



## Report on Resilience First Webinar

12 January 2021

### 'Resilience First in Conversation'

**Speaker:**

***Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, Greater London Authority***

**Chair:**

***Seth Schultz, Executive Director, The Resilience Shift***

#### **Key Messages**

- Tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and making London a zero-carbon city are compatible, concurrent objectives and the Mayor's focus. The goal is for a cleaner, greener (already 50%), and more equitable city.
- Now is an opportunity to reset and not simply to return to the *status quo ante*. The challenge is to make a more resilient city whatever the future holds.
- The ambitious aim is to be a net-zero city by 2030. However, the challenges are immense with population of 9m. While pollution levels have declined overall, there are still pockets that are too high.
- Whilst London has peaked its carbon emissions and is on track to meet its first carbon budget, consumption emissions are three times those of cities in Africa/Asia.
- In addition, there is a housing stock that has poor insulation levels, with 1:10 living in fuel poverty. Covid-19 has exacerbated the inequalities over jobs, car use, housing, etc.
- A Recovery Board that brings together London boroughs, communities, statutory bodies, and businesses is designed to create a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous city as it emerges from the pandemic. It has developed nine missions to improving the city, with the environment being a key cross-cutting principle.
- One of the nine missions is a [Green New Deal for London that](#) aims to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and eradicate air pollution whilst doubling the size of the green economy by 2030 and creating jobs and skills for all Londoners. In December, the Mayor allocated £10m in funding for projects across seven of the nine pillars in the first part of the Green New Deal.
- The low carbon and environmental goods and services sector is already worth around £48bn in sales and employs 320,000 people in London and had a growth rate of around 10% pre-Covid. This is worth more to London than the construction and manufacturing sectors combined. The electrification of London's bus network is an example of how the demand created by large ambitious programmes in London can lead to the creation of high-skilled jobs across the supply and value chain elsewhere in the UK.

- The Green New Deal has three pillars designed to address the socio-economic inequalities in London as well as the environmental challenges. One pillar concerns the built environment to get London's buildings to net zero emissions. The second is about modernising the public transport, shifting the emphasis to electrification and away from car use and ensuring Londoners have access to good quality green space, and clean air. The third is about building the economic, industrial and green foundations so London's economy can grow.
- For London to reach its net zero target will require around £60bn of investment. The plan is not starting from scratch as there currently exists a range of plans around the environment. Initiatives such as the Ultra-Low Emission Zone have already reduced NOX levels in central London by 44% and CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 6%. The Energy for Londoners programme has helped over 32,000 homes with new energy-saving measures, and the Workplaces accelerator has so far saved 12,000t of carbon annually. London is the only city in the UK to have a zero-carbon home standard for new builds (in 2019 saving 40% on carbon emissions over existing standards) and this standard will be extended to non-domestic buildings once the new London Plan is published.
- It is recognised that the Green New Deal cannot be delivered without the active participation of many sectors and communities across London. Unlocking public- and private-sector finance, and creating new financing mechanisms and facilities, will be important. Instigating systemic changes to finance mechanisms to support a green recovery will also be necessary. It will extend, for instance, to the installation of rapid electric charging points - already London has around 300 rapid charge points, a quarter of the UK's capacity, and over 2,000 standard charge points.
- Implementing the Green New Deal will require working closely with businesses and providing focussed support as much as possible. Understanding what businesses need from the GLA is an important first step. Accelerator programmes, scrappage funds, academies and tools exist to provide support to the private sector. However, the GLA only has legal powers to affect around half the emissions in London; the other half rests with government and requires them to fund strategies in areas such as retrofit, decarbonising electricity supply, supporting low carbon heating and electrification of transport. There are calls for more regulatory and fiscal powers to be devolved to the Mayor.
- With the UK Government announcing in December that it aims for at least 68% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of this decade compared to 1990 levels, it means that London as a leading environmental light in the UK has a key role to play.

**A copy of the full video recording of the presentation and the subsequent discussion can be found [here](#). A transcript of the Deputy Mayor's presentation is [here](#).**

**In the Introduction, reference was made to Dr Mark Carney's Reith Lecture on 'From Climate Crisis to Real Prosperity'. A transcript can be found [here](#).**

### **Speakers' Biographies**

#### **Shirley Rodrigues**

Shirley Rodrigues was appointed as London Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy in October 2016. Previously, she oversaw a global climate change grants portfolio at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, developing their cities and climate strategy and has devised and delivered new environmental policies and programmes in London, nationally and internationally.

She is now working to deliver the Mayor's vision of making London greener, cleaner and healthier through implementing his London Environment Strategy. This includes ambitious

programmes to reduce air pollution across London including the implementation of the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone, tackle the climate and ecological emergency and help the capital become a zero-waste city. A key focus is on ensuring London's economic and social recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 is a green and fair one.

### **Seth Schultz**

Seth Schultz is Executive Director of The Resilience Shift. He has a long track record of building consensus and initiating change in the field of sustainable development, and of raising international awareness on the role of cities in tackling climate change.

With over 20 years of experience, Seth's background is as a geologist and environmental scientist. Driven by the need to create change in urban sustainability he has worked with leading and innovative organizations in this space including the Louis Berger Group, the US Green Building Council, the Clinton Foundation, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Covenant of Mayors, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), where he was Co-Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee for Cities IPCC and served as a lead author on the ground breaking IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees.

His recent work has focused on turning theory to practice, whether developing a global standard for Greenhouse Gas Emissions in cities, founding new organizations such as The Coalition for Urban Transitions, or a hard-hitting report on Mayoral powers and the ability and need for city leaders to become global change makers.

Seth sits on various boards and advisory councils, is a sought-after speaker and guest lecturer, and has authored numerous articles, reports, blogs and thought leadership pieces around the world. He has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Binghamton University.