Streetscape Guidance – Consultation Draft
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Introduction

1.1. Background

1.1.1. The purpose of this Streetscape Guidance is to set a high standard for the design of London’s streets and spaces by applying best practice design principles. With imaginative application of the right materials and good craftsmanship, Transport for London (TfL) is working towards decluttering London’s streets and breathing new life into the public realm. Through better and bolder design, we intend to transform our streetscapes into welcoming, safer places and create a public realm and transport network fit for a globally competitive economy. This guidance sets the standard for London’s streets and whether a one-off major project or a smaller local adjustment, it defines TfL’s new direction and outlines the criteria for good design, material selection, installation and maintenance.

1.1.2. Streets account for 80 per cent of London’s public realm. Raising the ambition for streets with a collaborative, design-led approach is key to achieving new standards of excellence and in recognising the fundamental role our streets and places play in improving the public realm and providing an enhanced quality of life.

1.1.3. Streets are places for people. Successful streetscapes are inclusive and provide for the competing requirements of their users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, bus operators, bus passengers, private vehicle owners, and freight vehicle operators. Understanding and carefully balancing the diverse needs of these users will ensure better and safer places to support the variety of activity on our Capital’s streets.

1.2. What is Streetscape Guidance?

1.2.1. Streetscape Guidance provides the tools to apply best practice design principles and create consistently high quality links and places across London. While this guidance has been developed primarily for the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN), the principles are equally applicable to any street in London.

1.2.2. The guidance has three primary functions, which are:
• To encourage those responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining London’s streets to use a robust design approach in balancing the movement of people and goods with high quality urban realm
• To demonstrate the high level of ambition, innovation and creativity required on London’s streets to deliver excellent levels of service
• To highlight the design considerations required for appropriate layout, material selection, application and maintenance, and to reinforce best practice design principles, ensuring that a high quality approach to street design is implemented across London

1.2.3. Streetscape Guidance acknowledges emerging policies and describes the need to better understand the role of London’s streets for ‘place’ and ‘movement’ functions, and to prioritise street improvements which enhance the efficiency and quality of the street environment as a whole.

1.3. Who is Streetscape Guidance for?
1.3.1. This guidance is a working tool for those responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining London’s streets. It also provides more general guidance and advice for a wider audience, including design professionals, academics, highway authorities, road user groups, local communities and private developers.

While Streetscape Guidance has been developed primarily for the Transport for London Route Network (TLRN) the principles are equally applicable to any street in London.

1.3.2. A broad range of topic areas are covered in this document, commensurate with the variety of design considerations that exist in a city as complex and varied as
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London. This guidance is designed to supplement rather than replace existing standards, requirements, or guidelines, such as the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). Where further information exists on a topic area from an associated TfL guidance document, this will be clearly highlighted. Our associated guidance documents are shown below:

1.4. How should I use the document?

1.4.1. Streetscape Guidance is structured so that the reader can systematically work through a process that establishes how to best plan, select and compose elements which contribute to improving the quality and function of London’s streets and places.

1.4.2. Part A sets out the vision for London streets. It details our strategy and ambition to build a more efficient and effective transport system while balancing user needs. The ‘street-types’ framework is presented to recognise the different roles London’s streets perform and to assist in the application of context sensitive design.

1.4.3. Part B recognises that each street has a unique function, performance and character which must be balanced to ensure the needs of the users are met while reflecting and enhancing the character of the place.

1.4.4. Part C describes how creativity and innovation must be integrated into the overall approach to ensure London continues to be an attractive, vibrant and accessible place to work, live and visit. Where practical and appropriate, it encourages the trialling and testing of new initiatives to stimulate future street improvements and meet the evolving expectations of all street users. The barriers that prevent experimentation are identified and the process for incorporating innovative ideas, technologies, materials and layouts is explained.

1.4.5. Part D provides the technical guidance for a range of street components. It recommends the material palette and layout options for composing London streets, and provides advice on the selection and placement of products which meet the strategic criteria for quality and function, while enabling local flexibility.

1.4.6. Part E presents best practice case studies from all over London to exemplify how the excellence can be achieved. The case studies highlight the importance of identifying suitable interventions and the most appropriate measures and amenities to be used, in a context sensitive way, to enhance the experience of those using the space.
1.5. **How is the document relevant to my work?**

1.5.1. Streetscape Guidance can be used to support a variety of street improvement works, from small scale decluttering regimes, to extensive new streetscape layouts. It provides the framework and criteria for selecting surface materials and street furniture, and identifies how these should be configured within the street environment.

1.5.2. Streetscape Guidance should be used as early as possible in the development of a project or proposal to help define the brief and inform the initial stages of the design process. This helps to ensure best practice design principles are applied and that a consistent approach is taken in the design of London’s streets and places.

1.5.3. Site specific design and good detailing is integral to producing excellent streetscapes and so this guidance should be used to provide general advice on design details. It should not be used to prescribe and duplicate details; arrangements and technical drawings are for illustrative purposes only.

1.6. **How do I collaborate?**

1.6.1. Collaboration is essential in realising the vision for London; providing world-class streets and places that are fit for the future. Continuous improvement of London’s streets relies on the united effort of a wide range of skilled professionals and technical staff.

1.6.2. Meeting the desired level of ambition will require new and exciting ways of involving people, and developing a joint understanding of the challenges, the trade-offs and the need for action. Active and meaningful partnerships will need to be made; working together to explore new opportunities, to promote regulatory change where necessary, and to improve the user experience for London’s streets.

1.6.3. The importance of early engagement cannot be overstated. At TfL we are committed to the discussion of new ideas, innovations and improvements at a sufficiently early stage to allow an impact on decision-making and ensure that better and more informed decisions can be made.

1.6.4. It is our intention that Streetscape Guidance be a ‘live’ document – regularly reviewed, edited and updated to reflect the latest in best practice. Of course, this requires ongoing and valued contributions from a wide audience. Suggestions, comments and queries are strongly encouraged and should be sent to:

   Streetscape Coordinator  
   Asset Management Directorate  
   Transport for London  
   197 Blackfriars Road  
   Southwark  
   London SE1 8NJ  
   Email: StreetscapeGuidance@tfl.gov.uk

1.6.5. Future editions of this document will continue to set out London’s evolving aspirations for world-class streets, including the goals, knowledge, and advances in technology and innovation. This will ensure our guidance remains a
comprehensive and valuable resource for those responsible for designing, building, operating and maintaining our Capital's streets and places.