



4 Key design principles

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Introduction

To ensure that TfL continually improves the TLRN and helps London to maintain its role as a world-class city, consistency of approach and excellence of design and workmanship must prevail.

Whilst the provision of an accessible, safe and legible streetscape for all users is fundamental to the work of TfL, it must be combined with a desire to create streetscapes with a sense of generosity, robustness and beauty. Excellent, sustainable and inclusive streets can have a significant effect on people's enjoyment of life in London.

A set of key design principles that underpin TfL's vision to create the world's best managed streets for a world-class city should be applied across the network.

Sustainable design

TfL recognises that sustainable design makes a significant contribution to tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing the local environment.

A holistic approach

Those managing and operating the TLRN are aware that their individual actions have a direct impact on the TLRN streetscape. They are also aware that the TLRN is a significant part of the public realm within London and that other stakeholders have an interest in the role and appearance of the network. Individuals therefore need to be aware of a wider range of issues than their own particular specialism, such as:

- The relevant policy context and objectives of each of the TfL teams involved in street management and operation as well as local, regional and national initiatives
- The street's context in relation to its surrounding landscape and urban

development, with emphasis on heritage and protected areas, buildings or other designations

- The street's function and appearance, not only as a transport corridor, but also as part of the local community and the activity and land uses on either side of the street corridor
- The process of street management and the differing pressures and priorities under which the various parts of TfL work. This includes protective security and the inter-dependency between organisations

Consistency and clarity

Through a consistent approach to the design and management of the TLRN, a sense of coherence will prevail over the network. By developing a design team approach and a palette of materials, the appearance and legibility of the TLRN will improve. The use of the palette and principles of detailing will create a safe, simple and quiet background to the activities of the street and adjacent land uses.

Integration and co-ordination

TfL works with London local authorities and London-based organisations to share information and provide a co-ordinated approach to the design and management of the capital's streets. This is to ensure that:

- Comprehensive area based improvement schemes can be implemented using the resources and skills of a wide range of partners
- Where appropriate, seamless streetscapes occur at administrative boundaries, avoiding abrupt changes in paving and street furniture materials and patterns

Improvement schemes are informed by wide range of stakeholders through co-ordination and a consultation process, thereby avoiding abortive work.

Understanding the requirements

Whilst the primary role of the TLRN is that of transport, the demands placed on the network by other users need to be understood and incorporated. If the needs of one user or activity cannot be accommodated within the street, the reasons and alternative actions must be fully understood by all. The prioritisation of needs will be more readily accepted where there is:

- A clear vision for the different parts of the TLRN
- Adequate time for meaningful consultation with the various stakeholders at the start of a project
- Ongoing consultation during the life of a project to address stakeholder concerns and develop opportunities
- Continual improvement of TfL practices through feedback from TLRN users and improved guidance

Design for people

Recognising that the TLRN is London's strategic road network designed to cater for the movement of vehicles, the network is also used by large numbers of pedestrians and cyclists. The needs of pedestrians and cyclists must be addressed by:

- Uncluttered footways and cycle tracks and lanes with street furniture placed in a co-ordinated and logical manner, and with redundant items removed
- Adequately lit footways and cycle tracks and lanes to enable pedestrians and cyclists to see and be seen

- Routes which have a clear purpose (ie, with a start and finish) and reflect desire lines
- Legible routes that are understandable, accessible and obvious by design, reducing the need for pedestrian signage. This includes achieving the most direct route, particularly where subways and footbridges are required
- Footways and cycle tracks and lanes that are free from obstruction, including parked vehicles
- Streets that are free from hiding places that facilitate crime and fear of crime
- At-grade, wide crossings set on desire lines with level changes for subways and footbridges avoided wherever possible
- CCTV coverage where appropriate in consultation with TfL's Enforcement Team, the police and local authorities
- Footways and cycle tracks and lanes that are comfortable to use, with even and well drained surfaces and places to rest

Reduction of crime and disorder

Design teams have a duty to ensure that all projects minimise crime and produce a safe and secure environment where people do not feel under threat. This should be done in conjunction with other key design principles to achieve the best balance.

Function and safety

The management of the streets must enable all users to use the space efficiently and safely for the purpose they are designed.

Designing and managing for function and safety should be done in conjunction with other key design principles, as described in Streetscape Guidance.

The design should:

- Ensure that vehicle speeds are appropriate for the surroundings, with controls being introduced where they are required
- Improve legibility so that the use of bollards, pedestrian guard rails, signs and road markings can be minimised
- Achieve a level of illumination that caters for the security needs of pedestrians and cyclists as well as the safety requirements of drivers

Recognition of local context and distinctiveness

Streetscape design must respect the character of the place through which the TLRN passes, not only the physical attributes of landscape and townscape, but also the activity, vitality and distinctiveness of the local community.

The design team should ensure the following:

- Streetscape enhancements that respond to local aspirations and do not compromise local distinctiveness
- The work on the TLRN integrates with the landscape, local ecology or built environment and respects local linkages and spatial arrangements
- Local heritage is respected. This includes statutory and local designations

- Functional requirements of activities and uses that take place either side of the street are integrated into the design of the TLRN streetscape

In order to recognise local context, alternatives to the palette of materials may be acceptable within special areas, subject to the approval of TfL's streetscape specialists.

Access for all

The public realm is a place where people have a right to 'pass and re-pass' on the public highway, which TfL has a duty to protect. This right must include people with mobility and visual impairments and any other disability.

The right of passage should also be extended to encourage the use of the public realm for increased social interaction, unless there are foreseeable safety implications. Particularly important is the creation of streets where:

- People of all abilities can access different modes of transport and change between them
- People can move along footways unhindered by street clutter, poor quality materials and inappropriately located obstacles
- Adequate lighting improves safety for all street users and especially for more vulnerable members of society
- Opportunities can be taken to enable people to interact socially on the street

Materials and maintenance

Adequate investment and continual care is necessary to ensure safe, serviceable and sustainable streetscapes. This can be achieved by:

- Using reputable, durable materials and construction details to ensure a long life span
- Choosing materials and designs that embody simple, ageless solutions for the TLRN to ensure that the street does not become a victim of short-term design fashion
- Using materials and products that are flexible to change, such as streetlight columns that can be adapted to take signs, signals and banners
- Reducing the number and variety of materials used
- Ensuring that existing streetscapes are managed and maintained to the appropriate standard
- Using materials which have been sourced with regard to their environmental impact
- Implementing GLA's responsible procurement policies