincorporated association founded in 1988 and registered as a charity in 2002. It is governed by a constitution last revised in 2024. The Forum’s aim is to protect and improve the quality of life of people living, working in or visiting the area of Greater London. The objects of London Forum can be summarised as the promotion and encouragement of:

1. High standards of planning, design, infrastructure and transport;
2. Conservation and heritage protection;
3. Improvement to the built environment, open spaces, waterways and amenities;
4. Knowledge of, and interest in, the aims of the London Forum by members, Non-Government Organisations and others;
5. Civic pride and community involvement;
6. Sustainable development.

Activities of the London Forum 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025 are summarised in this report. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

### Organisation structure

The London Forum is managed by an Executive Committee of up to fifteen trustees, elected at the Annual General Meeting by the voting members which are amenity and civic societies in the Greater London area. Matters of detail are delegated to the Planning, Environment & Transport Committee, or to the Member Services Committee, both of which report to the Executive Committee. All the work of London Forum, except for IT support from external contractors, is carried out by volunteers.

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

Throughout the year the London Forum continued to monitor matters of relevance to its member societies and provide support and information to them. The trustees seek to keep the Mayor and the Greater London Assembly in no doubt of the central importance of the civic society movement and to bring the special position and needs of London to the notice of the Government and of Members of Parliament. This is achieved by discussions with politicians and officers and in writing, including consultation responses.

### **Committee and Officers**

The Executive Committee met seven times during the year, the Planning, Environment & Transport Committee six times and Member Services Committee, five times.

London Forum welcomes nominations from member societies for trustee and officer roles, as experts for the Planning, Environment and Transport committee and as member representatives on the Member Services Committee.

### **Government and Legislation**

The year has been dominated by the Labour Government's changes to the planning regime, the most important of which have been changes to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and the introduction of a new Planning and Infrastructure Bill. The Bill has completed its passage through the House of Commons and, at the time of writing, is proceeding through the Lords.

The new NPPF was preceded by an extensive consultation which put flesh on the proposals set out in the Labour manifesto, including the aim to build 1.5 million new homes in the course of the current Parliament and to build on the Green Belt - and the newly-defined Grey Belt - in order to meet that target. The Forum submitted a detailed response to the consultation, focusing in particular on the flaws in the new formula to set new homes targets for all English local authorities. We also pointed out that the targets published for London boroughs were at best inappropriate as, under the Greater London Authority Act 1999, responsibility for making and reviewing the London Plan, including housing

targets for the boroughs, rests with the Mayor and the GLA (Greater London Authority).

We also responded to Government consultations on Brownfield Planning Passports, and on Protecting Heritage; and we are preparing a detailed and critical response to the detailed proposals that would severely restrict the powers of local authority planning committees.

### **The Mayor and Assembly**

After some considerable delay, the Mayor published on 9 May the document *Towards a New London Plan* setting out his approach to the key issues to be addressed in the new London Plan. The Forum joined with the London Society and UCL (University College London) in organising a meeting just four days after publication. The meeting was chaired by our President, Ben Derbyshire, and the speakers were Jules Pipe, GLA Deputy Mayor for Planning and Regeneration; Liza Fairmaner, head of the GLA London Plan team; Mike Kiely, Chair of the Planning Officers' Society; and Riette Oosthuizen, Partner, Planning, HTA Design.

The issue at the heart of the Plan will be the Government's requirement that it should allow for the building of 880,000 homes across London in the decade to 2035. As the initial document makes clear, that target depends on significant investment in infrastructure, especially transport, and it is extremely disappointing that funding for that purpose was not made available in the June 2025 Spending Review. On a more positive note, the Government has made £11.7bn available for the Affordable Housing Programme.

We shall continue to work with other organisations including Just Space, UCL and the LSE (London School of Economics), as well as the GLA on matters relating to the forthcoming London Plan. That will be a dominant issue for GLA committees, especially those for Planning and Regeneration, and Housing; and we shall keep in close touch with them. Even before the publication of *Towards a New London Plan* we responded to a Planning and Regeneration Committee Investigation into Planning and Tall Buildings.

## **Borough Councils**

We continue to keep in touch through our member societies with major developments across London, and with issues that affect the 32 London boroughs.

## **Transport**

We continue to keep a close watch on transport and freight issues via the work of the GLA Transport Committee and the TfL (Transport for London) Board, committee and panel meetings. We also maintain close contact with specialist groups including the Friends of Capital Transport Campaign and Future Transport London.

## **Member Societies**

At 30 June 2025, the London Forum had 112 member societies and 8 individual members. The member societies are listed on the final page of this report.

During 2024-25, in addition to the summer drinks reception and the AGM at Cowcross Street, we held one well attended in-person open meeting for members. This was organised jointly with The London Society and held at UCL. It focused on the GLA's proposed approach to the new London Plan and housing, in particular. We are currently reviewing our strategy and programme for open meetings for 2025-26; and we are organising the first of what we hope will be a series of meetings for member societies in segments of London, starting with the south-east.

## **Communications**

The London Forum has moved entirely to digital communications. In January 2025, we began sending to our members and friends (over 500 people) a new weekly email newsletter which includes updates on legislation, policy and planning practice as well as *Insights* articles. Around two-thirds of member societies now send updates from their own websites to London Forum's website by RSS feed and this enables us to include selected news from societies in the weekly email. The emails have been well-received and readership has expanded

rapidly. Only a few contacts have chosen to unsubscribe, and many societies forward it widely among their active members.

Our website has been revamped, and it is continually updated with information and comment about matters of London-wide significance. The website also carries a diary including dates of our Executive and committee meetings, as well as information about our member meetings. London Forum now posts regularly on Bluesky.

### **Collaboration**

Our committee members aim to keep in active touch with senior officials in the Government's Chief Planner's department, and have attended meetings of the APPGs (All-Party Parliamentary Groups of MPs), Parliamentary Select Committees and Committees of the GLA.

We also liaise with a wide range of national and London-based organisations, including Heritage Alliance; Historic England; Town and Country Planning Association; Travelwatch; CPRE (London); the Royal Town Planning Institute; the London Society; Business LDN; Centre for London; London Planning and Development Forum; New London Architecture; Just Space Network; London Tenants Federation; London Councils; Urban Design London; Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors; West London River Group; and many planning and related academics at LSE, UCL and elsewhere.

### **Appreciation for Alan Baxter**

The Forum warmly thanks Alan Baxter Cowcross for their continuing support in generously donating office and meeting space and facilities; the opportunity to network with other organisations; and for continuing to take a close interest in the Forum's work and wellbeing.

## FINANCES FOR YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2025

In preparing the annual report and accounts the Forum's trustees have applied the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), together with Update Bulletins 1 and 2 (collectively the "SORP") with certain exemptions permitted for smaller charities.

### Income

Gross income for the year was £10,546 (2024 £9,477) with £4,500 of this sum arising from the imputed donation the Forum received through a waiver of rent.

Subscription income was £4,186 (2024 £4,203) with new member subscriptions essentially offsetting the loss of income from member resignations. Donations from society and individual members are lower than in 2024.

### Expenses

Total expenses for the year, including the value of the rent waiver, were £6,720 (2024 £6,353) with a substantial part represented by £541 spent to improve the quality and security of the Charity's website.

Face to face member meetings, including expenses arising from the member networking event, incurred a net cost of £245. The Forum's other operating expenses are broadly in line with the prior year.

### Financial Outcome

The net outcome for the year resulted in a surplus of £3,826 (2024 surplus £3,124) and this has been added to the Forum's unrestricted fund.

The balance sheet of the London Forum at 30 June 2025 shows total net assets amounting to £43,381 (2024 £39,555) held entirely in:

- £11,654 in cash at bank and in hand (2024: £3,140);
- £31,727 in interest bearing bank deposits (2024: £36,415).

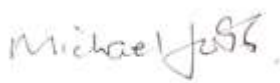
## **Risk Management**

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and the trustees are satisfied that appropriate action has been taken to manage those risks.

## **Statement of the Executive Committee's Responsibilities for Financial Statements**

Charity law requires the Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Forum and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Committee is required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Forum will continue in business. The Executive Committee has responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Forum and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. It also has responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Forum and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.



Michael Jubb, Chair  
17 August 2025

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended June 30

|                                | Note | 2025<br>£                 | 2024<br>£                |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                |      | <hr/>                     | <hr/>                    |
| <b>Income from</b>             |      |                           |                          |
| Donations:                     |      |                           |                          |
| Membership subscriptions       |      | 4,186                     | 4,203                    |
| Rent donation                  |      | 4,500                     | 4,500                    |
| Bookkeeping Software donations |      | 180                       | -                        |
| Donations at member meetings   |      | 41                        | 134                      |
| Other donations                |      | -                         | 209                      |
| Investments                    |      | 1,639                     | 431                      |
| <b>Total income</b>            |      | <hr/> <b>10,546</b> <hr/> | <hr/> <b>9,477</b> <hr/> |
| <b>Expenditure on</b>          |      |                           |                          |
| Charitable activities:         |      |                           |                          |
| Member meetings                |      | 245                       | 385                      |
| Support costs                  | 2    | 6,475                     | 5,968                    |
| Donations:                     |      | -                         | -                        |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>       |      | <hr/> <b>6,720</b> <hr/>  | <hr/> <b>6,353</b> <hr/> |

# London Forum Annual Report

|   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Net surplus (deficit) for the year</b> | <b>3,826</b> | <b>3,124</b> |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds</b>            |              |              |
| Unrestricted fund brought forward         | 39,555       | 36,431       |
| Unrestricted fund carried forward         | 43,381       | 39,555       |

## Balance Sheet as at June 30

|                          |      | 2025          | 2024          |
|--------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|
|                          | Note | £             | £             |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>      |      |               |               |
| Tangible assets          | 4    | -             | -             |
| <b>Current assets</b>    |      |               |               |
| Investments              |      | 31,727        | 36,415        |
| Cash at bank and in hand |      | 11,654        | 3,140         |
| Prepayments              |      | -             | -             |
| Total Current assets     |      | 43,381        | 39,555        |
| <b>Total assets</b>      |      | <b>43,381</b> | <b>39,555</b> |

# London Forum Annual Report

## Liabilities

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year     | -             | -             |
| Provision for liabilities                          | -             | -             |
| <b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b> | <b>43,381</b> | <b>39,555</b> |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>       | <b>43,381</b> | <b>39,555</b> |
| <b>Represented by</b>                              |               |               |
| Unrestricted Fund                                  | 43,381        | 39,555        |

Approved by the trustees on 11 September 2025  
and signed on their behalf by:  
Michael Jubb - Chair  
Ali Dezyanian - Hon. Treasurer

## 1. Accounting policies

### *a. Basis of accounting*

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention as a going concern and in accordance with FRS102. The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102), together with Update Bulletins 1 and 2 (collectively the 'SORP') has been applied with exemptions as permitted for smaller charities.

### *b. Income and expenditure*

Income is recognised when received, or when there is certainty of receipt. Income received in advance is carried forward and expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

The SORP expects costs to be allocated between meeting charitable objectives and fund raising activities, together with their respective management and administration. Where the direct attribution of costs is not possible, apportionment is applied based on the estimated effort accorded to each activity.

### *c. Services provided*

The Forum has regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. It represents the interests of its member societies and communicates with them on relevant matters using a variety of media and through workshops and meetings.

In pursuing its charitable objectives, the Forum benefits from various skills and services provided without charge by committee members and friends of the London Forum. The benefit received from general volunteers is not recorded in the accounts because it is not practical to estimate its value.

### *d. Cash and investments*

Cash consists of petty cash and funds held at banks and at PayPal in non-interest bearing accounts in the name of the Forum. Investments are deposits held specifically to generate an income return.

## e. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over 4 years, but the Forum does not currently have any fixed assets to report.

## 2. Resources expended

The Forum does not employ any staff nor pay any employee benefits. The Independent Examiner does not charge a fee for examination of the accounts.

The Forum's support costs in furtherance of its charitable objectives are as follows:

|                             | <b>2025</b>   |  | <b>2024</b>   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| Shared Office               | 4,500         |  | 4,500         |
| Copying/Printing/Stationery | 410           |  | 463           |
| IT expenses                 | 541           |  | 97            |
| Insurance                   | 252           |  | 250           |
| Memberships & Subscriptions | 309           |  | 304           |
| Telephone/Postage/Email     | 219           |  | 286           |
| Bookkeeping software        | 180           |  | -             |
| Bank charges                | 64            |  | 68            |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>£6,475</b> |  | <b>£5,968</b> |

The Shared Office expense represents the value of facilities provided to the Forum by Alan Baxter Cowcross.

### 3. Transactions with Trustees

No trustee or related party received any remuneration for services as a trustee or in any management capacity during the year. Some trustees have been reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses with the value and number of trustees involved as follows:

| Expense type     | 2025              |                    | 2024              |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                  | Amount Reimbursed | Number of Trustees | Amount Reimbursed | Number of Trustees |
| Event provisions | £245              | 1                  | £245              | 1                  |
| IT expenses      | £238              | 1                  | -                 | -                  |

There were no transactions between the Forum and a related party.

### 4. Fixed assets

The Forum does not have any fixed assets to report.

### 5. Provisions

The redevelopment of the Forum's website was essentially complete as at the year-end but the developer had not raised their invoice. Trustees resolved to expense the amount of the original quote to reflect the work done and expectation of payment.

## 6. Reserves

The reserves consist solely of an unrestricted fund with a portion designated by the Executive Committee for improving the information technology systems. The remaining balance of the originally designated amount was fully utilised in the year.

| <b>Unrestricted fund</b>                       | <b>Designated</b> | <b>Undesignated</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Balance brought forward at 1 July 2024         | -                 | £39,555             | £39,555        |
| Net change in resources for the year           | -                 | £3,826              | £3,826         |
| Transfers                                      | -                 | -                   | -              |
| <b>Balance carried forward at 30 June 2025</b> | <b>£0</b>         | <b>£43,381</b>      | <b>£43,381</b> |

London Forum retains reserves to protect it from short term financial pressures and other risks, and to enable it to invest for strategic and operational purposes.

The trustees expect to use some of the reserves to: continue improving the website and databases; subsidise member workshops; fund studies into matters of common concern; and actively publicise the work of London's civic groups.

The trustees recognise that loss of the office, storage and event space currently provided by Alan Baxter Cowcross would require use of the reserves to fund this need.

In the opinion of the trustees, the current level of reserves is appropriate.

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies ('the Trust') for the year ended 30 June 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

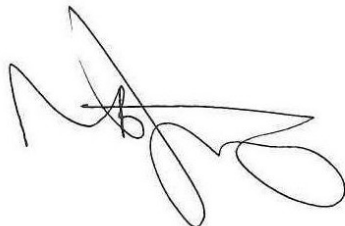
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Date: 15 August 2025

Miles Storey, Retired Banker

Deal, Kent

**THE LONDON FORUM** represents and engages with civic and amenity societies and like-minded individuals concerned with protecting and improving the quality of life in London. Since its foundation in 1988, the Forum has grown in strength and influence, and now has over a hundred and ten member societies representing tens of thousands of Londoners.

## **LONDON FORUM MEMBERSHIP**

**Full membership** is open to amenity and civic societies within Greater London. Full members have voting rights to nominate and elect trustees to the London Forum Executive Committee, and to decide the direction of its policies and activities. Individuals who support the Forum's goals are welcome to apply for **individual membership**.

The London Forum welcomes enquiries from organisations (including businesses) that share our goals but are not eligible for full membership, and would like to explore an **Associate** relationship with us.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

Telephone 020 7993 5754

info@londonforum.org.uk

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/londonforum.org.uk>

Website: <https://www.londonforum.org.uk/>

# London Forum Annual Report

## Member Societies as at 30 June 2025

Amwell Society  
Angel Association  
Balham Society  
Barnet Residents Association  
Barnet Society  
Battersea Society  
Bayswater Residents Association  
Bedford Park Society  
Belsize Society  
BermondseyStreet.London  
Bexley Civic Society  
Blackheath Society  
Brentford Voice  
Brixton Society  
Brockley Society  
Bromley Civic Society  
Brompton Association  
Camden Civic Society  
Cathedral Area Residents Group  
Chelsea Society  
Chislehurst Society  
City Heritage Society  
Clapham Society  
Covent Garden Community Association  
Culverley Green Residents Association  
Dulwich Society  
Ealing Civic Society  
Ealing Fields Residents Association  
Earls Court Society  
East Greenwich Residents Association  
Enfield Society  
Finchley Society  
Forest Hill Society  
Friends of Battersea Park  
Friends of Greenwich Park  
Friends of Jubilee Gardens  
Friends of St Georges Gardens  
Fulham Society  
Gidea Park and District Civic Society  
Greenwich Society  
Hackney Society  
Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum  
Ham and Petersham Association  
Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group  
Hammersmith Society  
Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association  
Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum  
Harrow Heritage Trust  
Heath and Hampstead Society  
Herne Hill Society  
Highbury Community Association  
Highbury Fields Association  
Highgate Society  
Hillgate Village Residents Association  
Isleworth Society  
Islington Society  
John Innes Society  
Kensington Society  
Kew Society  
Kingston-upon-Thames Society  
Knightsbridge Association  
Ladbroke Association  
Ladywell Society  
Lee Manor Society  
Lodge Lane N12 Residents Association  
Marylebone Association  
Metropolitan Public Gardens Association  
Mill Hill Preservation Society  
Mortlake with East Sheen Society  
Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association  
Netherhall Neighbourhood Association  
New Barnet Community Association  
Northwood Residents Association  
Norwood Society  
Old Chiswick Protection Society  
Osterley & Wyke Green Residents Association  
Paddington Residents Active Concern on Transport  
Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society  
Peckham Society  
Peckham Vision  
Pembroke Association  
Penge Forum  
Pinner Association  
Putney Society  
Queen Annes Gate Residents Association  
Richmond Society  
Romford Civic Society  
Seven Dials Trust  
Shad Thames Residents Association  
South East Bayswater Residents Association  
South Woodford Society  
Southgate District Civic Trust  
St Johns Society  
St Johns Wood Society  
St Marylebone Society  
Stamford Brook Residents Association  
Strawberry Hill Residents Association  
Streatham Society  
Sydenham Society  
Teddington Society  
Telegraph Hill Society  
Tewkesbury Lodge Residents Association  
Thorney Island Society  
Victoria Drive Conservation Area Residents Association  
Waltham Forest Civic Society  
Wandsworth Society  
West Chiswick & Gunnersbury Society  
West Hampstead Amenity & Transport Society  
West Hampstead Gardens & Residents Association  
Westcombe Society  
Westminster Society  
Wimbledon Society  
Woolwich & District Antiquarian Society