

## **28th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

This is my twenty-eighth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 4 December 2014 – 7 January 2015.

### **New Year's Message**

2014 has been a spectacular year for our city with all sorts of records being claimed. More people are using the buses than before, more people are using the Tube and more people are cycling – 580,000 journeys by bike every day. Crime is down. We are building record numbers of homes, more than in any year since 1980, and on course to build 100,000 affordable homes by 2016. We've successfully reopened Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and welcomed even more visitors to the city than in 2013, when we knocked Paris and New York off the top spot.

Next year promises to be even better. We will begin constructing the first Tube extension in 15 years on the Northern Line. We are planning for the beautiful Garden Bridge, as well as the cultural quarter that will be Olympicopolis in Stratford. We're also starting work on two massive cycle superhighways, east to west and north to south and, for the first time in its history, we will see the Tube running 24 hours at weekends.

I have no doubt that London will continue to be at the forefront of our country's improving economy. We are seeing more and more jobs being created and I have just announced more funding to boost apprenticeships, which along with training, will give more Londoners the skills they need to play their part in our city's future prosperity. It is critical that all Londoners can benefit from the recovery - that's why I'm urging more companies, large and small, that can afford to pay their staff the London Living Wage, to do so in 2015.

We've seen a massive uptake in firms paying the living wage as employers realise the benefits - from increased productivity to improved employee loyalty. For some of the lowest paid Londoners it's made a real difference, putting money back into the pockets of thousands of families across the city.

Of course we face huge and continued challenges, which I as your Mayor, along with my team at City Hall, will continue to work hard to tackle head on. As we say goodbye to 2014 and welcome in 2015, I wanted to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very peaceful, fulfilling and above all a very happy New Year.

### **New Year's Honours**

Once again, the honours list is packed full of many talented and committed individuals from all walks of life who have worked with great energy and endeavour to make our capital a better place to live, work and enjoy life in. I would like to register my congratulations, but also to pass on my thanks to everyone for their tireless efforts on behalf of London.

## **Transport for London's Dr Michèle Dix recognised with a CBE**

On 30 December, it was announced that Dr Michèle Dix, Transport for London's Managing Director of Planning, has been recognised with a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to transport in London; and on 5 February 2015 will move to the new post of Managing Director of Crossrail 2, to make the case for, and implement, the next new rail scheme for London's growth. Richard de Cani will become Managing Director, Planning, for TfL from that date

The award recognises Michèle's dedication to improving transport in the capital and her groundbreaking efforts in developing and planning London's road capacity requirements. She has played a significant part in helping to shape this city's future transport needs and I'm delighted that as Michèle takes on her next public transport challenge - Crossrail 2 - she has received this national recognition.

## **MPS' Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick recognised with a CBE**

Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick was awarded a CBE for services to policing in the Queen's New Year's honours list. Cressida Dick joined the force as a constable in the early eighties and has been a loyal servant of the Metropolitan Police Service and the people of London for over 30 years.

In the course of an impressive career, Cressida has led some of the MPS' most challenging investigations and worked to keep Londoners, and the wider UK public, safe through her leadership of the counter terrorism and, latterly, the serious and organised crime commands. I once again want to take this opportunity to wish her every success in her new role and every best wish for the future.

## **GLA's Culture and Creative Industries Manager Justine Simons recognised with an OBE**

Justine Simon's high profile and innovative work for the GLA has been recognised in the New Year honours list. She has been involved in many ground breaking GLA cultural and artistic initiatives, none more so than the widely admired Fourth Plinth sculptures and the hugely successful Cultural Olympiad for the 2012 Games.

Justine's honour is richly deserved and also a credit to the support she has received from her team and the wider GLA.

## **Policing, Crime and Community Safety**

### **Hate Crime Strategy**

On 3 December, my Hate Crime Strategy was launched by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime at the Faith Matters/Tell MAMA Project in Westminster. The development of the strategy included extensive public consultation and it contains actions for partners across the criminal justice system. Those actions include, developing a hate crime reporting app; appropriate training for MPS and CPS officers; and the piloting of independent hate crime advocates.

## **London Crime Reduction Board**

On 8 December, I chaired a meeting of the London Crime Reduction Board. The Board reviewed progress made against the action plan for tackling anti-social behaviour; directed continued collaborative working in key areas including adult reoffending, youth reoffending and CCTV; and received an update of progress on transforming rehabilitation.

## **Data Launch**

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime launched the MOPAC Confidence Dashboard and the Neighbourhood Confidence Comparator at a meeting of the MPS' Neighbourhood Inspectors. On 11 December, at the MOPAC Challenge, he launched the Intrusive Tactics Dashboard. This dashboard provides data on the use of stop and search, taser, firearms and undercover officers. These dashboards are available on the MOPAC website, enabling the public to scrutinise and analyse this data.

## **Community Ambassadors**

On 9 December, I visited the Community Ambassadors scheme. This outreach programme is supporting Borough Commanders in their work with the local community and encouraging Londoners of all backgrounds to join the MPS. I also met with police officers in Ealing who were using the MPS' new mobile technology and body worn cameras.

## **New Scotland Yard**

On 9 December, I announced the details of the sale of New Scotland Yard. It has been sold for £370 million to Abu Dhabi Financial Group - £120 million more than the guide price and three times what was originally paid for the site freehold in 2008. The sale of this under-used and outdated building means we can fund the new HQ and kit out officers with the latest mobile technology to secure the future of the force.

## **Transport**

### **£148 million for transport improvements and better public spaces**

Town centres across London's boroughs are set to be transformed after I announced that £148m in funding is being made available for local transport and public realm projects in 2015/16. Local areas will see safer roads, better public spaces, improved walking facilities and cycling made safer and easier.

The annual funding has been allocated by TfL to each London borough to support the delivery of its Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to spend on projects that support my Transport Strategy. By working with the boroughs to deliver better transport in their areas, we can in turn help to support jobs and economic growth in the capital as a whole.

### **Modernisation of London Underground on track**

The way passengers are served at stations will begin to be transformed from February 2015, with staff moved from underused ticket offices and back rooms to where they can assist customers most effectively - in ticket halls, at gate lines and on platforms. This will ensure that

by the end of 2015 there will be more staff on platforms, at ticket machines and concourses than ever before.

All stations will remain staffed at all times whilst services are running, and more staff will be visible and available to offer assistance to customers where it is needed most. All staff will receive customer service training and portable handheld devices loaded with all the information needed to help our customers.

Around 150 new ticket machines are being introduced across the network and all machines are being modernised.

From 12 September 2015, 24 Hour 'Night Tube' services will be introduced on Friday and Saturday nights, boosting London's economy by £360 million, supporting up to 2000 extra jobs and cutting late night journey times for many people.

### **Croydon's first pure electric 'emission free' buses hit the streets**

On 10 December, TfL, Arriva and UK bus manufacture Optare introduced the latest electric buses to the capital's fleet.

The two Optare MetroCity buses are now in service on route 312, which is operated by Arriva, between South Croydon and Norwood Junction. The bus route is used by around 4,700 passengers a day. Passengers travelling on these buses will benefit from much lower noise and vibration levels compared to regular buses with diesel engines.

These new electric buses are the latest addition to Europe's greenest bus fleet and will increase TfL's experience and understanding of this relatively new technology. The buses were built by UK bus manufacturer Optare, which is part of the Hinduja Group, based in Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire. They have zero tail pipe emissions at point of use, resulting in lower overall carbon emissions.

### **Opening of state-of-the-art Crossrail train testing facility**

On 11 December, the Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin and I visited Bombardier in Derby to open their new £1.6m 'iron bird' integration test facility, inspired by the aviation industry, where advanced pre-production testing takes place in a simulated environment.

Securing the Crossrail contract has enabled Bombardier to invest in this cutting-edge technology in order to put the new fleet of trains through their paces. It will help make the next generation of rolling stock safer, more reliable and improve performance. It is the first time that such equipment has been used to test trains in the UK.

While there the Transport Secretary and I met the engineers, train builders and apprentices who will be building the new trains for the major new TfL-run rail line. It will serve 40 stations and link central London with Reading and Heathrow in the west and Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

In addition to the contract to build 65 Crossrail trains, which has sustained 760 jobs and provided 80 new apprenticeships in Derby, Bombardier is currently producing a fleet of 191 new S Stock Tube trains for the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines, and 57 additional rail cars for the hugely popular London Overground network.

## **TfL to implement new measures to tackle bogus Congestion Charge websites**

On 16 December, TfL announced a range of changes to the way that people can pay for the Congestion Charge, following a six week public consultation held earlier this year.

TfL can now refuse Congestion Charge payments made by unofficial “copycat” websites or other unauthorised third parties. This change is another step in combating the menace of rogue unofficial Congestion Charge payment websites, which can charge unsuspecting customers up to an £8 extra on top of the daily Congestion Charge fee for non-existent “additional services”. In some cases the sites have not even paid the Congestion Charge on behalf of customers, resulting in Penalty Charge Notices being issued.

TfL has been working closely with search engines providers to better enforce their advertising policies to ensure ads for Congestion Charge payments are not misleading or otherwise unlawful. The proactive action taken by TfL and others will make it even harder to operate an unofficial payment site that misleads TfL’s customers.

## **First "Quietways" to open to cyclists early next year**

On 10 December, I announced that London’s first “Quietways”, will open in May next year, giving cyclists a direct, pleasant, back-street alternative to busy main roads.

Construction is about to start on the first two routes, which will run from central London to Greenwich and Hackney, with a later extension to Walthamstow.

Five more routes are at the design stage and around two dozen more will be delivered or in progress by 2016.

Sustrans, the leading cycling and walking charity, has been awarded a three year contract by TfL to help deliver the £120m network, in partnership with the local boroughs and other partners whose roads they will use. Every London borough will be served by the Quietways.

Unlike the old London Cycle Network, Quietways will be direct and clearly signed, mostly on the road itself, making it difficult for cyclists to lose their way. Because they are on lower-traffic roads, they will be largely unsegregated. The main interventions on the vast majority of the network will be waymarking, surfacing improvements where necessary, removing barriers such as chicanes and improving the flow of the route.

## **Barclays Cycle Hire charges to be simplified in the New Year with 1000 new docking points planned**

Customers using Barclays Cycle Hire, will now find it easier to pay following TfL’s announcement that the hire charges have been simplified to a flat £2 per 30 minutes after the initial free 30 minute period. The £2 daily bike access and £90 yearly membership will remain unchanged.

Barclays Cycle Hire now covers over 100km<sup>2</sup> of London with more than 10,000 bikes and TfL is working with a range of land owners and London boroughs to identify further sites for docking stations to intensify the scheme within its current footprint. Increasing the density of docking points, particularly in central London, will provide greater opportunity to hire and dock bikes and the redistribution operation will be more efficient.

New docking stations are already planned near Putney Pier, Vauxhall and Tower Bridge, bringing around 100 new docking points to the scheme. TfL recently announced plans for eight new docking stations, with a total of 320 docking points, at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Close to 1,000 further new docking point locations have also been identified that could be delivered across London, subject to planning permission, by 2016.

### **Four successful prosecutions of rogue minicab drivers**

TfL, working with policing partners, has continued its excellent record for prosecutions by successfully prosecuting four more rogue private hire, or minicab, drivers who were acting illegally or plying for trade. This is part of an ongoing commitment to stamping out bogus and unsafe minicab drivers in London.

These prosecutions bring the total number of successful convictions for illegal plying for hire and other related offences up to 34 in 12 months, with these proactive operations continuing into 2015.

### **Final chance to have your say on the proposed world-first Ultra Low Emission Zone**

On 30 December, Londoners were reminded that the consultation on the proposals to introduce the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in the capital on 7 September 2020, was entering its final weeks.

The ULEZ consultation runs until 9 January 2015 and is available online at [www.tfl.gov.uk/ultra-low-emission-zone](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/ultra-low-emission-zone).

### **London Underground breaks Olympic record for weekly passenger numbers**

The London Underground network carried over 28.346 million people in the week ending 13 December 2014, making it the busiest week on the Tube in its history,

This exceeded the last record-breaking total reached in the week ending 13 August 2012 during the London 2012 Games when 28.235 million journeys were made.

These latest passenger figures follow LU's 2013/14's record performance when it carried 1.265bn passengers - up by a third over the last ten years, following unprecedented levels of infrastructure and performance improvements

Those who travel on the Tube have already benefited from the upgrades of the Jubilee and Victoria lines. This is in addition to the work that is currently being undertaken to transform the Northern, Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines as well as significant work to many stations across the network. We need to maintain this pace of modernisation to ensure that London Underground is a network that is fit for the future.

### **TfL introduces new device to collect dropped items from tracks for passengers**

On 16 December, TfL launched a new piece of equipment designed to combat a growing issue of smart phones and tablets falling onto the tracks, following a successful trial of a new device over the summer.

Designed, built and tested by London Underground staff, the track retrieval device (TRD) consists of a set of four non-conductive rods using either a sticky adhesive pad or a hook,

which enables staff to safely retrieve items, such as mobile phones, electronic devices and handbags from the track. The device is designed to be used without having to turn off the power supply to the tracks and without staff having to step down onto the track, which is dangerous and can cause delays. Last year dropped items on the track were responsible for 195,000 hours of delay.

### **Work to remove Aldgate gyratory system begins**

On 5 January work began to remove the gyratory system near Aldgate bus station.

The work is being carried out by the City of London as part of a major uplift to the Aldgate area and is one of 33 of London's busiest and most dangerous junctions that are being overhauled to make them safer and less threatening. The changes will improve traffic flow as well as improving cycling and pedestrian routes. It will also allow simpler routings of bus services, improved lighting in the area and will create two new public spaces on the eastern edge of the City of London. The overall scheme is expected to finish in Autumn 2016.

### **Industrial HGV Taskforce takes action against dangerous operators to improve road safety**

On 29 December, TfL announced that the Industrial HGV Taskforce (IHTF) has again taken action to defend the safety of road users after concluding a number of successful operations against dangerous and illegal operators and drivers.

The work of the IHTF has resulted in the successful prosecution of Space Rubbish Ltd and Cowan Plant Ltd, and a number of their employees for endangering the lives of road users.

*FORS*, the award winning industry led accreditation scheme helps operators improve operational performance and safety, and to demonstrate compliance and best practice. To keep the scheme's reputation high, any FORS accredited operator who performs illegal practices or fails to comply with FORS conditions is liable to be subjected to suspensions and terminations. This also helps to ensure a level playing field for all FORS accredited fleet operators.

Operations like those conducted by the IHTF and the MPS Commercial Vehicle Unit (CVU), and the withdrawal of FORS accreditation from rogue operators, result in increased road safety as the number of dangerous drivers and illegal operators out on the road is reduced.

### **Bus services in Greenwich receive a further boost**

Starting on 3 January, TfL will increase the frequency of route 129 to provide extra capacity to meet increased passenger demand in the busy morning and afternoon peaks.

This service change is part of TfL's management and development of a network that comprises of around 700 routes across Greater London, operated by 7,600 buses at peak times, carrying more than 2.4 billion passengers every year.

TfL keeps the network under regular review, working with the London boroughs and other partners to help ensure that services can respond to London's changing travel needs.

## **Bond Street Tube station fully open three weeks ahead of schedule**

Since 5 December, Bond Street station has been fully open to customers flocking to the West End, due to the completion of Tube tunnelling works that allowed the station to reopen three weeks earlier than originally planned.

The redevelopment of Bond Street station is part of London Underground's (LU's) £10 billion programme of continuous improvements. Major construction work will modernise and enlarge the station by 2017, allowing for the expected increase from 155,000 to 225,000 daily passengers at the station when Crossrail arrives in 2018.

## **New operator to bring further improvements to Docklands Light Railway**

Customers on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) will soon see more trains running more often under the new operator KeolisAmey Docklands Ltd, which took over operating the network on behalf of TfL on 7 December.

The new franchise will focus on boosting services and on implementing a series of service improvements to make journeys better for passengers. The new agreement puts in place clear incentives to continue to drive the high levels of customer service seen on the DLR in recent years and which DLR passengers have come to expect. This will mean cleaner trains and stations, more reliable lifts and escalators, more efficient and reliable station maintenance and faster passenger journeys. These incentives will also enable the network's current 99 per cent reliability record to be maintained – ensuring it remains the best performing railway in the UK.

## **More frequent Sunday service for London Tramlink passengers**

London Tramlink passengers are now enjoying a more frequent Sunday service running between Wimbledon and New Addington, via Croydon town centre.

Since 14 December, between 10.00am and 6.00pm each Sunday, a tram will run 7-8 minutes on this route (Line 3) compared to the current frequency of 15 minutes. This will make it even easier for customers wanting to travel to either Croydon or Wimbledon town centres to shop over the festive period.

As well as more frequent Sunday services, a new 700m section of double track has recently been completed between Mitcham Junction and Beddington Lane as part of the Wimbledon line enhancement programme. The new track will allow trams to pass more easily through this section and thus reduce delays. Work is also in progress to add a new bay to Platform 10 at Wimbledon station.

When complete it will enable the introduction of an additional four new trams onto the network which will bring a 50 per cent increase for the Wimbledon branch and double the line's capacity in 2016.

## **TfL confirm winning contractor for the Bakerloo line link**

On 6 January, London Underground announced its intention to award the contract to design and build the Paddington link tunnel, which will link the new Crossrail station and the Bakerloo line platforms, to Costain Skanska Joint Venture.

## **Year of the Bus Sculpture Trail unveiled in Croydon**

On 8 December, seventeen New Routemaster bus sculptures, painted and adorned by well-known and aspiring artists, were unveiled around Croydon – with six of the sculptures designed by artists living or working in the Croydon area. The sculptures have been sponsored by various organisations and will remain on public display until early January.

## **TfL's Lost Property Office share festive cheer with annual Christmas toy donation**

Hundreds of new, unclaimed children's toys which were handed in to TfL's Lost Property Office during 2014 were given to The Salvation Army to donate to children in south London.

## **Emirates Air Line hosts The Snowman and The Snowdog Christmas experience**

On 15 December, passengers travelling on the Emirates Air Line were treated to a fun festive surprise. The Snowman and The Snowdog arrived at the Emirates Greenwich Peninsula Terminal of the cable car to take a look at unique version of *The Snowman and The Snowdog* film, which has been specially reworked for the Emirates Air Line.

Footage from the classic film has been given an exciting twist. The iconic 'flying in the air' sequence now sees The Snowman and The Snowdog characters flying over London landmarks such as The O2, the Emirates Air Line, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Greenwich Royal Naval College and the Thames Barrier. This magical sequence is really brought to life as passengers fly over the Thames themselves.

## **Garden Bridge approved**

Following Westminster City Council and Lambeth Council's decisions to grant consent for the bridge, my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Sir Edward Lister, approved the plans on 19 December.

Designed by Thomas Heatherwick - who created the cauldron for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – the Garden Bridge will be 366m long and will connect Temple on the north bank to the South Bank. It is estimated that the bridge will attract seven million trips per year using it as a new way to cross the river. The bridge will include a major new public space and garden that will be free to access and will feature 270 trees as well as shrubs, climbing plants, hedges and flowers. It will be fully accessible, with two lifts at each end and will be open from 6am to midnight. It will be free of charge.

## **London Underground cashless car park charges frozen for 2015**

From early 2015, customers using London Underground car parks will have seen their car park prices frozen for the second year in a row when they use cashless payment methods.

The cashless payment method provides those using LU's car parks with the option to make their payments by phone, text, mobile websites and mobile applications. Customers can register by via the Dashpark website

There are around 11,000 car parking spaces at over 60 LU stations, mostly in outer London boroughs. Through continued investment in its car parks, TfL is making them safer, easier to use and more cost effective for customers.

Customers who pay by cash are seeing an average rise in line with RPI to weekday tariffs, at 2.5 per cent. This reflects the cost of processing and collecting cash payments.

### **TfL seeks public views on its approach to transparency**

On 8 December, TfL launched a public consultation to help develop its approach to transparency and the availability of the information it provides to the public.

TfL is asking customers and stakeholders for their views on the usefulness of the wide range of information that is currently published and how it is presented. They are also being invited to suggest further information that they would like to be made available as a matter of course. Responses will be used to formulate a Transparency Strategy which will be published in summer 2015.

### **TfL rolls out its rainbow crossing to mark the legalisation of same-sex marriage**

On 10 December, TfL rolled out London's first ever rainbow crossing in Trafalgar Square, to mark the moment that same-sex couples can convert their civil partnerships into marriages, following legalisation of the Marriage (same sex couples) Act 2013 which came in to full-force on 10 December 2014.

The crossing was located opposite the Charing Cross Road entrance on Trafalgar Square, near Nelson's Column and was available for couples to be photographed against the backdrop of some of London iconic buildings.

TfL first used the Rainbow crossing in London for Pride in London in June and then again in September at Arsenal Tube station to support the anti-homophobia in sport campaign. The crossing is similar to ones that have appeared in Brighton, Tel Aviv and Sydney.

### **90 tonne bridge lifted into place at Custom House station**

A 34 metre long bridge has now been installed as part of the construction of a new Crossrail station at Custom House, linking the station with ExCeL London.

The new structure was lifted into place in three sections by two huge cranes with a combined weight of nearly a thousand tonnes. The bridge was fabricated in Dublin, painted in Widnes, Cheshire and then transported to the Custom House site in London under police escort.

The construction of the new station is now almost half complete. Large sections of the station have been manufactured in Laing O'Rourke's Explore Industrial Park in Steetley, near Sheffield, and then transported more than 130 miles to east London and assembled on site. This process ensured safer construction and saved time, with disruption to residents, existing rail services and the nearby ExCeL London conference centre minimised as far as possible.

With Crossrail, the journey between Custom House and Bond Street will be around 10 minutes quicker and passengers travelling to and from Heathrow will be able to reduce their journeys by more than 30 minutes. When it opens in 2018, Custom House station will be run by Transport for London as part of London's integrated transport network.

## **Crossrail unveils plans for new station building at Hayes & Harlington**

On 22 December, Crossrail announced it had submitted proposals for a new station building at Hayes & Harlington to Hillingdon Council for approval.

The distinctive new glass and steel structure is intended to create a landmark that will be much more visible and prominent than the existing station. A bright, spacious ticket hall will provide a more welcoming environment and a range of other improvements will be made to the station including a new footbridge to provide step free access, platform extensions, better lighting and enhanced customer information and security

The new building, designed by Bennetts Associates, will be situated immediately to the north of the existing station and will replace a commercial property currently on the site. From the end of 2017, it will be run by Transport for London as part of London's integrated transport network.

## **Regeneration, Business, Enterprise and the Economy**

### **London Co-investment Fund**

On 4 December, I launched the London Co-Investment Fund, a venture capital fund for budding tech and science start-up businesses in the capital that are looking to raise the finance they need to take their business to the next level.

The London Co-investment Fund is supported by £25m from the GLA and up to £60m from six private sector partners. Over the next three years it is expected to invest in more than 150 small businesses and spur the creation of up to 2,600 new jobs.

### **Apprenticeship Grant for Employers**

On 29 December, I announced a £14m fund for small and medium sized-businesses to offer an extra incentive to take on an apprentice in 2015. From the New Year this will mean the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers will double, helping my continued drive to boost apprentice numbers in London.

Starting on 1 January 2015, London companies will be able to take advantage of the enhanced Apprentice Grant for Employers (AGE) which will rise from the current limit of £1500 to £3000. The funding pot for small and medium-sized businesses, which was secured by the London Enterprise Panel through its Growth Deal with Government, will allow employers to apply for £3,000 per apprentice they employ. The announcement follows a trial project funded by the London Enterprise Panel last year that saw overwhelming demand for the increased grant in London. The funding boost should help create new apprenticeship places across London.

### **TechCity**

On 19 December, I launched an eight week public consultation on the Draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework - Supplementary Planning Guidance to the London Plan. The document examines how the planning system can maximise growth in the area and ensure there is a continuing supply of affordable workspace.

The area around Old Street, known as the City Fringe, has been designated an Opportunity

Area, meaning that it has the capacity for thousands of new homes and jobs. This part of Shoreditch is widely regarded as the home of London's burgeoning tech sector, although the cluster now spreads as far as Wembley, Croydon and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

## **High Streets Fund**

Following my announcement of the £9m High Streets Fund in Bromley last June, a total of 137 applications were received by the 1 December deadline. 81 applications came from community, voluntary sector and traders groups who were invited to apply for smaller amounts (up to £20K) via my High Streets Space Hive online platform and 56 applications were received from partnerships led by boroughs who were invited to apply for larger grants (up to £2m). Applications are required to deliver activities across four key themes.

- Proactive Stewardship – to establish local partnerships to enhance governance arrangements and to develop high street strategies that encourage change.
- Stimulating activity – to improve the look and feel of places, make them more welcoming through support for events and physical improvements.
- Occupying empty space – to help bring back a high street bustle and ensure a diverse and desirable range of uses.
- Accommodating Growth – to boost the High Streets role in supporting and shaping development and town centre intensification.

My Regeneration Team is conducting an appraisal of all bids in collaboration with other GLA teams (Housing and Land, Environment, Culture, EPBU, Transport/TfL) to determine the better performing project proposals and working with GLA Economics to assess bid information related to value for money / cost benefit and economic uplift.

## **London's first social supermarket**

On 15 December, Rosie Boycott, the Chair of London Food, attended the launch of the UK's first full-scale social supermarket, run by the social enterprise Community Shop, in West Norwood on my behalf.

Community Shop will sell low-cost, high-quality food to hundreds of people on income support while helping them back into work. The scheme will work on a membership basis, whereby members can shop for food at 70 per cent cheaper than usual prices, from leading supermarkets, other major retailers and top brands, including Marks and Spencer, Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, The Co-operative, Ocado, Innocent, Brake Brothers, Nestlé and Muller. Members also enrol on a tailored professional development programme – called The Success Plan – which aims to raise members' self-confidence and job prospects.

Rosie and her team worked closely with Community Shop and a number of boroughs to identify suitable premises for the store. It is the first of a planned 20 stores across the country.

## **Future Streets Incubator**

I have authorised TfL to award funding from the Future Streets Incubator to projects that will further the purpose of promoting economic or social development or the improvement of the environment in Greater London.

## **Housing and Land**

### **£220 million funding boost for low cost homes to buy**

On 5 January, I announced £220m of funding for two new schemes to help Londoners into affordable home ownership and accelerate the delivery of new homes. I made the announcement as I visited Erith Park in Bexley, a major new regeneration project, with 80 per cent affordable rent and shared ownership homes.

Shared ownership helps people on low to medium incomes own a home, requiring much lower deposits, and will be given a further funding boost of up to £180 million with my First Steps Challenge Fund. The Fund aims to accelerate the delivery of 4,000 new homes between 2015 and 2020 and is being made available on a recoverable basis so that money can be reinvested to provide more opportunities for affordable home seekers, helping achieve my aim of assisting 250,000 Londoners into low cost housing by 2025.

I am also providing up to £40 million of loan finance to Gentoo's Genie for a new innovative housing product where buyers will need no deposit or mortgage to purchase their home and at the end of the agreement customers own 100 per cent of the home outright. The scheme aims to deliver 2,000 new homes over the next 10 years, helping people who would struggle to save a large deposit for a mortgage.

We have already made considerable efforts to help Londoners to own their own home with over 50,000 people expected to be helped into home ownership through my First Steps scheme by 2016. We have also worked to remove red tape and bureaucracy in the application and purchase process, providing greater choice and flexibility for purchasers. Alongside steps to improve the mobility options available to existing purchasers of First Steps homes who need to move for family or employment reasons.

### **Canary Wharf development approved**

On 10 December, I approved plans to create a new waterside community on the eastern edge of Canary Wharf with up to 3,610 homes and more than 17,000 jobs.

The new development, on land formerly known as Wood Wharf, will transform a vast 13.6 hectare site that has been semi-derelict and underused for decades. In addition to new housing, including affordable housing options, the scheme will include a variety of business and retail units, hotel, leisure facilities, a new primary school and a doctor's surgery.

### **RE:NEW in the private rented sector**

I have approved expenditure of £186,000 to support delivery of at least 50 demonstration projects with LRS-accredited landlords, to retrofit private rented sector (PRS) homes to help raise awareness of the benefits and the ease of the retrofit process.

I have also approved expenditure of up to £80,000 to trial the use of incentive payments working with LRS-accredited lettings agents to support delivery of retrofit works on at least 400 PRS properties. In addition, I approved expenditure of up to £20,000 funding for the evaluation of both projects.

## **Additional Funding for the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund**

I have approved the allocation of £10m of Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund (MCSSHF) funding (previously held for phase two of MCSSHF) for the delivery of further phase one specialised supported affordable housing.

## **Freehold disposal of part of the Eldonwall Industrial Estate, LB of Barking & Dagenham**

I have approved the freehold disposal of the land outlined red on the site plan to Barking and Dagenham for an agreed sale price on the basis that there will be a restrictive covenant imposed which limits the future use of the land to education and industrial uses.

## **Environment**

### **Street Tree Initiative**

On 5 December, as part of National Tree Week, I announced plans to plant 4,300 trees in my Street Tree Initiative. This is the third and final round of the initiative, which is on track to meet my commitment to plant an additional 10,000 street trees by March 2015.

My Street Tree Initiative is granting £600,000 of funding to 23 projects across 21 boroughs to help make London's streets greener and increase canopy cover in the capital. A further 22 projects across 16 boroughs have received a share of a £100,000 pot to continue the successful RE:LEAF community grant scheme, which provides funding to bolster voluntary action and helps local community groups improve their green spaces.

### **Christmas recycling campaign**

Over the festive season I urged Londoners to boost recycling levels helping to protect the environment and save the capital around £4million in rubbish disposal costs.

The cost of sending just one black bin bag of waste to landfill or incineration costs 40-50 per cent more than recycling whilst also being far less environmentally-friendly. Over the Christmas season, London will produce an estimated extra 30,000 tonnes of household rubbish, including around 6,000 tonnes of food waste. Once the Christmas feasts have been consumed and the presents unwrapped, Londoners are expected to have devoured around 1.5million turkeys; used an estimated 2,000 tonnes of glass bottles and jars; and enough wrapping paper to cover the circumference of the equator (that's 24,902 miles). In addition by Twelfth Night, Londoners will be ready to discard an estimated one million Christmas trees and 75 tonnes of Christmas tree lights.

## **Social Inclusion and Health**

### **Visit to groundbreaking cancer research facility**

On 18 December, I visited a groundbreaking cancer research facility in Sutton and lent my support to their proposals to transform it into the second biggest campus of its kind in the world. This supports my vision to promote jobs and growth in the sector through my MedCity

initiative.

The new cancer research campus will be second only in size globally to the MD Anderson campus in Texas, America. It will provide a major boost to London's life sciences sector. As well as 192,000 square metres of space for enterprise, research and medical facilities, there will also be space for a new secondary school specialising in life sciences. It could create 9,000 full time jobs and boost London's economy by millions of pounds. It will also lead to increased collaboration with biotech and pharmaceutical companies by developing new incubator facilities, in order to get drugs to patients more quickly.

## **Education and Youth**

### **London Event for Alternative Provision**

On 10 December, I held an event for headteachers and senior leaders of London-based Alternative Provisions (APs) and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).

The focus was on profiling exceptional practice in APs and PRUs, such as the programmes being developed by AP teaching schools, and new research developments from Challenge Partners and the Innovation Unit.

The event provided school leaders with resources from my Education Programme, which will be relevant to APs and PRUs enhancing their curricula (through my London Curriculum) and improving their practice (through my Gold Club programme). Delegates explored other ways in which the GLA can assist the sector to achieve the best outcomes for their learners who are outside mainstream education.

### **GLA support to the Early Years**

On 8 December, I held an event to investigate ways in which GLA can provide support to the early years child care agenda, particularly focused on ensuring quality, access and sustainability. This followed the City Hall workshop in October to encourage schools to develop 8am – 6pm childcare provision.

The GLA has been working closely with the Department for Education and London Councils on delivery of the government's two year old childcare offer, to provide 15 hours of free childcare per week to children in the 40% most disadvantaged families in England.

### **The Further Education Capital Investment Fund**

The Further Education (FE) Capital Investment Fund will provide capital investment for Further Education estates. It will enable FE institutions to operate within suitably appropriate buildings and facilities equipped with up-to-date equipment and machinery.

I have given approval for the GLA to receive and spend £55m for 2015/16 and £65m for subsequent rounds of FE Capital funding and delegated decision making for project award and expenditure to the Executive Director - Development, Enterprise & Environment. I have also approved of expenditure of up to £147,000 on specialist support in undertaking due diligence of funding applications and monitoring surveyor services.

## **Olympic and Paralympic Legacy and Sport**

### **International Design Competition**

On 12 December, I announced the shortlist of six world-class teams for the international design competition for the Stratford Waterfront element of Olympicopolis.

More than 1,000 architects, master planners, place makers, engineers and landscape designers from across the globe registered their interest in the competition resulting in 43 submissions of the very highest quality.

The six short-listed teams comprise groups of established companies and some truly exciting emerging practices. They will now work up their designs for the new education and culture quarter on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with the winning submission announced next summer.

### **Mandeville Place, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**

On 10 December, the name Paradise Gold was chosen for a new variety of apple created for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Paradise Gold – which combines the word Paralympic with the first letters of the Paralympic Values; Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Equality – was selected from hundreds of entries submitted by the nation's schoolchildren.

The newly named apple tree will provide the core for a stunning orchard of apples and other fruit trees native to the homes of 34 ParalympicsGB gold medallists from London 2012. The orchard itself will be the centrepiece to Mandeville Place, a new area of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park celebrating the values and people that made the London 2012 Paralympic Games a success.

Mandeville Place will open in spring 2015.

### **Olympicopolis**

I have approved the GLA's entry into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Communities and Local Government to reflect the relationship between the two organisations regarding the delivery of Olympicopolis.

### **Olympic Precept Funding Agreement with DCMS**

I have approved payment of £150 million over the three years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport which remains outstanding from the GLA's £625 million council tax contribution towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The payment is subject to the GLA's receipt of the Olympic precept from London boroughs.

## **Culture and Events**

### **New Year's Eve Fireworks**

The New Year's Eve Fireworks dazzled 100,000 spectators with over 10 minutes of colour, exploding light and the year's soundtrack. For the first time ever the event was ticketed to improve safety and I am pleased to confirm that the objective of reducing the number of people attending the event (who would not be able to view the fireworks) was achieved. The BBC had viewing figures of 12.3 million making the 10 minute spectacle the biggest average TV audience in 2014. It was also watched by millions around the world, promoting London and highlighting our capital's position on the global stage.

### **Chanukah – Lighting ceremony**

On 16 December, I was invited by the London Jewish Council to light the giant Menorah, the largest in Europe, to mark the first night of Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, which ran from 16 – 28 December. This annual community event is supported by the GLA and organised by the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC), London Jewish Forum (LJF) and Chabad-Lubavitch UK.

I lit the middle candle light (shamash) which is used to light each of the other candles over subsequent nights, and this was followed by speeches by Chief Rabbi, Bentzi Sudak, Simon Jonson from JLC and Adrian Cohen, Chair LJF. The Israeli Ambassador, Daniel Taub, also joined me on stage to mark the celebrations. The lighting ceremony was followed by live music, including choirs from Akiva School and Wolfson Hillel School and the traditional Chanukah song Ma'oz Tzur (Rock of Ages).

### **New Commission for the Fourth Plinth**

On 2 January, I announced that the new commission for the Fourth Plinth will be Gift Horse by artist Hans Haacke.

Gift Horse portrays a skeletal, riderless horse – a wry comment on the equestrian statue of William IV originally planned for the plinth. Tied to the horse's front leg is an electronic ribbon displaying live the ticker of the London Stock Exchange, completing the link between power, money and history. The horse is derived from an etching by George Stubbs; the famous English painter whose works are represented in the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square.

Gift Horse, which will be unveiled on 5 March 2015, will be the tenth sculpture to be installed on Trafalgar Square's celebrated plinth.

### **Culture plays major part in High Street Fund bids**

Over 50% of applications to my High Street Fund had a focus on cultural and creative industries activity. This demonstrates the important role of culture in the economic and social development of all parts of London.

### **Mayor's Music Fund students perform at Carol Service**

On 15 December, young Mayor's Music Fund musicians performed at my Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral. The Mayor's Music Fund has had a very successful year, holding the first

London Music Awards at the Roundhouse. It has also provided instrumental tuition for hundreds more young people across every London borough.

### **Darren Henley appointed as new Arts Council CEO**

The Chair of my Music Education Taskforce, Darren Henley OBE, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Arts Council England. He will be leaving Classic FM after 23 years.

### **Ford Factory, Dagenham**

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor Victoria Borwick visited the Ford factory in Dagenham on my behalf.

### **Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree Lighting Up Ceremony**

On 4 December, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended on my behalf the annual Trafalgar Square Christmas tree lighting up ceremony. The Christmas tree is given by the people of Oslo to the people of the United Kingdom each year in the recognition and remembrance of the two nations fighting alongside each other in World War Two.

## **Volunteering**

### **Team London**

During December, my Team London Ambassadors were back in full force supporting visitors to London with information and advice over the busy Christmas period. By the end of December, 100 Ambassadors and Managers had been deployed to spread festive cheer in locations at Piccadilly Circus, Southbank and Gatwick North and South terminals.

We also had 124 Ambassadors in action on New Year's Eve. Their role was to provide 'visitor information' to people attending the celebrations over the course of the day.

## **Planning and Development Control**

### **London Infrastructure Plan 2050**

I have approved expenditure of £103,000 to cover the production, publication and delivery of the London Infrastructure Plan 2050.

### **Further Alterations to the London Plan**

I have agreed to the next statutory steps in the process for the preparation of the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) following the receipt of the FALP EiP Inspector's report.

### **Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)**

*Ingrebourne Hill, LB Havering*

I have written to the London Borough of Havering stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Land at Thurston Road, LB Lewisham*

I have written to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Elizabeth House York Road, LB Lambeth*

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

The Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following statutory referrals:

*Former Arla Food Depot, LB Hillingdon*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*8-10 Grafton Street and 22-24 Bruton Street, City of Westminster*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Lovell's Granite, Badcock's and Pipers Wharf, Royal Borough of Greenwich*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Greenwich stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Former Beagle House, LB Tower Hamlets*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Moberly Sports and Education Centre, LB Brent*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Brent stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Reynard Mills, LB Hounslow*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Wood Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Gasgoigne Estate East, LB Barking and Dagenham*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Former Kelvin Hughes Site, LB Redbridge*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Redbridge stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Galaxy House Cherry Orchard Road, LB Croydon*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Higgs Industrial Estate, LB Lambeth*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*1 Lambeth High Street, LB Lambeth*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*12-20 Wyvil Road, LB Lambeth*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Garden Bridge Temple Place, City of Westminster*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*Garden Bridge The Queen's Walk, LB Lambeth*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*33 Horseferry Road, City of Westminster*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*New Covent Garden Market, LB Wandsworth*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

*HG Wells Centre, LB Bromley*

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Bromley stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

## **Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)**

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- Stockley House, City of Westminster
- 4-6 Stanhope Gate, City of Westminster
- Fresh Wharf Estate, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Padcroft Works, LB Hillingdon
- Land known as Bishopsgate Goods Yard, LB Hackney
- Land known as Bishopsgate Goods Yard, LB Tower Hamlets
- South East Block of Goodmans Fields, LB Tower Hamlets
- 54-58 Marsh Wall, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land between Sweets Way and Oakleigh Road North, LB Barnet
- 185 Park Street, LB Southwark
- Homebase Rookery Way, LB Barnet
- Marine Wharf West, LB Lewisham
- The Princess Alexandra Care Home, LB Harrow

- First Chicago House, City of Westminster
- Larner Road Estate, LB Bexley
- Erith Quarry, LB Bexley
- Phase 6 Kidbrooke Village, RB Greenwich
- Phase 5 Kidbrooke Village, RB Greenwich
- Kidbrooke Village Centre, RB Greenwich
- Land known as Bishopsgate Goodsyards, LB Hackney
- Land known as Bishopsgate Goodsyards, LB Tower Hamlets

### **Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning**

- Former BBC Television Centre, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Wandsworth's Local Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Proposed Submission) Documents, LB Wandsworth
- 130-154a Pentonville Road, LB Islington
- Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 (Publication Version) Consultation, Arun District Council
- Hounslow Local Plan (2015-2030) Consultation, LB Hounslow
- Redbridge Local Plan 2015-2030 Consultation, LB Redbridge
- 130-154 & 154a Pentonville Road, LB Islington
- Reculver, 63 Totteridge Village, LB Barnet
- 169-173 Blackfriars Road, LB Southwark
- The Battle of Britain Bunker, LB Hillingdon

### **Key Engagements**

Among my additional engagements since my last report were the following:

- I attended the opening of the Town Centre Improvements in Northwood Hills on 4 December
- I visited Ruislip Manor High Street on 4 December
- I attended the Shepherd Market Christmas Lights ceremony on 4 December
- I hosted my regular monthly "Ask Boris" Phone in with Nick Ferrari on 8 December
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 8 December
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with DC Craig Mackey on 8 December
- I hosted a conference call with Ron Dobson, London Fire Commissioner, on 8 December to discuss the FBU industrial action
- I visited Ealing along with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 9 December to see the work of the Community Ambassadors
- I had a brief meeting with Dan Doctoroff, CEO Bloomberg, on 9 December
- I appeared before the London Assembly to answer questions on policing in London on 9 December
- I attended the Mayor's Fund 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception on 9 December
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 10 December
- I attended the opening of the London Chess Classic tournament on 10 December
- I had an introductory meet and greet with Vitali Klitschko, the Mayor of Kiev, on 10 December

- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 10 December
- I attended the Leadership and Peace Awards on 10 December
- I visited the Bombardier factory in Derbyshire with the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 11 December, to view production of the S-Stock Tube and to unveil a state-of-the-art testing facility for the new fleet of Crossrail trains
- I had my regular meeting with the London Business Advisory Committee on 12 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 12 December
- I met with Antonio Horta-Osorio, CEO Lloyds Banking Group, on 15 December to discuss programmes supporting young people in London
- I met with the Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP, Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, on 15 December to discuss electricity connections, ultra-low emission vehicles and allowable solutions
- I hosted a roundtable meeting with London Citizens on 15 December
- I attended the annual GLA Carol Concert taking place at Southwark Cathedral on 15 December
- I attended the GLA Head of Paid Service Performance Review on 16 January
- I attended the annual lighting of the Menorah in Trafalgar Square on 16 December as part of Chanukah on the Square
- I attended the Mayor's Question Time on 17 December
- I chaired the LEP Board meeting on 17 December
- I met with the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 17 December to discuss Old Oak Common
- I visited the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton on 18 December
- I visited local businesses in Mitcham town centre on 18 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 18 December
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 18 December
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 18 December
- I attended the GLA Christmas Party on 18 December
- I hosted drinks for newspaper political editors on 18 December
- I met with Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive of London First, on 19 December to discuss supporting and promoting London business
- I held my regular "Ask Boris" Twitter session on 19 December
- I met with Steve O'Connell AM & Gavin Barwell MP on 19 December to discuss Croydon
- I hosted a conference call with Ann Radmore, Chief Executive of the London Ambulance Service, on 22 December ahead of the Christmas and New Year period
- I visited the Erith Park Estate Regeneration Project on 5 January to announce funding for two new schemes helping Londoners into affordable home ownership and accelerating the delivery of new homes
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 5 January
- I hosted my regular monthly "Ask Boris" Phone in with Nick Ferrari on 6 January
- I met with Greg Barker MP and Paul Turner, Sustainable Business Director for Lloyds Banking Group, the new Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the London Sustainable Development Commission on 6 January
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 January

**Ends**