

30th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 25 March 2015

This is my thirtieth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 10 February – 11 March 2015.

Executive Summary

Santander unveiled as partner of Cycle Hire Scheme

On 27 February, I announced a seven-year partnership with Santander to grow and develop London's Cycle Hire scheme. The new £43.75 million deal is the largest public-sector sponsorship in the world and using Santander's marketing expertise, it will provide users with a more accessible, rewarding and enjoyable experience.

The new name, Santander Cycles, and the new red-and-white livery of the 11,500 bikes, 748 docking stations and 32 service vehicles, will become familiar sights to Londoners from April onwards.

Special Constables

On 19 February, I announced that as part of my Budget for 2015/16, all serving Special Constables who live in the capital will be eligible for a £150 council tax cut. This means that I have now delivered on my pledge to reward those uniformed volunteers who support policing by offering Special Constables a 50 per cent rebate on the Mayor's share of council tax.

London's first Housing Zones

On 20 February, I announced that London's first Housing Zones will span the length and breadth of the city across nine London boroughs. The new Zones will bring forward enormous regeneration and transform key areas of the capital, with £260 million of new investment to deliver 28,000 much needed new homes across the capital.

London's first Housing Zones will be in the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Ealing, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Haringey, Harrow, Hounslow, Lewisham and Wandsworth.

US Trade Visit

Between 8-13 February, I visited Boston, New York and Washington DC, on a six day trade mission aimed at strengthening economic and cultural ties between London and the United States. Over the course of visit I attended 28 events, including meetings with my counterparts from New York and Boston, as well as with Secretary Hillary Clinton.

Policing, Crime and Community Safety

Excellence in Policing Award

On 10 February, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, attended the Commissioner's Annual Excellence in Total Policing Awards ceremony, which recognises the breadth of professionalism, dedication and passion across the MPS and the achievements of those officers and staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

New York City Police Department Visit

On 11 February, I met with New York's Police Commissioner, Bill Bratton, where we discussed issues of mutual interest to both our cities, including counter-terrorism, sharing investigative strategies, intelligence and technological approaches to the on-going threats that both our cities face, as well as the shared success in tackling smartphone theft. My Deputy Mayor Stephen Greenhalgh also met with the Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. to discuss criminal justice reform and cyber crime.

Major Trauma Centre Project and MOPAC Gangs Dashboard

On 17 February, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, visited Kings College Hospital's Major Trauma Centre and the Redthread project, where he met with staff involved in an innovative project for victims of serious violent crime.

MOPAC has secured £600,000 from the Ministry of Justice Victims Fund to extend this project across all four London Major Trauma Centres. The MOPAC Gangs Dashboard was launched on the same day and made available to the public on MOPAC's website. The dashboard tracks the incidents of crimes flagged as gang crime indicators.

Special Constables

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Launch of Pan London Domestic Violence Service and Domestic and Sexual Offences Dashboard

On 4 March, I launched the Pan London Domestic Violence Service and Domestic and Sexual Offences Dashboard at a visit to Haringey Women's Aid Refuge.

The £5 million Pan London Domestic Violence service will be delivered by Victim Support between July 2015 and June 2017 and will provide an additional 40.5 independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs), supporting all high risk victims of domestic violence and, 16 additional posts directly supporting victims/survivors going through the criminal justice system. The service will also ensure better strategic coordination to maximise the value of all local provision and innovation to improve the victim/survivor experience and reduce attrition from the criminal justice process.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence dashboard shows domestic and sexual violence data for three key Violence Against Women and Girls outcomes I am seeking to achieve, increased levels

of reporting; more perpetrators being brought to justice and reduced levels of repeat victimisation.

Transport

Santander unveiled as partner of Cycle Hire Scheme

On 27 February, I announced a seven-year partnership with Santander to grow and develop London's Cycle Hire scheme, embedding the scheme yet further into the hearts and minds of Londoners and visitors to the capital.

The new £43.75 million deal is the largest public-sector sponsorship in the world and using Santander's marketing expertise, it will provide users with a more accessible, rewarding and enjoyable experience.

The new name, Santander Cycles, and the new red-and-white livery of the 11,500 bikes, 748 docking stations and 32 service vehicles, will become familiar sights to Londoners from April onwards. Staff uniforms and membership keys will also be rebranded.

Over the next year Londoners will see more Santander Cycles on the street, extra docking points and a revolutionary new Santander Cycles app, making it easier to access a bike than ever before. TfL and Santander will work together to engage new users via family-focused events in London parks, support throughout 50 of Santander's central London branches and more active promotion of new developments for the scheme.

Santander will pay £6.25 million a year in each of the seven years. In addition there will be a £1 million per annum 'activation fund' to promote Santander Cycles and reach new customers through rewards, offers and incentives. This compares with to £5 million a year under the previous sponsorship. It is a 45 per cent increase in absolute terms and a 25 per cent increase in real terms.

The scheme, the second-largest in the Western world, has already seen almost 40 million journeys since its launch in 2010 and is a popular and affordable way to travel around London for work or leisure.

Usage of the scheme rose by a quarter last year and is at a record high, with more than 10 million journeys made in 2014. Customer satisfaction is also at an all-time high, with over 80 per cent of members intending to renew their membership.

Ensuring part-time workers benefit from fares reductions

On 20 February, I announced that part-time workers should benefit from the fares reductions introduced for 2015. A new automated refund will now be provided to any customers who incur a higher fare than TfL's former pay as you go daily off-peak caps in Zones 4-6 twice or more in one week, or eight or more times in a four-week period.

In my fares package for 2015, I introduced a new part-time worker fare deal as part of my real terms fares freeze for 2015 (an average increase of 2.5 per cent). This gave flexible and part-time workers, including those with unpredictable hours, access to fairer, dramatically lower fares through a new, lower all-day pay as you go cap (daily caps became one fifth of the cost of a 7 day Travelcard to Zone 1).

It is estimated that this change means over 600,000 customers are now paying lower fares over the course of a typical week and is a key part of my commitment to keep the cost of transport low for Londoners. It also reflects modern-day travel patterns – 22 per cent of Londoners now work part-time while many others have flexible working patterns.

The 2015 fares package also included the removal of pay as you go daily off-peak caps. For Zones 1-3, the new all day caps are actually lower than the withdrawn off-peak caps. In Zones 4-6, the new caps are higher than the off-peak caps, affecting about 25,000 people every day.

At my request, TfL have immediately looked into this issue and I have now agreed to revisions that mean part-time workers in outer London who travel off-peak will not be disadvantaged. Refunds will commence in April and then be paid monthly and also retrospectively for the period from 2 January.

Restoration of Grade II listed Chiswick Bridge enters the final stage

Works are currently underway to fully strengthen and refurbish the Grade II listed Chiswick Bridge, and are planned to be delivered by May 2015, with the major work planned to be completed in time for this year's annual Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race on 11 April.

Since April 2014, TfL has been working with key partners to deliver a programme that has seen the structure of the bridge repaired, as well as its heritage features restored. Extensive concrete repairs and refurbishment work has now been completed within the bridge structure and the strengthening of bridge parapets is also more than 90 per cent complete.

"Crossrail" Cycle Superhighways

On 10 March, I helped dig out the first tarmac to mark the start of construction of central London's flagship segregated Cycle Superhighways.

Building has now started on the North-South route, which once complete will run from Elephant & Castle to King's Cross. Work on the East-West route from Tower Hill to Westbourne Terrace will begin in April.

Two other segregated superhighways are also now under construction, the upgrade of Cycle Superhighway 2 from Aldgate to Bow and the new Cycle Superhighway 5 from Oval to Pimlico. All the routes will be open by spring next year, with some sections of the routes open by autumn this year.

The work beginning this week will create a safe cycle route through St George's Circus and transform Blackfriars Road from a car-dominated street into a new urban boulevard, with new trees, almost 20,000 square feet of new space for pedestrians, and a two-way segregated cycle track. Work on the route south of the river will be finished by the end of the year.

North of the river, work will begin in the summer and will be finished by spring 2016. The superhighway will have the capacity for 3,000 cyclists an hour, equivalent to 41 extra fully-loaded double-decker buses on the route 63, which runs alongside it.

The start of work on the North-South route heralds a step-change in the delivery of TfL's £4bn Road Modernisation Plan in central London. Over the next year the plan also includes transformations at Elephant & Castle, Stockwell, Oval and Vauxhall Bridge junctions amongst

others, delivering a greener, safer and more attractive road network for all Londoners and road users, including a radical improvement in conditions for cyclists.

Plans unveiled for the Royal Parks section of the East-West cycle route

On 10 February, a seven week consultation period started on proposals for the parks section of the East-West Cycle Superhighway on the route from Lancaster Gate to St James's Park. This route would see a new two-way segregated cycle track created through Hyde Park, along West Carriage Drive and South Carriage Drive, as well as an improved cycle track separated from traffic along North Carriage Drive. There will also be segregated tracks along Birdcage Walk and Constitution Hill.

Consultations have also now also begun on the revised plans for improvements to Lancaster Gate Gyratory and Northumberland Avenue, in response to comments made during the initial East-West consultation.

The revised Lancaster Gate plans would provide cyclists with a more direct route to Hyde Park via Westbourne Street and Bayswater Road. Moving the segregated cycle track to the eastern side of Westbourne Street would mean the existing access to the Lancaster London Hotel would be maintained and remove any conflict with loading bays and the taxi rank.

The revised proposals at Northumberland Avenue include banning the right turn into Victoria Embankment to improve traffic flow, while maintaining the original proposals for a segregated two-way cycle track on Victoria Embankment and a new advisory cycle lane on Northumberland Avenue.

Work begins on segregated upgrade of Cycle Superhighway 2

Work is now underway on a substantial upgrade of Cycle Superhighway 2, which will deliver a world class fully and semi-segregated cycle route between Aldgate and Bow Roundabout. Eleven pioneering cycle-priority junctions will also be installed, including at Aldgate East, Mile End and Whitechapel.

The vast majority of the route will be separated with a kerb, which will keep cyclists away from road traffic. Where there is less space for kerbed segregation, cyclists will be separated from traffic by pioneering highly-visible traffic 'wands', regularly spaced flexible poles that clearly define the cycle track.

TfL has begun ripping out the existing central reservations to make new space for traffic during these works and significant safety improvements at key junctions along Whitechapel Road and Mile End Road are also now underway.

New Cycle Superhighway "A10 bypass" providing safer, faster and more convenient journeys

TfL has started consultation on proposals for a new 11 km backstreet Cycle Superhighway between Tottenham, Stoke Newington, Dalston and the City of London.

Cycle Superhighway 1 would run on quiet side streets just parallel to the A10, while linking to the heart of the communities along the route. Journeys on it would be substantially faster, safer and more pleasant than using the main road.

The new Cycle Superhighway would have only eight sets of traffic lights, compared to 54 along the main road. A journey from the City to Tottenham would take around 30 minutes, compared to about 42 minutes on the main road.

The scheme includes:

- Major enhancements to the busy 'Apex Junction' to allow cyclists to cross more safely;
- Road closures to reduce traffic on some streets to reduce local noise;
- New segregated tracks on short stretches where the route has to use a busy road;
- New segregated tracks to link the scheme to the Old Street roundabout;
- Safer crossings for pedestrians; and
- Improved public spaces along the route, including 1000 square metres of new footway and 60 new trees.

Subject to the outcome of the six week consultation, work could begin this summer and be completed by early 2016.

Steve Griffiths named as London Underground's new Chief Operating Officer

London Underground has announced the appointment of Steve Griffiths as its new Chief Operating Officer. He will join the organisation in May, assuming accountability for LU operations and maintenance, reporting to Mike Brown MVO, the Managing Director.

Major work to further increase the service on the Victoria line planned this summer

TfL has announced that the improvement works being carried out on the Victoria Line this summer will result in a 36 trains-per-hour service. From April 2016, this will provide a train every 100 seconds during peak hours, making the Victoria line the UK's highest frequency railway and comparable with the very best in the world. All peak-time trains will run the full length of the line from Walthamstow Central to Brixton, giving a 40 per cent capacity boost for customers northeast of Seven Sisters.

The Victoria line now carries more than 200 million passengers each year and as on the rest of the Tube network demand keeps rising.

At present only 24 trains per hour can be run beyond Seven Sisters due to the layout and condition of the points at the Walthamstow Central crossover, which transfers northbound trains to the southbound line for their return journey. Renewal of the crossover is essential to achieve 36 trains per hour.

From Saturday 8 August to Sunday 30 August, London Underground will rebuild the crossover, replacing the concrete track-bed and the rails and point work. During this period all northbound Victoria line trains will only go as far as Seven Sisters. The nature and scale of the work means it is not possible to do it during the limited engineering hours available at nights and weekends.

Journey times lowest on record as London Underground improvements accelerate

Tube customers are now getting around London quicker than ever after improvements to reliability in recent years have resulted in the fastest journey times on record. This comes as London Underground and the Docklands Light Railway have been named as amongst the

fastest improving metros in the world in a new report. The average train journey time has reduced by 13 per cent since 2002/03. This reflects improving reliability and increased services.

LU and the DLR are now recognised as among the fastest improving metros in the world over the period 2010/11 to 2013/14. Across all seven areas considered in this year's International Report, LU and the DLR have improved at a faster rate than the average. This includes areas of safety, reliability, operating costs and other factors. The International Report is based on Annual Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data from CoMET (Community of Metros) and Nova (Nova Group of Metros), which together consist of 32 metro systems from 30 cities around the world.

TfL launches consultation on A406 Bus Priority scheme at Brent Park

On 19 February, TfL launched a consultation on proposals to improve the junction of the A406 North Circular Road with Brentfield Road and Drury Way in the London Borough of Brent.

The consultation, which closes on 29 March 2015, is part of TfL's Road Modernisation Plan, and will deliver a significant Bus Priority scheme that will reduce journey times for bus passengers on route 206, which runs between Wembley Park and Kilburn Park.

The proposals allow buses to take a more direct route from Brent Park into Brentfield Road, with the creation of a new southbound bus lane and the introduction of bus activated signals in Drury Way. There would also be a new left-turn slip road from the westbound A406 into Brentfield Road, reducing delays for traffic and bus routes using the A406. Pedestrians crossing Brentfield Road would also benefit from a dedicated phase in the traffic lights.

River Action Plan yielding results as record numbers using the River Thames

Two years on from the launch of my River Action Plan, the latest figures releases show that record numbers of passengers are using the River Thames.

The Plan was launched in February 2013 and detailed a host of measures designed to increase the number of river passengers to 12 million by 2020. Figures from January to December 2014 have shown very positive signs as passenger numbers on River Buses and River Tours increased to 9.8 million, compared to 8 million for the same period in 2013.

TfL has announced that a new developer led pier will open at Plantation Wharf later this year in order to meet the increased demand. Work to extend three central London piers - Bankside, Embankment and Westminster Piers - is already well underway and due to complete by spring 2016. A new pier will open next year at Battersea Power Station and two more will be built at Convoys Wharf and Enderby Wharf in 2017. The possibility of a new pier at Rotherhithe is also being explored.

Throughout 2015/16 TfL will continue to plan and deliver key improvements as part of the River Action Plan, this will include the installation of Oyster pay-as-you-go validators at all River Bus Piers in autumn 2015. These will accept contactless payment by summer 2016.

In addition, a package of upgrades will be rolled out at remaining TfL Piers, which includes better signage and improved lighting, provision for Cycle Hire and cycle parking at piers. TfL will continue to work with businesses and developers to promote greater use of river services.

Taking action to boost taxi trade

TfL and I have announced plans to develop and expand the number of taxi ranks in the capital as part of ongoing work to support the trade and to better meet the needs of drivers and passengers.

More than a third of the 70 million taxi journeys completed in London each year originate from a taxi rank. Ranks are also of particular importance to passengers with mobility issues or those starting their journey in suburban areas. In recognition of this TfL published a Taxi Rank Action Plan, setting out ambitious plans to expand the network of 500 taxi ranks with £600,000 funding to further increase the number of ranks by 20 per cent by 2020.

TfL confirmed it will undertake a strategic review of rank provision across the capital which will be completed by early 2016 and will inform plans to introduce new ranks. A dedicated taxi ranks web page will be created to inform both drivers and passengers and this information will be made available to app developers. The Plan also contains a proposal to explore sponsorship of late night marshals at key taxi ranks.

TfL has also launched a Suburban Action Plan, to ensure that suburban taxi services continue to cater for demand in outer London as the population of the capital continues to grow.

The Plan looks at the possibility of creating more Island Ranks that will allow suburban drivers to pick up passengers on the edge of their licensed area. TfL has established seven Island Ranks, including Finsbury Park, Putney Station and Garrett Lane and plan to introduce more. It also includes a commitment to complete a survey to ensure a better understanding of supply and demand and in form future policy.

In addition, a new Taxi and Private Hire Terms of Reference Group will be created to consider the future developments of both the taxi and private hire trades. TfL will also establish a regular forum to discuss taxi issues with suburban drivers alongside established trade representatives.

Strong public support for TfL's plans for a new London Overground station at Old Oak

TfL has set out that two London Overground stations should be built at Old Oak Common, after a recent public consultation on proposals to build a new Overground link in the area received strong public support.

The introduction of improved local transport infrastructure is essential to provide local rail links to High Speed 2 and Crossrail, as well as to help provide improved rail links across the proposed Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation site, which could deliver 55,000 jobs and 24,000 new homes.

Three station options were considered as part of the consultation, with TfL working closely with Network Rail to fully assess the environmental, operational, and economic impacts for each option.

The public consultation results show the most support for Option C, which would create two separate London Overground stations at Old Oak Common Lane and Hythe Road, allowing access to both the Clapham Junction to Stratford and Richmond to Stratford lines. This option

was also preferred as two distinct catchment areas would be served, maximising rail links across the site and helping make journeys quicker and easier across west London.

The nine week public consultation indicated 85 per cent of the respondents supported plans to build a new London Overground station at Old Oak. It has been recommended that Option C, which proposes two Overground stations, should be further progressed as the single preferred option. TfL will now undertake more detailed work to progress Option C, taking on board comments received from the consultation.

Sale of Plots D and F at White Hart Triangle, Plumstead to TfL Ltd

I have approved the sale of approximately 10.425 acres of land at White Hart Triangle to Transport for London on behalf of Crossrail.

Regeneration, Business, Enterprise and the Economy

US Trade Visit

Between 8-13 February, I visited Boston, New York and Washington DC, on a six day trade mission aimed at strengthening economic and cultural ties between London and the United States. Over the course of visit I attended 28 events and gave numerous interviews to the US media.

During the trip I met with my counterparts from New York and Boston, as well as with Secretary Hillary Clinton. I also attended a meeting with members of the Board of Regents from the Smithsonian Institution, during which I continued the positive discussions around the Olympicopolis project. I also met House Majority leader Kevin McCarthy and numerous other Congressmen and women, as well as leading figures from the fashion, cultural and broader business communities.

My visit was in parallel to that of a London SME delegation from the Tech and Life Science sectors, and the London Universities International Partnership, all of whom were using the opportunity to promote themselves and increase trade between London and the USA.

I was pleased that members of the SME delegation were able to secure a number of important contracts on the visit. Whilst in New York, I announced that Digital Shadows had secured \$8 million in a new funding round and had signed a deal with an Asset Management company to the value of \$600,000. Remitia announced that following the trip its future order book now stands at \$15 billion in supplier instant payments. Sybenetix, the leading Enterprise Behavioural Analytics company, announced a deal worth \$500,000. There were many other positive outcomes from the trip, notably, one venture capital company is now keen to come to London and invest in the London Tech scene.

I was accompanied throughout the visit by Chief of Staff, Sir Edward Lister, Director of Communications, Will Walden, two press officers, two International Relations officers and a Private Secretary. I was joined in New York by Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, and in New York and Washington by my Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza.

A delegation of 10 representatives from the UK media also accompanied us for the entire trip. In addition to the direct value of contracts won by the SMEs, the visit generated a huge amount of positive media for London.

£1.8 million scheme to create over 3,500 new London apprentices

On 9 March, whilst visiting the New England Seafood factory in Chessington to mark the start of National Apprenticeship Week, I confirmed plans for a £1.8 million scheme that will create over 3,500 new apprenticeships across the capital. The funding is expected to open up opportunities in thousands of London businesses that may never have taken on an apprentice before.

The GLA is partnering with specialist recruitment and training providers to deliver a programme that will target businesses of every shape, size and specialism. They will be tasked with finding innovative new ways of delivering apprenticeships and helping young Londoners looking for careers ranging from catering and construction to manufacturing and marketing, with all the support they require to obtain apprenticeships within the capital.

For the first time, the GLA will provide grant funding to organisations to offer a top-to tail apprenticeship and business engagement service in London. They will engage businesses who have not recently taken on apprenticeships and support candidates through the recruitment process.

New opportunities for London's small businesses to make overseas trade links

On 27 February, I announced opportunities for London's small businesses to 'go global', as new trade missions were confirmed to the United States, China and Hong Kong. The new missions are part of my Export Programme, which has been set up to help London's small and medium sized businesses export to overseas markets or help businesses that are already trading make them move into fast growing emerging markets.

Sir Edward Lister attended an event hosted by Centre for London in Canary Wharf, where London signed up to become part of the Global Cities Initiative, a joint project of Brookings and JPMorgan Chase. The Initiative was first set up to help American cities develop their export strategies and the event brought together cities from around the UK with representatives of cities from the United States to discuss forming new trade partnerships.

Applications are now open for my Export Programme missions to the USA, China and Hong Kong/Macau. Further details can be found at:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/business-economy/for-business/trade-missions>

High Street Fund

On 3 March, I announced the recipients of up to £9 million of funding through my High Street Fund. It is the first time the Mayor of any major European city has used a civic crowdfunding website to directly pledge money for community projects. 83 groups submitted ideas and I am pledging up to £20,000 each to 17 of these projects.

The grants awarded through the High Street Fund are investing in 42 high streets across London, including 25 larger borough-led projects and 17 community-led projects. The investment has levered around £20 million of match funding from local authorities and private sector partners.

For those who missed out, there is still over £285,000 available in the second round of the High Street Fund for community-led projects.

I am looking to use the new funding to support ideas that go beyond 'business as usual' activities. I want small businesses to take a leading role in bidding for grants to boost their local town centres. Grants can be used to encourage start-ups, smarten up shop fronts, and improve public spaces or to hold mini festivals. The aim will be for firms and community groups to be at the heart of the funding that's still available.

I have also secured a further £20 million for London's high streets and employment areas through the London Enterprise Panel's Growth Deal funding from Government. Bidding will open this summer and funding will be available from 2016/17.

Super Connected Cities

During February, the connection voucher target of 4,270 for London was surpassed a month ahead of schedule, with the number of vouchers issued by my team to eligible SMEs reaching 4,330 by end February.

In addition to the voucher scheme, £1.75 million of funding is being used to grant fund more than 80 public institutions in London to enable them to roll out free public Wi-Fi access and all remain on track to do so by end March 2015.

Meeting with Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, met with the Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on my behalf.

Silvertown Quays Enterprise Zone Capital Grant Funding Bid

I have approved:

- The GLA entering into a Funding Agreement with DCLG, acting as the Accountable Body on behalf of the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) for the monitoring and delivery of the project to achieve the agreed outputs.
- The GLA and GLAP entering into a Funding Agreement with TSP who will be responsible for the design, gaining planning consent and management of the works to Millennium Mills.
- The receipt of £12 million from DCLG's Building Foundations for Growth Enterprise Zones Capital Grant fund
- The expenditure of £12 million towards the enhancement of Millennium Mills, on the Silvertown Quays site.

Housing and Land

London's first Housing Zones

On 20 February, I announced that London's first Housing Zones will span the length and breadth of the city across nine London boroughs. The new Zones will bring forward enormous

regeneration and transform key areas of the capital, with £260 million of new investment to deliver 28,000 much needed new homes across the capital.

London's first Housing Zones will unlock the redevelopment of 1897.42 hectares of brownfield land across the capital, the equivalent of 2,656 football pitches. The special status has been awarded to areas identified by London boroughs as key opportunity sites, to maximise development, fast track homes and deliver much needed infrastructure to boost development. The Housing Zone status will remain until 2025.

Part of my commitment to double housebuilding as London's population continues to boom, the first of the new Zones will create more than 56,000 construction jobs on 52 schemes across the capital. Creating first class new neighbourhoods, measures agreed within the Zones include 5 station upgrades, 5 new schools, 4 new bridges, 2 new civic centres, a new park, a new '3G' football pitch, shops, restaurants, and libraries. They will also include more than 9,000 low cost homes, for some of the capital's most essential workers. The areas selected will also benefit from planning focus and the release of publicly owned land for development.

London's first Housing Zones will be in the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Ealing, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Haringey, Harrow, Hounslow, Lewisham and Wandsworth. More across London are currently being considered, with around 20 expected to be designated by later this year. Together they will provide over 50,000 new homes across London.

Infrastructure Act

I am pleased to note that the Infrastructure Bill received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015 and became the Infrastructure Act from that date. Three aspects of the Act are of particular interest to the GLA:

- On GLA project spend, the Act enables the GLA to incur expenditure on the transport elements of housing and regeneration projects. This power represents a welcome additional flexibility for the GLA in its plans for additional jobs and growth in the capital and came into effect from 13 February 2015 with retrospective force;
- On the transfer of public land to the GLA, the Act enables surplus public sector land to be transferred directly to the GLA from public bodies without the need to go through the parent Government department in Whitehall. This will help fast-track land to be used for much-needed new housing for Londoners and fits well with the newly announced London Land Commission; and
- On the overriding of easements, the Act enables the overriding powers of the GLA and its Mayoral Development Corporations to benefit successors in title. This power retrospectively covers land which has been the subject of a prior leasehold disposal and will therefore provide the GLA and its partner bodies with the clarity required on land ownership to take forward important regeneration work across the capital.

Greenwich Square NHS development

I approved expenditure for the development known as Greenwich Square, the former Greenwich Hospital site. This was in relation to the acquisition by GLA Land and Property Limited (GLAP) of the Vanbrugh Health Centre as required pursuant to the Development Agreement dated 1 February 2012 and approved GLAP entering into leases with Hadley Mace pursuant to that Agreement.

Decent Homes Funding 2015-16

I have approved the 2015-16 allocations for the Decent Homes backlog fund of up to £144,994,038 and the GLA entering into a contract with the successful bidders.

I also agreed to the GLA engaging with the legal panel to procure legal services in drafting and negotiating the variations to existing contracts for the Decent Homes Backlog Fund 2015-16.

Finally, I delegated further decisions on the Decent Homes Backlog Fund to the Executive Director of Housing and Land, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property.

First Steps Challenge Fund

To support the delivery of at least 4,000 shared ownership homes by 31 March 2020, I have approved the allocation of £180 million of funding for the purposes of my First Steps Challenge Fund. This fund will be launched as part of further funding opportunities related to the London Housing Bank.

Disposal of three plots at Beam Reach 8

I have approved the sale of three plots of land on Beam Reach 8 and the payment of the road fee to Marick (Beam Reach) Limited.

I have also delegated authority to the Executive Director for Housing and Land to agree the deductions to be made for abnormal costs.

Environment

20,000 Street Trees planted across the capital

On 4 March, my Street Tree scheme marked the planting of 20,000 trees along London's roads. Aimed at brightening up congested high roads, residential streets and enhancing the environment, this is a huge milestone in the scheme, which has resulted in a variety of trees being planted across London's boroughs.

Matthew Pencharz, my Senior Advisor on Environment & Energy, planted the 20,000th Street Tree in Streatham, a Prunus Royal Burgundy. He was joined by the Streatham Bridge Business Association, a collective of community groups who have received a total of £135,000 from my fund to help brighten up Streatham, including planting 48 trees along Streatham High Road.

Street trees help to clean the air, keep the city cooler in the summer and increase green space. Boroughs have seen an increase in the number of trees appearing along their streets in the past year, for example with 300 in Lambeth, 400 in Islington and over 1,000 in Ealing.

Lee Tunnel Visit

On 4 March, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, toured Lee Tunnel on my behalf. The Lee Tunnel is a new addition to London's sewerage infrastructure system and the deepest tunnel ever bored in the city.

Social Inclusion and Health

Calling for volunteer force to help Londoners go online

On 17 February, I published a Digital Inclusion Strategy for London and called for an increase in efforts to ensure every Londoner has access to the internet and digital services.

The Strategy outlines a series of measures to tackle digital exclusion in a bid to put every Londoner on the path to tech expertise. I want to see the Government, the voluntary sector, housing associations and corporate partners work together to help more people get online. Team London is looking to mobilise Londoners to become Digital Champions who will train people in becoming digitally literate.

Response to London Health Commission

On 24 February, I published my response to the London Health Commission's report 'Better Health for London', committing that I will personally chair the board tasked with delivering the plan and announcing a £250,000 cash boost for my London Healthy Workplace Charter.

Chaired by Lord Ara Darzi, the independent Commission was tasked with investigating ways to improve London's health and healthcare. The result, 'Better Health for London', proposed over 60 recommendations and ten ambitions for the capital, covering issues such as improving children's health, encouraging healthier lifestyles and making London's healthcare services work better for Londoners. I have accepted some, but not all, of the recommendations.

Improving the health of London's workforce is among the ambitions outlined in the Report and I therefore have announced a £250,000 boost for my London Healthy Workplace Charter, which works with employers across the capital to encourage staff to be more active and take healthier lifestyle choices. The extra cash will be used to engage over 1,000 London-based employers over the next two years who will join the 44 organisations, employing almost 140,000 people, which are already signed up the Charter.

I have accepted the recommendation to 'personally chair a group and prepare a unified delivery plan' for the Report by continuing to act as chair for a refocused London Health Board, which will oversee delivery of the report's aspirations.

The Board, a partnership between the GLA, London's boroughs, and the NHS, will now focus on progressing improvements in London's health, health inequalities and making the case for the investment London needs in health and care services and the wider determinants of health.

Visit to the Blenheim Drug and Alcohol Service

On 10 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, visited and toured the Blenheim Drug and Alcohol Service North Hub in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on my behalf. The North Hub offers a range of treatments and support for those dealing with drug and alcohol dependency.

Meeting with Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, met with Earl Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health, on my behalf. The meeting was regarding the London Health Commission Report and my response.

Healthy Cities Summit

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, gave the opening address on my behalf for the Healthy Cities Summit, sponsored by the NHS London Leadership Academy. Victoria spoke about my initiatives to improve health outcomes for Londoners.

Parkshot Medical Practice Opening Ceremony

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, spoke on my behalf at the official opening ceremony for a new community surgery in Parkshot, Richmond upon Thames, which was also attended by Zac Goldsmith MP. Victoria discussed my belief that all Londoners should have access to quality primary care.

Well London Reception

On 2 March, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, gave the opening address for the Well London Reception on my behalf. The event was a celebration of seven and a half years of the Well London Programme and an opportunity to thank the Programme's sponsors. Victoria spoke about my support for the Well London Programme and my achievements in improving the health of Londoners.

Participation in Royal Air Force Grants Panel

On 10 February, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, participated on my behalf on a Grants Panel to select from 18 Grant Bids for funding available from the Royal Air Force.

Education and Youth

Mentoring Programme

On 4 March, I attended a celebration event at City Hall for my Mentoring Programme, in order to recognise the volunteer mentors and partners delivering the programme across London.

Olympic Champion Christine Ohuruogu, spoke at the event on the merits of volunteering and giving back to your community. There were also engaging presentations from mentors and mentees on the impact of the programme in their local area. This looked at how mentors were able to provide support, challenge and help their mentee set a vision for their future throughout the mentoring journey.

The event highlighted the achievement of delivery partners Kori, The Soul Project, Salmon Youth Centre, Track Academy, BANG Edutainment, Tottenham Hotspur Foundation,

SE1 United, South London YMCA, Croydon BME Forum and Hackney Council for Voluntary Service, in pairing 1000 young black boys in mentoring relationships and their continued efforts and progress in supporting these mentees.

Festival of Education Conference

On 28 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza, spoke in two panel sessions at the London Festival of Education at the Institute of Education.

Munira spoke alongside Dr Tony Sewell, the former chair of my Education Inquiry, about the importance of 'stretch' in securing top GCSE grades for London pupils. Later in the day, she addressed delegates on the future education priorities for London, alongside Tim Brighouse, former Chief Adviser for London Schools, Lord Adonis, former Minister for Schools, and Louise Thomas from the Innovation Unit.

There was agreement between these speakers that the issues identified in my Annual London Education Report are the right priorities – to increase school place provision, to improve the London offer on vocational studies and apprenticeships for school leavers and continuing to focus on improving teacher subject knowledge as the mechanism to increase attainment for all pupils. I am addressing these issues through my education and employment programmes.

Young Londoners Participation Network

On 2 March, 63 youth organisations attended the Young Londoners Participation Network meeting at City Hall to explore how they can better measure and assess the impact of the work they do with young people.

Speakers from Justice Studio, The What If Academy, Milestone Foundation, London Funders, Project Oracle and the GLA offered practical steps that youth practitioners could apply to evidence the impact of their projects and programmes.

The Network is managed by my Peer Outreach Team and has a very diverse membership of over 800 providers from the voluntary, statutory and business sector. Each Network meeting focuses on a main topic which is chosen by the practitioners.

Budget, Finance and GLA Organisation

Annual Budget supporting London's growth

On 23 February, my annual budget was approved by the London Assembly, confirming a further reduction in City Hall's share of household council tax bills, thus putting money back in Londoners' pockets, whilst also ensuring on-going investment into vital services and infrastructure.

The 2015/2016 budget for the Greater London Authority Group will deliver continued investment in transport upgrades, housing and police officer numbers, whilst protecting Londoners from tax increases. The GLA precept from April for a typical Band D property will fall from £299 to £295. Since being elected in my second term, I have cut the GLA precept for three consecutive years.

My commitment to bear down on costs comes at a time of continued pressure on public

budgets. However, my spending plan protects key services with investment continuing into transport infrastructure, housing supply for Londoners and policing. The budget includes:

- Freezing average fares in real terms in 2015 whilst continuing vital Tube upgrades and transport improvements, such as the delivery next year of the 24 hour Tube & reducing Tube delays by 30 per cent by 2015 compared to 2011; a £913 million Cycle Vision is well underway; in 2015, the start of works for the Northern Line Extension to Nine Elms and Battersea;
- Continuing investment into housing supply and on track to deliver 100,000 new homes over my two terms;
- Funding to support the delivery of police officer numbers at or around 32,000;
- Supporting young Londoners through the delivery of apprenticeships; and
- Promoting an Olympic and Paralympic legacy, including starting the delivery of Olympicopolis.

I confirmed at least £5 million of GLA grant funding is available for infill development consisting of self-build and affordable homes on disused sites on public land. Bids from a wide range of providers will be considered and the GLA is ready to receive these immediately. I also confirmed an extension of my High Street Fund to provide £1 million to support five street markets to thrive in outer boroughs.

I agreed the calculations for the 2015-16 budget for:

- The amount of the consolidated council tax requirement for the Greater London Authority of £800,678,666 and the proposed Band D equivalent council tax precepts;
- The tax for different valuation bands; and
- The amount of council tax collectable by each billing Authority and payable to the GLA, consistent with the consolidated council tax requirement approved unamended by the London Assembly on 23 February 2015.

I also agreed to the issue of the GLA precept data for 2015-16 to the 33 council tax billing authorities and formally approved both the alternative versions of the 2015-16 council tax explanatory text, in respect of the GLA budget and precept, to be issued to the 33 council tax billing authorities for communication to the occupiers of the estimated 3.4 million non-domestic properties in London.

London Survey 2014

On 3 March, I published the findings of the new London Survey, which I commissioned last year to understand more about the issues that matter most to Londoners and to inform the work that is done at City Hall. Around 3,700 members of the GLAs Talk London community took part, with housing and infrastructure coming out as two of the main issues that Londoners are concerned about.

I was pleased to learn that many Londoners are impressed with new payment options for the Tube and London's buses and are also confident that London's economy will continue to grow over the next 12 months.

A significant number of those surveyed agree that the capital needs more housing. I understand their concerns, and that's why this year more affordable homes are being built than any other year since the early 1980s and why I am on track to deliver a record 100,000

affordable homes over my two terms. I have also introduced a range of measures to improve the housing situation in London, including help for first time buyers, making sure landlords act fairly and improving social housing.

Supporting hard working Londoners is at the top of my agenda. That's why I've set out plans to secure London's future growth, including boosting jobs and skills and I continue to promote the London Living Wage.

The London Survey 2014 results are published on London Datastore and more information can be found at: <http://talklondon.london.gov.uk/blogs/talk-london-team/london-survey-2014-results>.

GLA Group Capital Spending Plan for 2015-16

I approved the Capital Spending Plan for 2015-16 for the GLA Group and agreed that the approved plan would be sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the London Assembly and each functional body.

Statutory Officers' Protocol

I agreed to implement the pay award of 2.2% effective from 1 January 2015 to staff appointed under s67(1) (a) and (b) of the GLA act 1999 as amended.

In accordance with the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendation (agreed in 2009), the local government pay settlement of 2.2% (from 1 January 2015) is to be applied to the pay of the Assembly Members, I having decided to forego the increase and maintain my salary at the current level.

I agreed minor changes to the Statutory Officers' protocol and that the pay of one of the Statutory Officers should be corrected and I also confirmed that the pay award made to GLA staff should also be made to the Statutory Officers.

Marketing Supplier Services

I have approved the variation of the framework contract with MEC media planning and buying services to extend its duration until 31 December 2015 (with an estimated maximum call-off value of £1,000,000).

Olympic and Paralympic Legacy and Sport

East Wick and Sweetwater neighbourhoods on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

On 2 March, I announced that Places for People and Balfour Beatty have been appointed to bring forward plans for up to 1,500 new homes on East Wick and Sweetwater neighbourhoods. The neighbourhoods will comprise 30 per cent affordable and 500 private homes to rent on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, six years ahead of the original masterplan.

East Wick will create up to 850 new homes and is located in the north west of the Park next to Hackney Wick and the digital quarter at Here East. It will include townhouses, mews, studios and flats, a new primary school and two new nurseries. Sweetwater will provide up to 650 new

homes and is located in the south-west of the Park near Old Ford and the Copper Box Arena. It includes studios, apartments and family homes with private gardens, a new primary school, two new nurseries and a health centre.

Both new neighbourhoods will include high quality, purpose built homes to rent allowing for a wider choice for Londoners. There will also be opportunities for independent shops and businesses as part of developing thriving new neighbourhoods.

Wayne McGregor Random Dance moves to Here East

Leading international choreographer Wayne McGregor and his company, Wayne McGregor Random Dance, will open a new, world class arts space in Here East, the former Press and Broadcast Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, in 2016. Heads of terms were signed earlier this month with Here East, a creative campus combining business, technology, media and data in the pursuit of innovation.

Studio Wayne McGregor will be a home for McGregor, his company and collaborators, comprising three extraordinary studios and additional work spaces.

The studio will house 'FreeSpace' where artists will be offered access to world class studios for rehearsal, research and creation. In return artists will be asked to trade their time to deliver creative engagement for local schools and communities through 'Free2Create'.

Culture and Events

10th Fourth Plinth Commission, Gift Horse by Hans Haacke

On 5 March, I unveiled the new commission for the Fourth Plinth, Gift Horse by artist Hans Haacke, in Trafalgar Square.

As part of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Programme, Gift Horse is the tenth sculpture to be unveiled on Trafalgar Square's celebrated plinth. 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 engraving in *The Anatomy of the Horse* of 1766 by George Stubbs, the famous English painter whose works are represented in the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square.

Music Venues Taskforce

On 5 March, I announced the creation of the capital's first Music Venues Taskforce, which is to look at steps the city can take to protect and secure its vital network of live music venues. The last few years have seen a number of high profile venues closing and there are fears that it could have a longer term impact on a sector that, as well as giving pleasure to millions of people, is worth around £1.6 billion to the economy.

Live music is part of the soul of London and live music venues have been critical to the development of artists who have gone on to become conquering global heroes. They are where we hope to produce not just fantastic music now, but the next Rolling Stones, Clash, Adele, Ed Sheeran, or Sam Smith. Music is an essential part of our city and the job of the Music Venues

Taskforce will be to ensure London can support a wide range of venues across the capital and protect its status as the music capital of the world.

The Music Venues Taskforce will be chaired by Music Venue Trust, the charity which seeks to protect, secure and improve the UK's grassroots circuit music venues. The new body will be looking at how London can maintain a balance between the sometimes competing priorities of residential and commercial activity, and the unrivalled mix of arts and entertainment attract tourists and make London such an exciting place to live and work.

Feasibility for state-of-the-art Music centre

On 20 February, the Chancellor and I announced a £1 million feasibility study for a new state-of-the-art music centre. If delivered, the Centre will draw top international orchestras, serve growing audiences for live music and attract tourists worldwide. Led by Sir Simon Rattle as the newly appointed chief conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, the centre could cement London as a world city for culture, with education facilities and a digital programme to share music nationally and internationally. The feasibility study is led by a Steering Group which will report to the DCMS and GLA in September.

US Trade Visit

On 10 February, I hosted a Fashion trade event with the British Fashion Council and American Vogue, as part of my six day visit to the US. The event celebrated the breadth of creative talent and the mutually beneficial relationship between two leading fashion capitals.

On 13 Feb, I launched a major theatre initiative, celebrating the last 40 years of theatre. This is a collaborative project between New York's Lincoln Centre and London's Victoria and Albert Museum. The event promoted the extent of cultural exchange across theatre as well as other art forms.

Chinese New Year 2015

On 22 February, the annual Chinese New Year celebrations took place in the West End. The event marked the 'Year of the Sheep' and started with a colourful parade along Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue and was followed by an afternoon of lively entertainment in Trafalgar Square and around Chinatown. This event is hugely popular with people from all communities and brings a welcome boost to local businesses at the start of the new year.

My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, took part in the opening ceremony on Trafalgar Square, along with other distinguished guests, including the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Liu Xiaoming. Team London volunteers and West End City Guides were out on the streets, helping visitors make the most of their day.

Westminster Abbey Service Celebrating 50 Years of Local Government

On 8 March, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended on my behalf a Westminster Abbey service marking the 50 anniversary of the creation of the London boroughs.

Commonwealth Day Ceremony and Westminster Service

On 9 March, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, laid a wreath on my behalf at the Commemoration Ceremony for Commonwealth Day. This was followed by the Observance for Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey.

International Women's Day Breakfast

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor, Victoria Borwick, attended the City of London's International Women's Day Breakfast at Guildhall on my behalf.

Volunteering

Speed Volunteering

Team London has partnered with Do-It to launch a new Speed Volunteering service. Speed volunteering aims to enable Londoners to fit volunteering into their busy lives.

Speed volunteering is all about making access to volunteering even easier, giving small chunks of time and making a big difference. These opportunities are intended to take no more than a couple of hours to complete, to be one-off in nature, available at short notice and also have no significant barriers to participation.

The speed volunteering concept aims to address one of the barriers to volunteering, that individuals and busy business professionals and students consistently tell us they face; it's too big a commitment to fit around their busy schedules. With the launch of this new website I am sure that we can promote the values and benefits that volunteering can offer to an even wider audience across London and create even more positive impact in communities across the capital.

Volunteering as a route to employment education or training

I am pleased to announce that a new Team London grant of £100,000 is available for organisations who can partner with us to help unemployed Londoners aged 18-24 find sustained employment, using volunteering to support young people to build the soft skills they need to find work, and providing them mentoring and support on their journey.

Natixis Launch Event

On 9 February, Team London hosted the launch of an exciting new charity partnership between global wealth management company Natixis and two Team London charities, Inspire! and Providence Row. The partnership will provide the two charities with expertise and skills from Natixis staff, as well as mentoring, guidance and input to ongoing strategies over the coming years. We look forward to supporting more businesses to connect with small charities to increase impact for our communities in the coming months.

Planning and Development

Blueprint for major regeneration of London Riverside

On 10 February, I published a blueprint for creating thousands of new homes and jobs along the River Thames.

The draft London Riverside Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) sets out the planning, regeneration and design guidance that will lead to the creation of 26,500 new homes and up to 16,000 jobs across the boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering and a small part of Newham. The London Riverside Opportunity Area stretches from the Royal Docks to Rainham Marshes, a total distance of 12 kilometres.

The document is now open for consultation until 24 March and sets out my strategic priorities and long term vision for the area over the next 20 years, how the area should evolve into a sustainable and successful part of the city and how it relates to the wider south-east.

In order to transform the London Riverside into a thriving new part of London, the planning framework discusses the importance of improved transport connections. This includes the potential extension of the Gospel Oak London Overground line, a new railway station at Beam Park; improvements to the A13 and new river crossings.

The draft London Riverside Opportunity Area Planning Framework can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/consultations/london-river...>

Strategic plan for the capital published

On 10 March, I published the latest version of my London Plan, my city-wide planning strategy to deliver the economic, environmental, transport and social improvements that London will need over the next 20 years.

The latest version of the London Plan sets out in planning terms how London will be able to manage its unprecedented population growth until 2036, by which time the city will be home to more than ten million people.

Key alterations to the London Plan confirmed today include:

- Confirmation of figures set out in my London Housing Strategy, adopted in October 2014, that London has the capacity to build 42,000 homes a year - an increase of 10,000 from the last London Plan. I am exploring how this potential could be expanded through town centre and opportunity area intensification. This would also help to address London's estimated need of 49,000 new homes a year.
- As average life expectancy in London is increasing, for the first time the London Plan includes indicative requirement benchmarks for the delivery of specialist housing for older people for every London borough. The London-wide target is 3,900 specialist units for older people a year until 2025. In the last few years, delivery in the capital has been around 1,200 units a year.
- Plans to help London's 33 local authorities to protect valued pubs from being lost, where it is possible to do so. This is the first time that the important role of London's pubs has been recognised in the London Plan.
- Increasing the total number of Opportunity Areas in the capital from 33 to 38 Opportunity Areas. Opportunity Areas are London's main areas for new development over the next 25

years, with significant capacity for new housing, commercial and other uses, supported by existing or planned improvements to public transport.

- Old Oak Common has been designated an Opportunity Area to ensure it can reap the enormous benefits of plans to build a 'super hub' High Speed 2 (HS2) and Crossrail station. I will personally chair the board of the new Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) which is due to come into existence on April 1, with Sir Edward Lister appointed Vice Chair.

The Further Alterations to the London Plan build on the Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan published in 2013 and the Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan published in November 2011. To read the Further Alterations to the London Plan please visit:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/london-plan/further-alterations-to-the-london-plan>

I agreed to formally publish the Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) as my spatial development strategy.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Former St John's Wood Barracks, City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

128-150 Blackfriars Road, LB Southwark

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

Arrowhead Quay, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Ebury Bridge Estate, City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

55-66 Gwynne Road, LB Wandsworth

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

Delegated Stage II Decisions

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

Land between Sweets Way and Oakleigh Road North, LB Barnet

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

Marine Wharf West, LB Lewisham

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

Meridian Gate, 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.

1 Bank Street, 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.

Gaelic Athletic Association, LB Ruislip

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

Land East of Bulls Cross, LB Enfield

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

Dexion House, 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.

Former East Barnet Gas Works, LB Barnet

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

Former Royal Mail Sorting Office, LB Camden

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

100 Whitechapel Road, LB Tower Hamlets

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Carleton House, LB Wandsworth
- Rainbow Industrial Estate, LB Merton
- The Old Post Office Kingston, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Kent Wharf, LB Lewisham
- Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, LB Merton
- Barratt Industrial Estate, LB Tower Hamlets
- Sports Ground opposite the Harris Academy, LB Bromley
- Feltham Community College, LB Hounslow
- Capital House Weston Street, LB Southwark
- 87 The Walnuts, LB Bromley
- 98 York Road, LB Wandsworth
- Hanover Square Masterplan, City of Westminster
- Woodbridge High School, LB Redbridge
- Alpha Square, LB Tower Hamlets
- Sherwood Close Estate, LB Ealing

- Former Thames Water Land, LB Hounslow
- Part of the Green Man Lanes Estate, LB Ealing
- 1-3 Corbridge Crescent and 1-4 The Oval, LB Tower Hamlets
- London School of Economics and Political Science, City of Westminster
- South West Lands, LB Brent
- 56-70 Putney High Street, LB Wandsworth
- West Ham Stadium, Boleyn Ground, LB Newham
- Liddell Industrial Estate, LB Camden
- 100 Liverpool Street & 8-12 Broadgate, City of London
- Carphone Warehouse 1 Portal Way, LB Ealing
- Glengall Quay Site, LB Tower Hamlets
- Bond House Goodwood Road, LB Lewisham
- The Triangle Site, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Lea Interchange Bus Depot, London Legacy Development Corporation

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- King's College School, LB Merton
- Harefield Hospital, LB Hillingdon
- Little Gerpins, LB Havering
- Turner House, City of Westminster
- 348-350 Old Brompton Road, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Former Oriental City, LB Brent
- 263-289 Holloway Road and 2-16 Eden Grove, LB Islington

Key Engagements

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

- I visited Boston, New York and Washington DC, on a six day trade mission to the US between 8 and 13 February
- I met with Sir Simon Rattle, Artistic Director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, on 16 February, to discuss his call for a new national music centre in London in order to provide a world class venue for music performance, as well as excellent facilities for education and outreach
- I met with representatives of the Private Hire Operators on 16 February
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Deputy Commissioner Craig Mackey, in the Commissioner's absence, on 16 February
- I attended the launch of the Capital City Foundation on 16 February
- I visited the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Southfields on 18 February
- I had lunch with the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on 18 February
- I met with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 18 February to discuss an economic plan for London
- I met with Michael Gutman, Managing Director Westfield, on 18 February to discuss investment in London
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 19 February

- I met with the “Guest of Honour” on 19 February, the American tourist who won the tourist competition run by L&P
- I visited Victoria Station with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 19 February to view the overnight maintenance works taking place on the Victoria Line
- I gave a speech at the Tate Modern focussing on the Treasury’s Long Term Economic Plan for London on 20 January
- I attended a joint visit to the Weston Homes Aura development with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 20 February
- I attended the Final Budget Plenary on 23 February
- I had an introductory meet and greet with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan on 23 February
- I hosted a conference with the Mayor's Advisory Group on 24 February to discuss the London fire strike
- I chaired the London Legacy Development Corporation Board Meeting on 24 February
- I attended Bureau of Leaders on 24 February
- I addressed the Global Law Summit on 25 February
- I hosted a meeting of Bus Manufacturers on 25 February
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 25 February
- I addressed the Daily Telegraph Middle East Congress on 26 February
- I met with George Iacobescu, Canary Wharf Group, on 26 February to discuss a range of transport and planning issues
- I held my regular social media session on 26 February
- I had an introductory meet and greet with Alice Ghasst, President of Imperial College, on 26 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 26 February
- I attended a dinner hosted by Rupert Murdoch, News Corporation, on 26 February
- I announced Santander as the new sponsor of the cycle hire scheme on 27 February
- I announced the appointment of a development partner for East Wick and Sweetwater on 2 March
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 2 March
- I attended the annual St David's Day Dinner at the Guildhall on 2 March
- I hosted my regular monthly “Ask Boris” Phone in with Nick Ferrari on 3 March
- I attended the London Councils Executive Committee on 3 March
- I hosted my annual International Business Advisory Council meeting and dinner on 3 March
- I launched the pan London DV Service at a refuge in Havering on 4 March
- I met with Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on 4 March to discuss my recent visit to Kurdistan
- I attend a celebratory event at City Hall on 4 March to bring together mentors from my mentoring programme to thank them for volunteering and celebrating new achievements
- I chaired the LEP meeting on 4 March
- I attended the unveiling of the new installation on the Fourth Plinth – the Gift Horse by Hans Haacke – on 5 March
- I hosted a reception for the Foreign Diplomatic Corps on 5 March
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 5 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London and Crossrail on 5 March

- I attended the official opening the New England Seafood Factory's new building in Kingston on 9 March
- I met with Sir William Castell on 9 March to discuss Olympicopolis
- I met with Phillip Dunne MP, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support & Technology, on 10 March, to discuss HMS Illustrious
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board Meeting on 10 March
- I met with AC Mark Rowley on 10 March to discuss policing and security in London
- I attended the London Assembly Plenary on 11 March to answer questions as Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 11 March
- I met with Joe Kaeser, Global CEO Siemen's, on 11 March
- I addressed the Mumsnet 15th Anniversary reception on 11 March

Ends