



City of Westminster

Access & Security in the public realm

Presentation in Oslo.
Open Meeting
29th May 2013

by Graham King
Head of Strategic Planning & Transportation

Key concepts:-

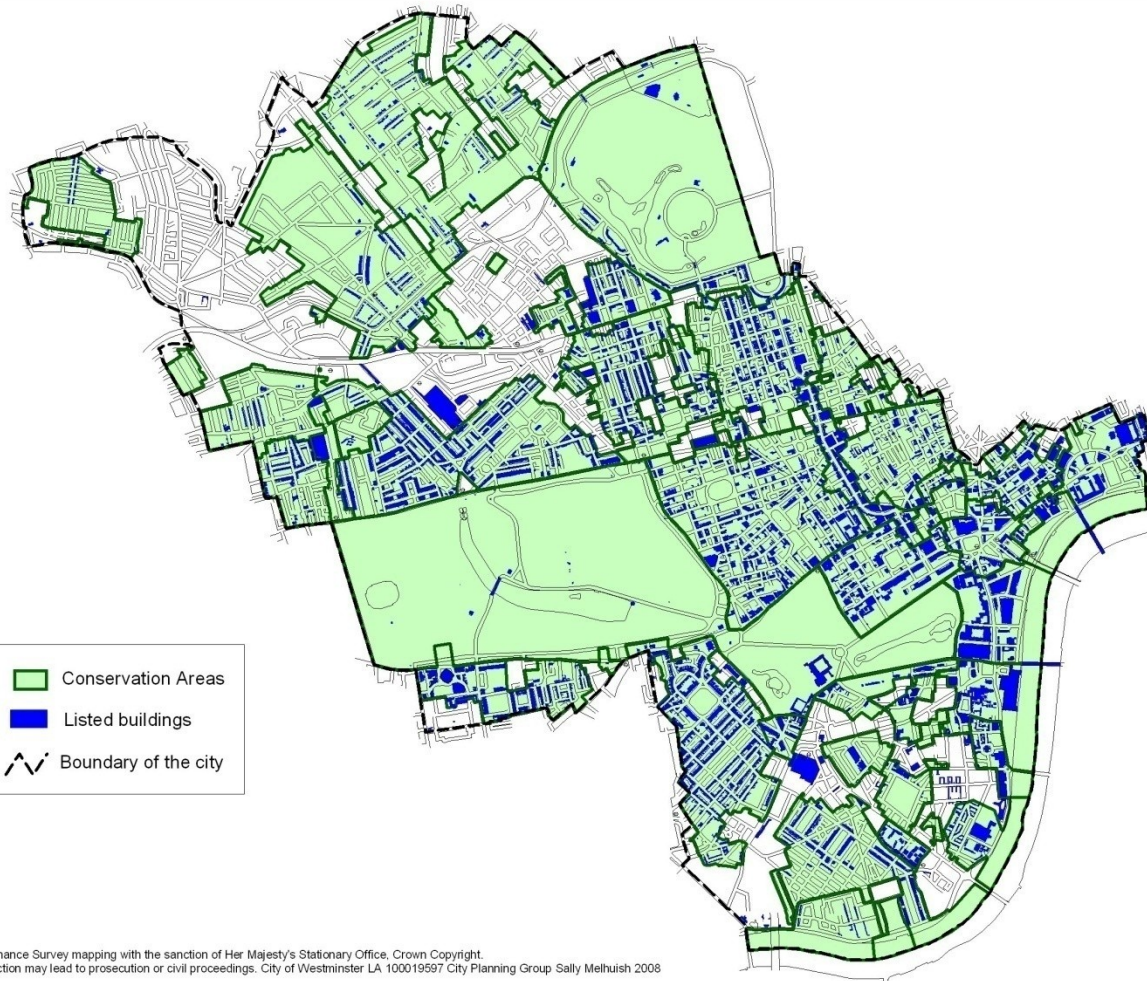
- 1: Legislation and process, role of national & local agencies.
- 2: Primacy of place, character & function, look & feel.
- 3: Management of urban realm & accessibility.
- 4: Assessment of threat , reversibility, future proofing.
- 5: Integrated approach to planning, design & implementation, management.



Westminster in London



Heritage



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Employment and Economic Activity

- Largest employment centre in the UK - 600,000 jobs (15% of all London's jobs). Projected 15% growth in employees in next 20 years.
- 50,000 businesses.(ONS Business Demography, 2011)
- £46bn annual GVA generated (Peter Brett Assoc, 2011): 15% of London total, 3.1% of national total.
- 9 million sqm office floorspace - largest office centre in UK, with rising office rents and falling vacancy rates.
- 8,500 retail premises covering 2.2 million sqm retail space.
- 55 million tourist trips per year, - nearly 450 hotels (40% London's hotel stock), 38 theatres, 60 cinema screens, 20 casinos.
- Largest Night Time Economy in the country, generating £3bn, with 3,800 firms employing nearly 60,000 people.



Population and Society

- 219,400 residential population (ONS, Census 2011).
- Population projected to rise to 230,000 in the next five years (Westminster City Council estimate 2011).
- 120+ languages spoken.
- Westminster is the location of the Royal Family , principal religions, Houses of Parliament, majority of government buildings in London, most embassies, many of UK's cultural institutions including the BBC & other national and international broadcasters.
- Westminster forms the core of central London with a genuine mixed use economy, and plays local, metropolitan, regional, national and international roles.



Development Activity

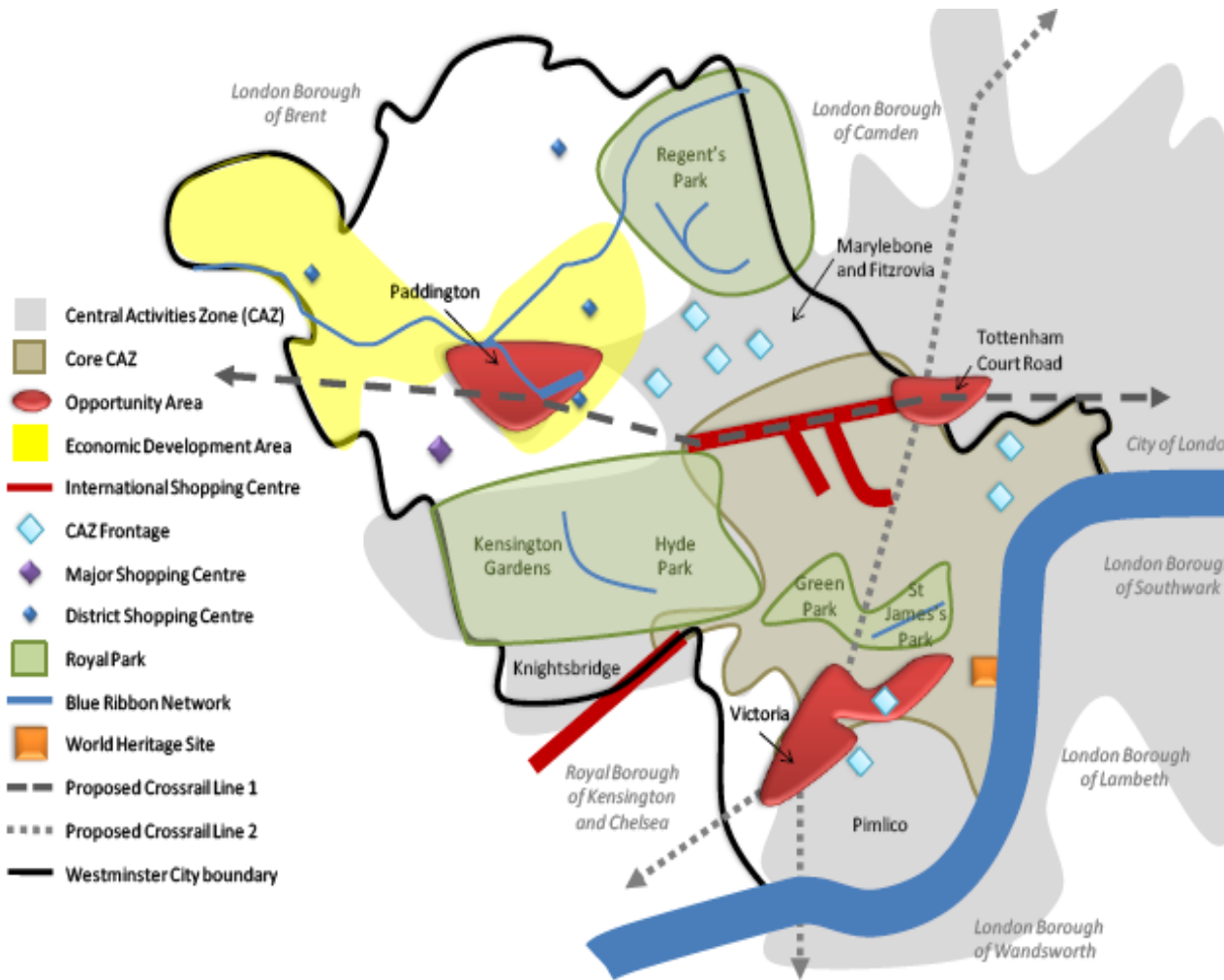
- Busiest planning authority in UK – over 13,000 applications received 2012/13
- £149m secured as financial contributions through signed planning agreements (2011/12).

Heritage

- 56 conservation areas (76.6% of Westminster's area), over 11,000 listed buildings and structures, 1 World Heritage Site, 5 Royal Parks and 19 historic squares and gardens.
- Major museum and cultural institutions as well as railway stations, , the world's oldest underground railway system, 150 years old this year, all take place in historic buildings.
- Within these historic areas and buildings modern commercial, residential activity takes place and the transport systems operate 24/7.

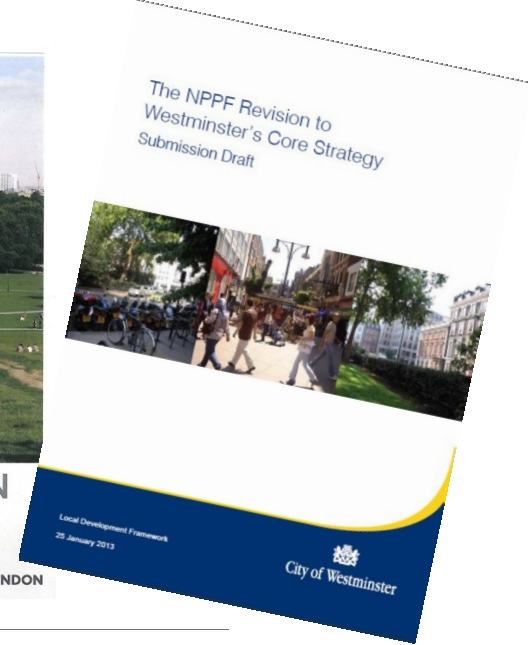
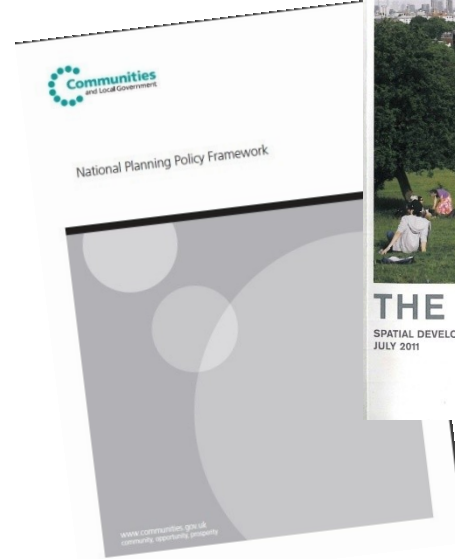


Opportunity & Key areas



Policy and process 1

- National Guidance
- London Plan
- Core Strategy
- Westminster Way (guidance pursuant to policies)



- Process – Public Realm Board
 - Advisory Group on change
 - Operations Group on contracts and management
 - Street Trading Group for markets,

Westminster Way- Public realm strategy
Design principles and practice



Policy and process 2

- Core Strategy – priority for pedestrians
- **Westminster Way** – minimal clutter and clear zones for people – particularly those with impairments
- Consistency and stock control
- Deal with people and expectations
 - Policies and aspirations
 - Estates & landowners have longer term interests – occupiers shorter
 - BIDS – better image – better business
 - Encourage funding, promotion & ideas
- Council's role as Facilitator / collator of Action Plans
- Policy & project co-ordination with Transport for London

Westminster Way- Public realm strategy
Design principles and practice



The NPPF Revision to
Westminster's Core Strategy
Submission Draft



Supplementary Planning Document
Adopted 6 September 2011

City of Westminster

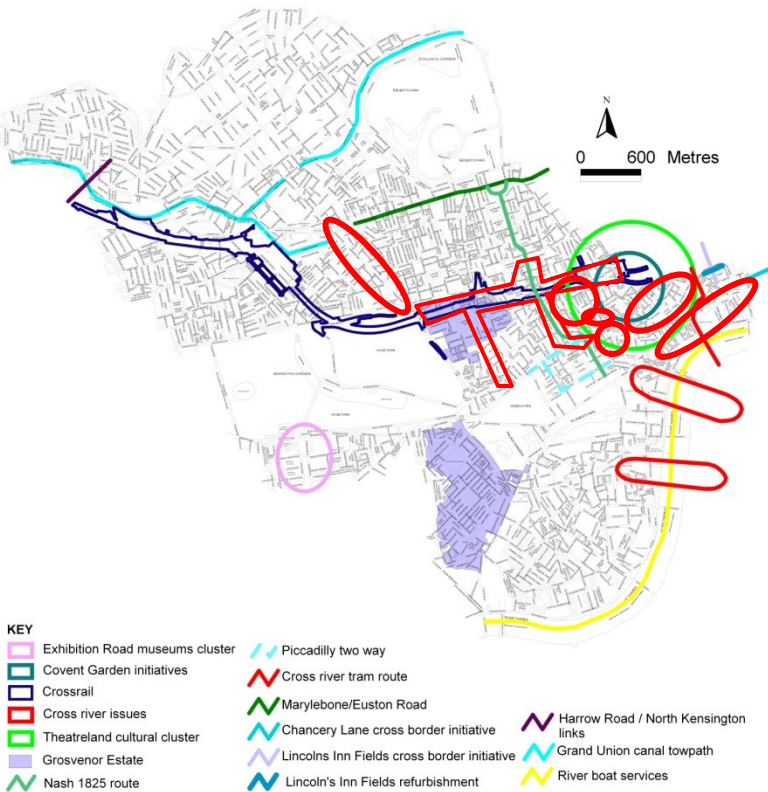
Development Framework
July 2013

City of Westminster



City of Westminster

Action Plans – then build and maintain



- Covent Garden
- Soho
- Edgware Road
- Oxford/Regent/Bond Street (s) [ORB]
- Leicester Square
- Chinatown
- Theatreland / Shaftesbury Avenue
- Strand + Courts & Alleys
- Cross River Partnership
- Grosvenor Estate - Mayfair / Belgravia Studies (Gehl / BDP)
3 schemes complete – more planned
- Crown Estate



Pioneer Scheme - Strand



Delivered 1990

- Historic route
- Narrow Central reservation
- Entry treatments to side streets and pedestrian alleys
- Bus lay-bys and loading pads
- No guard-railing
- Straight through crossings
- Quality limestone paving
- Historic lamp columns



Leicester Square

- Meeting place in the West End
- Heart of the film industry
- Premières
- Shakespeare statue is 'listed'
- Al Fresco dining has addressed some issues
- Redevelopment of some buildings that ceased to work well



World Squares

- Trafalgar Square – Phase 1
- Whitehall – Phase 2
- Parliament Square – Phase 3 deferred and still to be addressed



Trafalgar Square

- Closed north terrace to traffic
- Additional staircase to National Gallery
- Lifts, cafe and lavatories
- Site for many events



Whitehall & Parliament Street

Benefits

- Improved security with enhanced public realm
- Improved pedestrian environment
- Increased footway space



UK Supreme Court

Benefits

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Winner
Security in the
Public Realm

Scheme value: £2m
Scheme completed October 2010



Before



After



“In the full scheme of late twentieth century capitals, however, places such as London and Paris stand out as exceptions. Most of the globe’s other capitals have faced frequent challenges to their role on the world stage. Only the most secure governments seem able to escape the need to demonstrate their command and control through dramatic exercises in architecture and urban design.”

Lawrence J Vale
In Planning Twentieth Century Capitals
Editor David LA Gordon. 2006



Conflict is inevitable in all societies, conflicts have no solutions, conflicts must be managed but they can't be solved"

Professor Torkel Opashi
1931-93

As quoted in London Evening Standard 24th May 2013



Further information

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