

Suburbs warned on dangers of neglect

By Christina Papas

London's suburbs need attention so the city does not become a location solely for finance and tourism, a report warns this week.

URBED argues that suburbs could contribute more to creating sustainable and diverse communities but are losing out to major regeneration in deprived areas.

The report claims that the London Plan, which began its examination in public this week, offers "little hope to suggest that a stronger network of sustainable suburban centres will emerge".

Suburban employment should be encouraged by creating enterprise hubs in district centres and business parks, the report adds. It wants sustainable family housing to be developed and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to encourage boroughs to draw up proposals for "eco-neighbourhoods".

Public transport interchanges need upgrading to



London suburbs: reports call for strategy to be stronger

tackle congestion and orbital rail links should be promoted, the report contends.

URBED director Nicholas Falk said: "The tendency has been to focus on the most deprived areas, such as the Thames Gateway, but we need to look at potential and not just places of need."

A London Assembly report out this week also suggests that suburbs are in danger of

becoming dormitories. It says the London Plan must better protect local jobs and boost transport investment. The mayor's office was unavailable to comment.

London Suburbs: Unlocking Their Potential is available from (tel) 020 7831 9986. **Reconnecting London's Suburbs** is available at PlanningResource.co.uk/doc