

35th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

MQT – 21 October 2015

This is my thirty-fifth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 3 September until 7 October 2015.

Executive Summary

Confirmation of Mike Brown MVO as London's Transport Commissioner

On 24 September, I confirmed the appointment of Mike Brown MVO as London's new Transport Commissioner following an international recruitment and selection process. Mike has been TfL's Managing Director of London Underground and Rail since 2010, where he has overseen a record performance of the Tube, DLR and London Overground, alongside the vital modernisation of the network and customer service.

MPS BME recruits more than double in first year of London only policy

On 16 September, I was pleased to be able to announce the positive effect of the MPS's London only recruitment policy following its introduction in August 2014. The new approach has seen the number of recruits from minority ethnic background more than double, and female recruits increase from a quarter to a third, and this is helping to boost the diversity of talent in London's police force, making it more resilient and far more reflective of the city it serves.

The MPS now has more BME officers than ever before and the largest proportion of ethnic minority officers in England and Wales.

Investing £2.5million to get thousands of Londoners active

On 22 September, I announced that tens of thousands of Londoners will have the chance to get active and take part in sports programmes across the capital thanks to an additional £2.5 million investment as part of my Sports Legacy Programme.

I have launched a brand new fund to help sports clubs in the capital thrive and have extended two successful schemes that are already encouraging people of all ages to get into the sporting habit. Organisations who are interested in applying to any of the three funds should visit www.london.gov.uk/sport for more information.

Publication of refreshed delivery plan for London Health Inequalities Strategy

On 11 September, I published the first refreshed Delivery Plan for my Health Inequalities Strategy. The Delivery Plan covers the period 2015 to 2018. The Plan can be found at:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London%20Health%20Inequalities%20Strategy%20Delivery%20Plan%202015-2018_FA.pdf.

Victoria Borwick

I would like to pay tribute to Victoria Borwick MP, who has now officially stepped down after 7 years as an Assembly Member and 3 years as my Deputy Mayor.

Victoria has been a highly valued AM and a loud voice in representing Londoners, particular more vulnerable Londoners such as the disabled and elderly for whom she has campaigned tirelessly. Victoria has published numerous reports as an elected AM, including *The Invisible Costs of Mental Ill Health*, *The Economic Contribution of Older Londoners* and *Friendly London*.

I would also like to thank Victoria for leading on my Health Policy and also for representing me at many London events such as St George's Day and the re-opening of HMS Belfast.

Kemi Badenoch AM has now been declared a GLA Conservative Assembly Member following Victoria's resignation and I would like to welcome Kemi to City Hall.

Policing, Crime and Community Safety

MPS BME recruits more than double in first year of London only policy

On 16 September, I was pleased to be able to announce the positive effect of the MPS's London only recruitment policy following its introduction in August 2014.

The new approach has seen the number of recruits from minority ethnic background more than double, and female recruits increase from a quarter to a third, and this is helping to boost the diversity of talent in London's police force, making it more resilient and far more reflective of the city it serves.

London is a unique and richly diverse metropolis, where more than 40 per cent of the population is from black or ethnic minority backgrounds. Since August 2014, new police constables have been recruited exclusively from people who have lived in London for three of the last six years, to help create a police force that understands the city's diversity and is equipped with the skills and cultural competencies necessary to police a great global city.

In the last three months (June-August), 26 per cent of new MPS officer recruits came from BME background, up from 12 per cent in the same period of 2014. The percentage of female recruits has also risen from 26 to 33 per cent of new recruits in the same period.

The MPS now has more BME officers than ever before, and the largest proportion of ethnic minority officers in England and Wales.

Almost 12 per cent of MPS officers are now from BME backgrounds, up from just 3 per cent 15 years ago, and significantly higher than other large cities such as Greater Manchester and Merseyside, whose BME officers represent 5 per cent and 3.4 per cent of the forces respectively.

Police and schools to work more closely together to keep young Londoners safe

On 7 October, MOPAC held the first major conference to ensure closer working between the police and schools in order to steer young Londoners away from gangs and radicalisation.

My Deputy Mayor for Policing, Stephen Greenhalgh, revealed findings from Youth Matters, a new survey of 9,492 young Londoners about their experiences of crime, which will be published later this year by MOPAC. The majority of the young people (81 per cent) who responded had never been victims of crime. However, the top three issues that affected young Londoners in school were violence and fights (27 per cent), bullying (24 per cent) and people stealing (21 per cent). The survey also revealed that perceived pressure to join a gang was marked for those who had been victims of crime (21 per cent) and attendees or former attendees of Pupil Referral Units (31 per cent).

In the first event of its kind, Stephen and MPS Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan Howe came together with over 300 teachers, head teachers and, education specialists, to look at how they can better tackle these issues and ensure that young people feel confident and secure inside and outside of school.

London Crime Reduction Board

On 15 September, I chaired a meeting of the London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB) in which we discussed the impact of financial changes predicted in the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

All members of the LCRB outlined how they are planning to move forward to work together to deliver services and ensure that the impact of anticipated budget changes is minimised. We also discussed gangs and serious youth violence and were given an update on the Strategic Ambitions work that provides prevention, intervention and enforcement against gangs.

London Digital Security Centre

On 1 October, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, launched the new London Digital Security Centre (LDSC). The centre in Victoria will be the go to resource for providing the latest cyber industry guidance for all types of business, with a particular focus on providing support for the SME market. We saw an example of *ethical hacking* which helps businesses to understand their own vulnerability.

The model for the LDSC has been built around the very successful Scottish Business Resilience Centre and the Director of SBRC, Mandy Haeburn-Little, is assisting London to establish a similar model for London.

Transport

Confirmation of Mike Brown MVO as London's Transport Commissioner

On 24 September, I confirmed the appointment of Mike Brown MVO as London's new Transport Commissioner following an international recruitment and selection process. Mike has been Interim Commissioner since July and took up the permanent post with immediate effect.

Mike has been TfL's Managing Director of London Underground and Rail since 2010, where he has overseen a record performance of the Tube, DLR and London Overground, alongside the vital modernisation of the network and customer service.

He has taken up the post at a pivotal moment for the organisation and London. The capital's population is now 8.6 million, its highest ever, and is due to grow to around 10 million by 2030.

TfL continues to invest in the capital's transport network to harness population growth, provide access to jobs, housing, health, education, leisure and ensure London remains the engine of the UK economy.

Under Mike's leadership, we've seen record numbers of customers carried on our Tube, DLR and London Overground networks and Tube delays have fallen by well over 40 per cent since 2010. He brings decades of service, experience and leadership to the role and is the right person to lead the next wave of modernisation and improvement at TfL to ensure London continues to grow and prosper to the benefit of the whole country.

Crossrail trains take shape, supporting hundreds of UK jobs

The production of the new Crossrail trains, which will help meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of London and the south east, reached an important milestone on 10 September with the completion of a test carriage at Bombardier's train manufacturing plant in Derby.

This first body shell will be used to refine the design and the manufacturing techniques needed for the full production of the 594 carriages needed for the 66 Crossrail trains.

At over 200m long, the trains will be around the length of two full-sized (Premier League) football pitches or 18 New Routemaster buses. They will provide space for up to 1,500 passengers and help to relieve congestion on journeys between east and west London and beyond into Berkshire in the west and Essex in the east. The trains will have wide interconnecting gangways and three double doors on each side of each carriage, providing high capacity and quick boarding and alighting times that will be particularly beneficial at busy central stations.

The manufacture and delivery of the trains and depot at Old Oak Common are supporting 760 UK manufacturing jobs, as well as 80 apprenticeships. Over the course of the project, it is estimated that Crossrail and its supply chain will support the equivalent of 55,000 full time jobs across the country.

West Anglia Taskforce

On 8 September, I hailed the formation of the West Anglia Taskforce to help champion the case for vital improvements of rail links between the capital, Cambridge and Stansted. The Taskforce has now held its first meeting at the House of Commons following an announcement earlier this year as part of the Long Term Economic Plan for London.

The Taskforce is building the case for four-tracking the West Anglia Main Line between Coppermill Junction and Broxbourne Junction and associated schemes to improve rail provision along the rail corridor. This would also enable Stansted Airport to grow to its planned capacity and stimulate investment and development in an area of Greater London with huge untapped potential.

Chaired by Saffron Walden MP Sir Alan Haselhurst, the West Anglia Taskforce will build on case-making already presented by TfL and the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium. Initial findings will be published in March 2016 and it is working to an outline business case to be presented to Government in June 2016.

Heathrow expansion plans would fail the nation

On 7 September, I wrote to every Member of Parliament and peer informing them that even if a third runway was built, Heathrow would serve fewer long haul and fewer domestic destinations by 2030 than it does today.

I provided a 30 page dossier which weakens the argument for the Airports Commission recommendation that Heathrow be expanded. The dossier's detailed analysis draws on the weaknesses set out in the Commission's own evidence.

Direction to TfL to undertake additional work in relation to aviation issues

I have directed TfL, under section 155(1)(c) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, to undertake work to respond to the Airports Commission final report and the wider policy debate and delegated to TfL the powers it requires to do so. I have also authorised Daniel Moylan as a member of the TfL Board to oversee the work that TfL will undertake.

Unveiling expanded traffic-busting plans to keep London moving

On 29 September, whilst visiting TfL's Traffic Control Centre, I unveiled the new measures that TfL is introducing to ease traffic in the capital and minimise disruption on the roads as major work to improve the network continues as part of the £4 billion Road Modernisation Plan. The innovations include:

- Trials of new technology – for the first time on the TfL Road Network a new generation of digital road signs will provide people with real-time information on journeys using major routes into London. The signs will initially be trialled on the A12, A13 and A40. TfL is also trialling a new operating system of temporary traffic lights that can be remotely controlled from TfL's traffic control centre.
- A London 2012 Games-style 24/7 communication campaign – each day TfL keeps its 450,000 @tfltrafficnews followers and website users up-to-date with the very latest traffic information and the calendar of works being carried out so people can plan ahead.
- Expanding the use of road junction technology, including the world-leading 'Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique' (SCOOT) to optimise traffic light timings in outer London. The introduction of SCOOT has proven to reduce delays by up to 12 per cent at each junction where it has been installed. By May 2016, almost 4,000 sites will be using this technology across London.
- Working with sat-nav companies – we are also encouraging firms to take advantage of the latest technology by using TfL's extensive data feeds to update sat-navs so motorists can be provided with real-time TfL information as they drive, ensuring they can take the most appropriate routes.

These pioneering measures are being developed to accompany existing ongoing work to ease congestion. For detailed information on the impact on central London and to see the range of travel advice and planning tools available, follow @tfltrafficnews or visit: www.tfl.gov.uk/roadtraveladvice

Renewed call for further powers over private hire trade

On 30 September, I renewed my call for further powers to cap the number of Private Hire Vehicles in the capital. This follows a recent analysis of Congestion Charging data that shows a huge increase in the number of licensed Private Hire Vehicles observed within the zone during charging hours. In September 2012 an average of 448 licensed Private Hire Vehicles were observed each day in the Congestion Charge zone. However, in August 2015 this figure had increased to 13,151, a 29-fold increase. I am concerned that this unprecedented rise in numbers is causing increased congestion, particularly in central London, as well as more pollution and problems with illegal parking.

In May I made clear my intention to press for legislation from Government to enable TfL to cap the number of Private Hire Vehicle drivers operating in the capital, which is rising by up to 2,000 each month. Currently there are 88,149 minicab drivers in London and over the past year that number has risen by 16,312. At this rate, over the next two years there will be an additional 40,000 minicab drivers, bringing the total number to more than 128,000.

I will continue to seek legislation to give the capital the power to cap the number of minicab drivers.

Millions of Londoners now choosing contactless payments

Over 180 million journeys have now been made using contactless payments on London's transport network in the first year since its launch.

The world-leading technology, which provides quicker and more convenient journeys, was developed in-house by TfL to make life easier for customers. It removes the need for customers to top-up, and fares are capped, with the best value fares calculated automatically.

Contactless payments can be used on London Underground, tram, DLR, London Overground, buses, TfL Rail, the Emirates Air Line and most National Rail services in London. Payments using the technology now account for a fifth of all pay as you go journeys. Customers using contactless pay the same adult-rate pay as you go fare as Oyster.

Since launching on 16 September 2014:

- One in seven of all contactless transactions in the UK now takes place on London transport;
- Contactless payments now account for 20 per cent of all pay as you go journeys;
- The busiest day for contactless payment journeys was on Friday 11 September 2015 when over 900,000 journeys were made;
- Over 375,000 contactless journeys are made on Tube and Rail services and 250,000 on London Buses every day.

Contactless payments and Oyster to and from Dartford

Rail passengers using Dartford station are now enjoying cheaper fares and more convenient journeys following the extension of contactless payments and Oyster pay as you go on Southeastern services that start and finish at the station.

This is part of TfL's ongoing work to make life easier for customers and bringing Dartford into Zone 8 allows customers to use pay as you go and Zone 1-8 Travelcard season tickets. Travellers using contactless payments will pay the same fare as Oyster and, whether using Oyster or contactless payments, customers will enjoy significant financial savings.

A standard anytime single fare for travel to Dartford is currently £8.40, but from Sunday the new pay as you go contactless payment or Oyster single fare will be £7.00 in the peak (saving £1.40) and £4.00 off peak (saving £4.40).

Rugby World Cup 2015 action goes Underground

On 14 September, TfL announced that it had teamed up with broadcaster ITV to bring London commuters live news and updates from the Rugby World Cup 2015 as part of a commercial agreement that will generate revenue to reinvest in the transport network.

The partnership will ensure that customers will not miss out on the action as live news, results and score updates will be streamed across the Tube and DLR networks over the full six weeks of the competition. The information will be available on the digital information boards at the entrances of all stations and on platforms at over 180 London Underground and DLR stations.

The new service was unveiled at Southwark Tube station by Women's Rugby World Cup 2014 winner Maggie Alphonsi.

The partnership is part of TfL's wider plans to generate £3.4 billion in non-fare revenue by 2020/21 to reinvest in the running and vital modernisation of the transport network.

Rugby's Webb Ellis Cup takes a ride on the Tube

In the run up to the start of the Rugby World Cup 2015, rugby legend and Rugby World Cup 2003 winner Will Greenwood and the famous Webb Ellis Cup made a trip on the Tube.

The Trophy had been travelling across the UK and Ireland as part of the 100-day Rugby World Cup Trophy Tour. The Trophy joined commuters to remind them that transport services between central London and the venues are busier than usual before and after matches.

On match days parts of the transport network is busier than normal and Londoners are being advised to plan ahead so they can get around easily, whether or not they are watching the tournament.

Between Friday 18 September and Saturday 31 October, there will be 17 matches in total across three London venues, The Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, Wembley Stadium and Twickenham Stadium, the home of English Rugby.

Twickenham Stadium will operate differently from usual during the Tournament, including a full closure of part of the A316 Great Chertsey Road from three hours before matches, with the road expected to be re-opened as soon as safe to do so. Road users are advised to plan alternative routes and avoid traveling in the area during matches.

Record number of new apprentices taken on by TfL

TfL has announced it had taken on a record 156 apprentices in September as it continues to invest in the next generation of transport professionals.

The new intake brings the total number of apprenticeships created by TfL and its supply chain in London and across the UK to 5,700 in just six years, TfL is also committing to creating a further 150 new roles in 2016.

TfL apprenticeships are giving people an opportunity to earn and learn at the same time, with apprentices working on vital transport projects such as the Northern line extension to Battersea, Crossrail trains and depot, the Bank station upgrade and the modernisation of London's roads.

TfL is also one of the first employers in the UK to introduce 'degree apprenticeships'. The degree apprenticeship is designed to bring together the best of higher and vocational education enabling apprentices to achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree, whilst training on the job. TfL's first degree apprentices will be on its Quantity Surveying scheme, with three new apprentices and two existing apprentices participating.

Holland Park Tube to get new lifts and other station improvements

London Underground is advising customers who use Holland Park Tube station of vital work to replace the station's two lifts that will begin in January next year.

The current lifts are nearly 30 years old and need to be replaced to ensure they work reliably, the existing lifts fail regularly causing travel disruption to customers. The nature of the work means that while this essential upgrade is carried out the station will be closed. It will re-open again in August 2016.

LU had considered replacing the lifts one at a time and keeping the station open but this was deemed to be neither the safest nor least disruptive option for customers. Carrying out the work on both lifts simultaneously rather than separately reduces the closure from 64 weeks to just 30.

While the station is closed, LU will be undertaking additional modernisation work, including improvements to the ticket hall, increasing CCTV coverage, as well as installing more efficient lighting and enhancing accessibility.

New Tube for London receives top design award

On 4 September, London Underground and design partner PriestmanGoode were named as the Silver Top Winners at the Industrial Designers Society of America's (IDSA's) International Design Excellence Awards.

The award was presented for the New Tube for London train design in the Top Winner Automotive & Transportation category.

The New Tube is the next generation of Underground train which will come in to service in London from the mid-2020s, first on the Piccadilly line, followed by the Bakerloo, Central, and Waterloo & City lines. Its innovative design will allow for air-cooling for the first time on deep-level sections of the Tube. The train also features improved accessibility, with level access to platforms, as well as walk-through carriages and wider doors.

£100 million refurbishment of Hammersmith Flyover completed

On 4 September, TfL announced that major work to strengthen the Hammersmith Flyover in west London had been completed.

Engineers had been working day and night on the flyover over the past two years and its completion means that the flyover has now been fully restored and strengthened, making it fit for purpose for decades to come. It will now also require less regular maintenance work, reducing future congestion and traffic delays.

Since October 2013, vital restoration work has been carried out by TfL and its contractors to strengthen 11 of the flyover's 16 spans after an initial five were strengthened in 2012. This work, part of TfL's wider £4 billion Road Modernisation Plan, was primarily carried out overnight to reduce disruption to road users and residents.

TfL is now working to clear the work site around the flyover, with all local roads returning to normal by late autumn.

Major Victoria station breakthrough unites 300 metres of new tunnels

On 14 September, a major milestone was reached in the upgrade of Victoria Tube station with the joining of 300m of new tunnels connecting the brand new North ticket hall with the existing South ticket hall, which is currently being doubled in size to make journeys less crowded.

The breakthrough marked the completion of a key phase in this complex three-year project, with this key section having been completed behind-the-scenes with no disruption to Tube customers, despite the fact that in certain places it was carried out less than 30cm away from operational Victoria line platforms.

Victoria station is one of the busiest in London and is used by over 80 million customers each year. A radical £700 million three year transformation, set for completion in 2018, will increase the size of the station by 110 per cent and will bring step-free access to Victoria for the first time in its 147-year history.

Along with nine new escalators, new lifts and step-free access to all platforms, a new underground North ticket hall is being constructed at the junction of Bressenden Place and Victoria Street and is set to open in late 2016. The new North ticket hall will significantly cut journey times for passengers who exit towards Victoria Street.

Successful Pedestrian Countdown technology to be doubled by summer 2016

TfL has announced that the number of Pedestrian Countdown sites across London is to be doubled by summer 2016.

I had set TfL a target to upgrade 400 crossings, 10 per cent of all those in London, with the technology by April 2016, replacing the 'blackout' period on traffic signals with a numerical counter to show how long pedestrians have left to safely cross the road. However, this target has already been surpassed with more than 430 sites currently upgraded.

TfL has now extended the target by a further 400 sites, meaning that 800 crossings, or around 20 per cent of all pedestrian crossings in London will now have Pedestrian Countdown by summer 2016.

Major rail junction replacement will improve reliability of District and Piccadilly lines

During October, London Underground is replacing a major rail junction at Hanger Lane to improve reliability on both the District and Piccadilly lines.

Engineers and contractors will completely renew and realign the junction to make it faster, smoother and more reliable for the thousands of customers who travel through the area each day. The rebuild will involve breaking out and renewing track and signalling over nine days from Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November.

This will mean the District line will be closed between Ealing Broadway and Turnham Green for the whole period, with the Piccadilly line between Acton Town and Uxbridge closing on the two weekends. Other Tube services will continue to serve the area, as will rail replacement and local bus services. TfL will keep customers informed over the closure period and suggest alternative routes to minimise disruption.

Innovative use of modern installation techniques means the work will be done in two halves, rather than all at once, allowing the Piccadilly line to remain open on weekdays.

LU will be taking full advantage of the closure of the District line section to carry out other essential work at Ealing Broadway, preparing for the full modernisation of the line. Engineers will also replace an additional 330 metres of track, making the entire area more reliable, with a smoother ride.

London's first interactive collision map shows safety history of capital's roads

We have now launched the first interactive map designed to improve road safety awareness. The London Collision Map uses extensive data, collected by the Police and held by TfL, to provide a new way to inform road users about junctions with high collision histories and aiding improvement work, in line with TfL's commitment to improve transparency for customers and stakeholders.

The map allows anyone to easily search for collisions anywhere within London, providing information about when, where and how severe incidents were dating back to 2005. The aim is to help raise awareness of road conditions and encourage road users to take extra care at junctions.

It comes as TfL have published the Annual Road Safety report, which highlights the safety performance and improvements that have been made on the capital's roads in the last 12 months. During 2014, the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) fell to its lowest level since records began.

The Report also outlined my new target to halve the number of KSIs by 2020 compared to the Government base line, meaning a reduction of more than 14,000 deaths or serious injuries over the life of London's road safety plan to 2020.

New images of Canary Wharf station released as station construction completes

Construction of the new Crossrail Canary Wharf station has now been completed and the Canary Wharf Group plc has handed over the ticket hall and platform levels to Crossrail Limited.

Crossrail will now start the complicated process of fitting out the station with all the systems needed to operate passenger services including communications equipment, signalling, tunnel ventilation, platform screen doors and overhead line equipment.

Construction of Canary Wharf station box was undertaken by Canary Wharf Contractors Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Canary Wharf Group plc. The Group contributed £150 million towards the costs of the new Crossrail station and delivered the station box for a fixed price of £500 million.

Situated in the North Dock of West India Quay, Canary Wharf is one of the largest Crossrail stations. The station, retail and park areas are six storeys high and, at 256 metres long, the development is slightly longer than the height of One Canada Square. The station development will provide a new link between Canary Wharf and Poplar, currently separated by the North Dock, and includes links to the Canary Wharf Estate, via Adams Place and the Jubilee line and DLR stations.

New technology uses recycled energy from Tube trains to power stations

A world-first trial that uses the latest technology to collect waste energy from Tube train brakes has captured enough power to run a large Underground station, opening the way for significant savings across the network.

LU used the new 'inverter' system at the Cloudesley Road substation on the Victoria line for a five-week trial and, in just one week of operation, the new technology recovered enough power to run a station as large as Holborn for more than two days per week.

The results show that the new green technology could allow LU to tap into a previously inaccessible resource, reducing its overall carbon footprint and saving as much as £6 million every year for reinvestment in improving transport.

As well as saving energy, the technology has the added benefit of lessening the amount of heat generated by trains braking in tunnels, which in turn would reduce the energy required to operate LU's cooling systems.

The results indicated that 1 Megawatt hour (MWh) of energy can be captured per day, enough to power 104 homes per year.

UK's productivity and economic growth to be boosted by Crossrail 2

Homes, jobs, productivity and economic growth could be boosted far beyond the proposed route of Crossrail 2, new research from TfL and Network Rail has found.

The research, carried out to inform discussion of the railway during the Government's spending review this autumn, highlights how all parts of the country could benefit. Crossrail 2 will serve London, Hertfordshire and Surrey will and provide capacity for 270,000 more people to access central London during the busy morning peak. The railway will connect with the Underground, Crossrail, Thameslink, National Rail network, HS2 and High Speed services to Europe, bringing

more than 800 destinations around the country within one interchange of a Crossrail 2 station, including towns in the midlands and the north.

Crucially, Crossrail 2 would release space on some of the most congested railway lines into London, allowing additional trains to operate into Waterloo and Liverpool Street during peak periods. As many as 11,800 more seats could be available on Network Rail services from Hampshire and Surrey into Waterloo during the peak, as well as those offered by Crossrail 2. Areas with significant growth potential, including Cambridge, Stansted, Portsmouth, Basingstoke and Southampton could all benefit.

By addressing transport and housing constraints, which are limiting growth in some of the highest productivity sectors of the economy, Crossrail 2 could make a significant contribution to the UK's productivity challenge. KPMG has estimated this to be worth up to £102 billion to the UK economy in additional output, generating significant extra tax revenues to help fund the scheme.

A warm welcome awaits tourists at new London Underground Visitor Centres

Visitors to London can now use special one-stop Visitor Centres in key London Underground and National Rail stations to buy tickets for travel and attractions.

They will be the first port of call for millions of people visiting London. Staff will be on hand to offer a warm welcome and advice on tickets and a range of services to help visitors make the most out of the capital.

Two new Visitor Centres are open at Paddington and Gatwick Airport and six Travel Information Centres have been transformed into Visitor Centres at Heathrow, Victoria, Euston, King's Cross St Pancras, Piccadilly Circus and Liverpool Street.

The new centres offer travel guidance and advice on how to obtain the best value-for-money products, such as Oyster Pay as You Go and, especially for domestic visitors, contactless payment. Visitors will also be able to find out what they can do in London and book tickets for attractions, sight-seeing tours, theatres and TfL's own services such as the Emirates Air Line and the London Transport Museum.

Visitor Centres are open between 08:00 and 18:00 each day, and are expected to serve more than 3.5 million visitors to London every year.

Putney to Blackfriars River Bus service fares

I approved the fares for the Putney to Blackfriars river bus service from 14 September 2015 onwards and directed TfL, under section 155(1)(c) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, to implement these fares.

Regeneration, Business, Enterprise and the Economy

London's first garden 'High Line'

On 15 September, I pledged £285,000 to local community projects as part of my £9 million High Street Fund, including £10,000 to the Peckham Coal Line, which aims to transform disused railway sidings into a new 1km stretch of green space.

The Peckham Coal Line will connect the communities of Queens Road and Rye Lane with a new urban park that will transform walking and cycling connections around Peckham, changing the lives of residents and businesses by bridging busy roads and creating a more direct link between two high streets.

The 900m-long route will run on disused coal sidings alongside the railway line through the heart of Peckham, framing views across London and passing through beautiful Victorian brick viaducts before dropping down to a little-used nature reserve. As well as providing a beautiful setting, the improvements will bridge the gap in a wider network of cycling and walking greenways between Brixton and the Thames.

My funding will contribute to a full feasibility study examining how the Coal Line will be built, any planning issues involved and build costs, as well as engaging residents, businesses schools and commuters in further workshops.

London Regeneration Fund

On 2 October, the deadline closed for submissions to the London Regeneration Fund and officers are now currently validating and appraising the submissions. A public announcement of the successful bids will follow in the new year.

The London Regeneration Fund is £20 million of capital funding to specifically help London's high streets and places of work by supporting innovative and place-based projects throughout the city. The Fund builds on my long-standing belief that London's high streets are great places to visit, live and do business in, and it introduces an additional focus on London's places of work where most of the capital's productive economic activity occurs.

Growing Places Fund

On 10 September, I officially launched the third round of the Growing Places Fund through which I am making £7.5 million of capital funding available.

The Growing Places Fund is used to support projects that are strategically important to London's economic growth and the Fund aims to use public sector funding to encourage private sector investment. Working with the London Enterprise Panel (LEP), I invite applicants from across the capital with projects that help deliver one or more of the priority areas set out in the LEP's 'London 2036: An agenda for jobs and growth' report. This includes projects which:

- Help maintain London's international leadership position;
- Support a more diverse growth of businesses in London, for example by creating the conditions needed to support the growth of SMEs; and
- Help create a city that works, for example by accelerating housing delivery or securing infrastructure investment.

The deadline for applications is 21 October and successful applicants will be notified next year. For more information, including details of key requirements and how to apply, the prospectus can be found at: https://lep.london/gpf_r3.

Local food producers crowned at inaugural Urban Food Awards

On 25 September, the Urban Food Awards took place at Borough Market. Funded by Seeds of Change and the GLA and delivered by the Plunkett Foundation and London Food Link, the aim of the awards is to help social enterprises and privately-owned business to become more sustainable, while encouraging Londoners to buy locally grown food.

The standard of entries in this year's awards showcases the wonderful range of top quality food and drink being produced by small independent producers and growers right here in the capital.

Hosts Borough Market were presented with the Kryszewski Memorial Award in memory of the late Kryszewski, a member of the London Food Board and the National Association of British Market Authorities, who was a passionate advocate of the importance of markets to the vibrancy of city life.

Other winners on the night included Jack Clarke and Theresa Douthwright of fishmongers, Soleshare, who won the Food Hero award in recognition of their efforts in leading the way towards better food in London through their sustainability campaign.

Calling for more apprentices to take on careers in construction

On 23 September, I urged more young people to choose a career in construction, as I joined forces with Lloyds Banking Group to launch the £1 million Construction Skills fund to help provide London homebuilders with the improved training they say the industry needs.

Lloyds Bank research reveals that 87 per cent of house builders in the UK plan to increase the size of their workforce over the next year, with almost a third planning to use apprentices to grow their businesses in the next five years.

The £1m Construction Skills fund, launched with Lloyds Banking Group as part of its Helping Britain Prosper Plan, will aim to address some of the acute skills challenges in London's construction sector by boosting the training of skilled apprentices. These apprentices will play an integral role in helping speed up house building in London as part of £95.7 billion worth of construction projects planned across the capital and south east up until 2017, requiring a 20 per cent increase in skilled workers.

World Hindu Economic Forum

On 13 September, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the World Hindu Economic Forum. The event is held to provide a platform to conduct business and to promote networking between business organisations and individuals. The Deputy Mayor spoke about 'doing business in London'.

Billingsgate Market

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, visited Billingsgate Market to see the market at work.

Project to Maximise Business Rates Income in the London Borough of Brent

I approved the payment of up to £180,000 as a one off contribution in 2015-16 towards a project by the London Borough of Brent to maximise business rates income locally.

The costs are charged to the Mayors Resilience Reserve and reimbursed via an estimated £185,000 additional one off business rates income accruing for 2015-16 on a pro rata basis and an ongoing additional revenue estimated at around £429,000 annually at 2015-16 prices.

Housing and Land

Partnering with SEGRO to develop 86 acres of GLA land and create 6,500 new jobs in East London

On 2 October, I announced major plans for the redevelopment of 86 acres of industrial land owned by the GLA in London Riverside. The development will have the potential to create 6,500 new jobs in east London and means that 99 per cent of all GLA land has now been released for development.

Once signed, the partnership between the Greater London Authority and SEGRO will be the largest deal of its kind between the public sector and a private land developer in the capital. This is a considerable step forward for my vision for London Riverside, which includes housing plans for Barking Riverside and the surrounding areas.

Following a nine-month procurement process, SEGRO, one of the UK's leading industrial property companies, has been selected as our preferred partner to deliver the development on the sites, which are known collectively as East Plus. East Plus is a series of industrial locations spanning Newham, Barking & Dagenham and Havering on both sides of the A13 corridor.

The planned 10 year partnership between the GLA and SEGRO will see 86 acres of land across five sites rejuvenated for a range of industrial uses, with the land to be transferred to SEGRO in stages over the life of the partnership. SEGRO estimates that the sites can support approximately 1.4 million sq. ft. of new urban logistics and light industrial spaces, suitable for occupiers ranging from blue-chip companies to start-up firms. SEGRO's investment is expected to be approximately £180 million over the coming years.

Receipt of funding for The London Land Commission

I approved the receipt and expenditure of a grant of £1 million revenue funding from HM Treasury to support the establishment and operation of the London Land Commission, including the procurement and appointment of property consultants and an ICT developer.

Albert Island Disposal

I approved expenditure of £250,000 for site investigations and further due diligence to assist with the disposal of Albert Island in the Royal Docks.

Blackwall Reach Delegations and Delivery

I have:

- Confirmed approval of the terms of the Principal Development Agreement and subsequent amendments, and the entry by GLA Land and Property Limited (GLAP) into the Building Agreements, Block Leases, Phase Leases as contemplated by the Principal Development Agreement and the Building Agreements;
- Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Housing and Land to finalise the form of the Block Leases and Phase leases for Phases 1A, 1B, 2, 3 and 4 of the development scheme, including any modifications. The authority, where appropriate, to enter into accelerated grants or combined Phase Leases and Block Leases or modifications and agreements required as a result of the structuring of the public sector landholdings to facilitate grant.
- Approved entry by GLAP into any Wayleaves, Easements, Licences, Section 104, 278 and 38 Agreements, ancillary leases, non-material amendments to the Principal Development Agreement and individual Building Agreements and, any other ancillary agreements required to deliver the Blackwall Reach development; and
- Approved expenditure of £150,000 to cover all Blackwall Reach legal fees relating to the development as set out in the 2015-16 GLAP budget.

Cane Hill Hospital Development Account

I approved:

- Expenditure of £8.647 million as GLAP's proportion of the additional consideration payable, pursuant to the Hospital Development Account and associated overage agreement in full and, final settlement of its liability under that agreement, on the basis that GLA/GLAP are discharged from all future liabilities under that Hospital Development Account and overage agreement in respect of the whole GLA Cane Hill Hospital site (comprising Cane Hill Hospital, Wells Cottages and Sovereign House);
- That the payment includes an allowance for Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) at 4% (i.e. £8.314 million plus £0.333 million SDLT) and on the basis that no VAT is payable; and
- That GLA/GLAP will agree to pay the HCA the above amount within 3 months of formalising the arrangement by way of agreement or exchange of letters.

Cane Hill – Agreement for Lease

I also approved:

- The entry by GLAP into a Deed of Surrender, a Short Term and a 125 year lease, two freehold transfers and a Licence to carry out works, relating to the relocation of the agricultural tenant currently on the Cane Hill site.
- Expenditure of £93,000 related to legal fees and costs associated with the ongoing delivery of the project.

Environment

Launch of 2016 Low Carbon Entrepreneur competition

On 11 September, whilst visiting the Workspace Coffee shop in Clerkenwell, I launched the 2016 Low Carbon Entrepreneur competition with new sponsors Citi Foundation. The launch also celebrated the success of 2012 winners Bio-Bean with their new local coffee waste collection service for London's businesses. They are now able to process up to 50,000 tonnes of coffee waste a year into biofuels, which is enough to power 15,000 homes.

The competition continues to expand and now also offers paid part time internships to students, enabling them to gain valuable work experience alongside their studies.

Energy for London 2016-2019

I approved:

- The application to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for grant funding for Energy for London.
- Entry into a grant agreement with the ERDF should the bid be successful subject to acceptable contract break-clauses not fettering the new Mayor.
- Subject to a successful bid, expenditure of up to £3,500,000 to establish Energy for London over 3.5 years, funded by £1.75 million from ERDF grant and £1.75 million from the GLA.
- The procurement of a new Energy for London consultancy framework.

Social Inclusion and Health

Publication of refreshed delivery plan for London Health Inequalities Strategy

On 11 September, I published the first refreshed Delivery Plan for my Health Inequalities Strategy. The Delivery Plan covers the period 2015 to 2018.

The Plan was informed by the London Health Commission's recommendations. It also includes a summary of GLA-led work on health inequalities to date, a description of the new health system and its potential to reduce health inequalities, as well as an indicator set to help express and track changes in health inequalities in London over time. The Plan can be found at:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London%20Health%20Inequalities%20Strategy%20Delivery%20Plan%202015-2018_FA.pdf.

Health update meeting

On 22 September, I held my quarterly health update meeting. Professor Yvonne Doyle, Regional Director, Public Health England (London) and my statutory health advisor, updated me on health inequalities in London. I was pleased to learn that there has been an improvement in the life expectancy gap for both men and women between the most deprived and least deprived groups in London. Dr Anne Rainsberry, Regional Director, NHS England (London) also updated me on NHS performance.

Silver Sunday at City Hall

On 4 October, I hosted *Silver Sunday*, an event for older Londoners which was opened by Barbara Windsor MBE and offered activities, performances and workshops to 400 people.

London Obesity Programme

I have approved expenditure of up to £430,000 to deliver the London Obesity Programme to March 2017. This consists of:

- Up to £180,000 to extend the London Obesity Healthy Schools London programme for a further year (composed of up to £150,000 GLA underwriting plus receipt of external sponsorship);
- £250,000 for the Healthier Environment transport and planning workstreams.

Education and Youth

London Schools Gold Club Award Ceremony

On 25 September, 113 of London's most exceptional schools were awarded Gold Club membership at the Gold Club awards ceremony.

The schools are now being asked to share their good practice through seminars and hosting visits, so that other schools can learn from a range of approaches that have led to their success.

The event was hosted by my Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza. Delegates were also fortunate enough to be addressed by guest of honour Sir John Dunford OBE, the retiring National Pupil Premium Champion. East London Arts & Music Academy also provided the music for the ceremony.

The Gold Club is part of my drive to boost standards and raise attainment for all schoolchildren wherever they live in the capital and regardless of background. In highlighting and celebrating schools that are 'bucking the trend', especially for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, the aim is to inspire even more schools in London to strive for similar academic success by learning from the Gold Club schools.

Permanent home for Fulham Boys School secured

On 21 September, I announced that I have secured a permanent home for The Fulham Boys School, which will create an additional 800 secondary school places and further deliver on my promise to help alleviate pressure on the capital's classrooms. The free school is expected to move into its purpose-built new home on the site of the underutilised Fulham Police Station in September 2017.

I made a commitment to find a suitable home for Fulham Boys School in the local area last year, which led to it being given approval to open by the Department for Education. The size and location of the site, together with the fact that only 35 per cent of the building is currently in use, make it an ideal site for the school.

The Education Funding Agency has now agreed to purchase the underused police building from MOPAC, enabling top class education facilities to be built for Fulham Boys School. The site will remain home to a policing front counter, fulfilling my commitment to the residents of Fulham in the Police and Crime Plan.

I have approved the disposal of the Fulham Police Station site to the Education Funding Agency and also agreed to contribute to the Department for Education the sum of £5 million for the redevelopment of Fulham Police Station in order to provide suitable accommodation for The Fulham Boys School.

Mayoral charities pass £20 million mark

On 28 September, I thanked Londoners and businesses that have helped to raise a staggering £20 million for the three charities set up to increase opportunities and improve the life chances for young people in the capital.

Since 2008, funding has been pouring in from dozens of businesses, philanthropists, corporate sponsors, as well as thousands of individual Londoners, to support the important work being done by the Mayor's Fund for London, the Mayor's Music Fund and The Legacy List. Tens of thousands of young people across every London borough have benefited as a result of this generosity.

The Mayor's Fund for London alone has spent almost £13 million to support young Londoners in all 33 boroughs. Its activities have benefited 50,000 young people in schools and helped 1,500 unemployed youngsters into work. The Fund is also currently working with 200 schools and 250 employers in the capital.

The Mayor's Music Fund has similarly enjoyed a huge amount of support from businesses, philanthropists and other supporters since being established in 2011. Each year it awards grants worth £400,000 to enable gifted youngsters to develop their talent as musicians, with 340 talented children from low-income families receiving four year music scholarships. In addition, more than 6,500 young Londoners have also taken part in music and cultural projects, including being mentored by and performing alongside professional musicians at venues around the capital.

The Legacy List, which was established to ensure local children benefit from the cultural and education opportunities being created in and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, has invested more than £1,700,000 in a creative programme and has been working with 650,000 local people, including 16,000 pupils from 120 schools in the boroughs surrounding the park. The Legacy List has supported almost 70 cultural organisations to build new audiences amongst the local population and through its partners has supported a range of activity by 530 artists.

London Schools Excellence Fund Legacy Fund

I approved the expenditure of up to £660,000 to deliver the London Schools Excellence Fund Legacy Fund, including up to £560,000 for the co-ordination of up to 20 Subject Knowledge Hubs and up to £100,000 for a Teacher Innovation Fund.

Stepping Stones

I have approved expenditure of up to £500,000, subject to annual break clauses and budget process, for the delivery of the *Stepping Stones* programme, which will include:

- The appointment of a youth programme delivery organisation to run and manage the programme; and
- The commissioning of an evaluation of the programme and production of a practical resources tool kit.

Budget, Finance and GLA Organisation

Launch and ongoing development and refinement of new London.gov.uk

I approved expenditure of up to £126,000 on a digital marketing communications campaign to increase London.gov.uk site usage and to invite user feedback during public beta from January 2016. I also agreed to expenditure of up to £66,000 to support further development and refinement work to ensure user feedback from public beta is addressed

Appointments

New Chairman Nomination

On 28 September, I announced my nomination of David Edmonds CBE to be the new Chairman of the LLDC. David brings a wealth of knowledge to the role of Chairman of the Olympic legacy project. His experience across both the private and the public sectors will ensure the continuity we need to deliver Olympicopolis, the new cultural and university district at the heart of the capital's regeneration in east London. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has been a huge success and David's appointment will ensure that the London 2012 legacy continues to thrive.

David Edmonds joined the Board of the Olympic Park Legacy Company in 2010 and has continued as an LLDC Board member since its inception in 2012. He has chaired the Investment Committee for all that period, and has been Deputy Chairman of LLDC since May this year. He chairs the Board of E20 LLP, the joint venture between the London Borough of Newham and the LLDC, which has been responsible for the transformation of the former Olympic Stadium.

I would also like to thank David's predecessor, Neale Coleman CBE. The success of the 2012 Games and the legacy that has followed owes much to Neale's advice, his drive and his vision.

Olympic and Paralympic Legacy and Sport

Investing £2.5million to get thousands of Londoners active

On 22 September, I announced that tens of thousands of Londoners will have the chance to get active and take part in sports programmes across the capital thanks to an additional £2.5 million investment as part of my Sports Legacy Programme.

I have launched a brand new fund to help sports clubs in the capital thrive and have extended two successful schemes that are already encouraging people of all ages to get into the sporting habit. The three different rounds of funding launched are:

- ClubWorks - £1.35 million fund to boost 300 sports clubs and organisations and help them build for the future;
- Mayor's Sports Participation Fund - £1 million investment to encourage Londoners to take part in sport and physical activity; and
- FreeSport (in association with Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives) - £200,000 which allows youth groups and community organisations to apply for grants to run free sports activities

The brand new ClubWorks scheme, which is to be delivered by London Sport, will strengthen 300 sports clubs and groups in London over the next three years so they can develop a strong base of trained coaches and volunteers, ensure they are sustainable and attractive to funders and ultimately grow participation at their clubs. A pilot group of 25 clubs have already been selected to kick-start the programme and have begun working with London Sport to identify a tailored package of support they will receive.

Grants of up to £175,000 are also now available for London-wide projects as part of my Sports Participation Fund, which aims to get more Londoners taking part in sport through the provision of two-year long sports participation projects.

The third round of funding is FreeSport, which will see approximately 150 projects across London receive grants of up to £1,500. FreeSport, in association with Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives, aims to work with community groups and clubs to help encourage people to take part in sport and provide more than six hours of free sports coaching to thousands of Londoners.

Organisations who are interested in applying to any of the three funds should visit www.london.gov.uk/sport for more information.

Sports Legacy Programme

I approved expenditure of £2.25million for Phase III of the Mayor's Sports Legacy Programme, subject to annual break clauses for all contracts and funding agreements.

£100,000 investment into grassroots rugby

On 18 September, I joined England Rugby great Jason Leonard and pupils from Haverstock School in Camden for a rugby training session where I announced that I am partnering with the Rugby Football Union and, investing £100,000 from my Sports Legacy Programme, to boost grassroots participation in the sport.

To mark London's role in the Rugby World Cup, my investment will support the RFU's All Schools programme, which will see more secondary state schools playing rugby. The investment also aims specifically to encourage more women, girls, disabled people and those from ethnic minority communities to try out the sport.

The funding has been allocated to the following schemes:

- £50,000 towards the RFU's All Schools programme. Supported by principal partner CBRE, All Schools aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union.
- FreeSport grants to 14 rugby clubs (totalling approx. £20,000). My FreeSport programme, in association with Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives, was set up to encourage more Londoners to try out sport. The focus of the FreeSport funding announced today will be to get more Londoners trying out rugby.
- Funding will also be used to work with an additional 14 clubs across London to help them to build their capacity to recruit and retain more young people and adults. The focus of this funding will be to engage with women, girls, disabled people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Information Commissioner's Ruling on West Ham FC Stadium Deal

On 3 September, the Information Commissioner's Office upheld a complaint concerning the publication of the agreement covering West Ham United's concession at the former Olympic Stadium. After careful consideration and further legal advice, on 1 October the Legacy Corporation lodged an appeal against the judgement concerning a smaller number of redactions that, if released, could jeopardise negotiations with future users of the stadium, or otherwise have a seriously adverse effect on its commercial negotiating position and reduce the level of return to the taxpayer.

The Legacy Corporation has decided to release details of the agreement with West Ham United which fall outside the scope of the appeal and published these on its website.

Summer on the Park: round –up

Since the beginning of the summer, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has hosted 25 different events, including the Sainsbury's Anniversary Games, Go East Fest, Holi Festival of Colours and Beach East, which alone attracted almost 500,000 visitors. The Park itself has now attracted more than 5 million visitors to the Park since it re-opened and has also attracted 25 commercial film production companies.

Culture and Events

Joining forces with Unicef for 'Big Resolution' as part of London's New Year's Eve

On 1 October, I announced a new partnership with Unicef that will bring a new dimension to London's New Year's Eve celebrations.

Tickets were released to the public on Friday 2 October and 100,000 revellers are expected to gather in the viewing areas for the hugely popular pyrotechnic and lighting display which is focused around the Coca-Cola London Eye.

Through the partnership with Unicef, ticketholders are being invited to come together for the first ever New Year's 'Big Resolution'. In addition to the exclusive programme music, countdown to midnight and the spectacular display itself, The Big Resolution will be a unifying moment aimed at raising awareness and bringing lasting change to the lives of vulnerable children around the world. Unicef is hoping to raise vital funds to help children caught in wars and disasters around the world like the one in Syria.

More details about plans for the London New Year's Eve fireworks, including Unicef's involvement will be announced in due course. For updates and information about how to book tickets go to: www.london.gov.uk/nye.

Luca Fiore crowned Gigs Champion 2015

On 6 September, Hounslow singer Luca Fiore was crowned Gigs Champion 2015 following a six month search to find London's best busker. The singer, originally from Italy, beat acts from across the capital to take top honours in the Grand Final of Gigs, the UK's biggest street music competition.

Gigs originally attracted 240 entries, with 190 acts being selected to perform live at 24 busy London locations during the summer. The final at Westfield Stratford City saw 18 of them, as chosen by music industry insiders and the public, compete in three categories, before the overall winner was decided by the judging panel.

Josh Tenor from Hackney won in the Youth category (11-15 years) and Dat Brass from Islington won in the Groups category (up to 8 members) and gets recording time in a top studio.

London Fashion Week

This month, London Fashion Week moved to a new home at the Brewer Street car park in Soho. The event took place over five days, with 52 shows and 5,000 visitors in attendance and received significant international press coverage.

London Design Festival

This year's London Design Festival was arguably the biggest ever. Promoting 165 London-based businesses across 11 boroughs, LDF delivered £26 million of new business for over 1,200 design companies in the capital.

London Mela

On 6 September, I again supported the London Mela festival in Gunnersbury Park. London Mela is Europe's biggest outdoor south Asian Festival and is produced by Ealing Council. The festival celebrates the cultures of South East Asia and this year's festival attracted thousands of Londoners. Munira Mirza, my Deputy Mayor for Education & Culture attended on my behalf.

Malaysian Night Festival

On 18 September, the Malaysia Night Festival 'Pasar Malam' took place on Trafalgar Square. Sir Edward Lister attended on my behalf to thank the organisers and meet the key delegates from Malaysia, the Malaysian High Commissioner and the Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry. During the speeches Sir Edward welcomed the visitors to Trafalgar Square and highlighted the strong business partnership between Malaysia and the UK, such as Battersea Power Station and the World Islamic Economic Forum that took place in London in 2013.

Malaysia Night Festival offers Londoners the unique opportunity to experience a diverse range of traditional dance, music and performance on stage, as well as sample the many culinary delights from Malaysia, including cooking demonstrations from famous Malaysian Chef Norman

Musa, John Torode and MasterChef winner Ping Coombes.

Japan Matsuri

On 19 September, Japan Matsuri took place on Trafalgar Square. Victoria Borwick MP attended the event on my behalf and thanked the organisers, a charity organisation which includes volunteers from the Japan Association in the UK, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK, the Japan Society, and with the support of the Embassy of Japan.

This dynamic annual event brings together the Japanese community and Londoners to enjoy an amazing day of Japanese culture, food, live music, martial arts, dance, arts, crafts and much more.

This year there was a special appearance from the former Japanese PM, Yoshiro Mori, who is President of the Japan Rugby Football Union, as well as Head the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Organising Committee. The Mayor of Sano City, Mr Okabe, also attended and announced the Japan Rugby Games 2019.

Totally Thames

I was pleased to give my support to Totally Thames Festival which celebrated our great river with events along London's stretch of the Thames during the whole of September. It was supported by all 17 London boroughs with a riverfront, and saw an estimated audience of 300,000 people over a 30-day spectacular programme of over 100+ events.

The event featured arts, music and community festivals; colourful regattas; thrilling river races; foreshore archaeology; exploration, environmental and educational activities; as well as river-linked activities in the 17 London riverside boroughs. The Totally Thames Rivers of the World exhibition also took place at City Hall during the Festival.

Dance & Health

On 5 October, I hosted *Dancing More; Living More* which was opened by Arlene Phillips, with keynote presentations from my Health Advisor, Dr Yvonne Doyle, Laura Dyer, Executive Director, Arts Council England and a series of case studies. This was a national strategic planning event to help build partnerships between the dance and health sectors and to make the case that dance can reduce health inequalities both in the capital and across England.

Beating of the Retreat & Concert

On 3 September, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the Not Forgotten Association's Beating of the Retreat and Concert on my behalf, in order to commemorate those who have served in our Armed Forces with a special emphasis on 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Great River Race 2015

On 12 September, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the Great River Race which set off from Greenwich and ended in Richmond. The Deputy Mayor joined The Trinity House Boat crew for the race.

Volunteering and Community Relations

Team London Awards

On 14 September, a host of famous faces showed their support for volunteering in the capital by attending my annual Team London Awards held at City Hall. The Awards celebrated the outstanding contribution made by Londoners to support young people, reduce crime, improve the quality of life for excluded and disadvantaged Londoners and green and clean the city.

Designer Wayne Hemingway MBE, TV presenter Anneka Rice, footballer Ledley King, double world record holder for blind speed skiing Kevin Alderton and Masterchef winner, and founder of Wahaca restaurants, Thomasina Miers, joined me to present awards.

Award winners on the day included:

- Paige Maye-Lubrano from Southwark who, at just 17 years of age, has already given four years and almost 1,200 hours of service to the Air Cadets.
- Hilda Lyons, who established the Redbridge Dippers in 1977 and has worked tirelessly to teach people of all ages with physical disabilities or learning difficulties to swim.
- Nightstop London, whose volunteer hosts provide emergency accommodation for young homeless people aged 16-25 years in their spare bedrooms.

Deutsche Bank and ASOS won the top accolade in the corporate category, in recognition of the volunteering work these companies and their employees do to help communities and small charities in London. Over 100 large companies are now signed up to the corporate commitment initiative, which I set up to encourage all businesses to volunteer their time to make a difference to communities in London, to build their staff's skill set and, to recognise the value of volunteering experience in the recruitment of young people.

Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards Dinner 2015

On 30 September, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards Dinner 2015 on my behalf. The awards recognise community engagement in London.

Planning and Development

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Former BBC Woodlands, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

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

Pinnacle House, LB Merton

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

Phase 3 Stockley Park, LB Hillingdon

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

Beagle House Braham Street, 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.

Footzie Social Club, LB Bromley

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

The Old Vinyl Factory, LB Hillingdon

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

Triangle Site and Olive Morris House, 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.

Ebury Bridge Centre, 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.

Regent's Park Estate, LB Camden

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

257-265 Kennington High Street and 4-10 and 24 Earl's Court Road, RB Kensington and Chelsea

I have written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Blossom Street, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Land known as Bishopsgate Goods Yard, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Land known as Bishopsgate Goods Yard, LB Hackney

I have written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- 24-34 Sutton Court Road, LB Sutton
- Monmouth House and 19-23 Featherstone Street, LB Islington
- Sleaford Industrial Estate and Dairy Crest Site, LB Wandsworth
- South Acton Estate Phase 7.1, LB Ealing
- Abbey Care Home, LB Barking and Dagenham
- The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy, LB Croydon
- Harris Invictus Academy, LB Croydon

- 22 Bishopsgate, City of London
- London Square, LB Southwark
- Woolwich Central, RB Greenwich
- Castle House and Rome House, LB Ealing
- Cherry Park Stratford City, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Land at Cooks Road, London Legacy Development Corporation
- 201-207 Shoreditch High Street and 1 Fairchild Street, LB Hackney
- Land to the north of BedZED Development, LB Sutton
- Training Ground and Sports Stadium Romford, LB Havering
- Whitechapel Central, LB Tower Hamlets
- Lords Cricket Ground, City of Westminster
- Land north of Millennium Way and John Harrison Way, RB Greenwich
- Abbotsfield School for Boys and Swakeleys School for Girls, LB Hillingdon

Development Plans

I have written to the boroughs contributing to the North London Waste Plan and comprising the following Councils, giving a response to their development plan consultations:

- North London Waste Plan – Consultation Draft (Regulation 18), LBs Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- CEMEX Jetty no 8 and associated land, LB Barking and Dagenham
- South East block of Goodmans Fields, LB Tower Hamlets
- Sanofi Aventis, LB Barking and Dagenham
- 55 Gresham Street, City of London
- Islington Local Plan Development Viability, Supplementary Planning Document, LB Islington
- Ark Elvin Academy, LB Brent
- Former Kingston Gasholder Site, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Kings Reach Tower, LB Southwark
- Neptune Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land within Queen Elizabeth Park, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Land East of the former EMI Site, LB Hillingdon
- Gascoigne East Estate, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Land between Discovery Dock East and Marsh Wall, LB Tower Hamlets
- The Use of Planning Obligations and Other Planning Mechanisms, Draft Supplementary Planning Document, City of Westminster

Key Engagements

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

- I met with Cllr Claire Kober, the Leader of LB Tottenham, on 4 September to discuss borough issues
- I attended the annual City Hall Citizenship Ceremony on 7 September

- I met with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, the Business Secretary, on 7 September to discuss skills devolution
- I spoke to Sir Bernard Hogan Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 8 September ahead of his appearance before the Home Affairs Select Committee.
- I chaired the London Enterprise Panel on 8 September
- I attended a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Air Quality on 8 September
- I attended the Tributes to the Queen that took place at the House of Commons on 9 September
- I attended the taster sessions of ParkLives sports activities in New Palace Yard on 9 September
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 9 September
- I had my regular meeting with Sir William Castell and Caroline Underwood, Foundation for Future London, on 9 September
- I had a drink with Richard Desmond, Chairman of Northern & Shell PLC, on 9 September
- I accompanied the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a visit to the Battle of Britain bunker in Uxbridge on 10 September to mark the Chancellor providing £1m of LIBOR Funding in the budget
- I chaired a meeting with London local authorities and the Home Office on 10 September to discuss the migrant crisis
- I attended the London Transport Museum Annual Fundraising dinner on 10 September
- I visited Workshop Coffee, Clerkenwell, on 11 September to launch the Annual Mayor's Low Carbon Prize
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 11 September
- I spoke to Dr David Skorton, Smithsonian Secretary, on 11 September to discuss Olympicopolis
- I spoke to Cllr Denise Hyland, Leader of RB Greenwich, on 11 September to discuss borough issues
- I attended and spoke during the 2nd Reading of the Trade Union Bill on 14 September
- I attended the Team London Awards Ceremony on 14 September
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Craig Mackey, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 15 September
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 15 September
- I met with the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for DCLG, and Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, on 15 September to discuss housing
- I had dinner with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 15 September
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 September
- I had my regular planning decisions meeting on 16 September
- I met with Tobias Ellwood MP & Freddie Talberg, CEO PIE Mapping, on 16 September, to discuss cycle safety in London
- I attended the Evening Standard Influentials Reception on 16 September
- I attended the Transport for London Board Away Day on 17 September
- I attended the UKTI Global Investment Conference reception on 17 September
- I addressed the annual Classics for All Gala Dinner on 17 September
- I visited Haverstock School in Camden on 18 September to promote the GLA's investment in rugby in schools through my Sports Legacy programme
- I attended the Rugby World Cup opening ceremony & the opening game both taking place at Twickenham on 18 September

- I interviewed candidates for the position of Commissioner for Transport on 21 September
- I had my regular meeting with Dr Anne Rainsberry, Regional Director, NHS England (London) & Dr Yvonne Doyle, Regional Director, PHE on 22 September
- I met with Tony Lloyd, the interim Mayor of Greater Manchester and PCC of Greater Manchester, on 22 September to discuss devolution and police funding
- I met with David Edmonds, Vice Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation, on 22 September to discuss LLDC issues
- I met with David Goldstone, Chief Executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation on 22 September to discuss LLDC issues
- I met with David Gregson, Board Member of the London Legacy Development Corporation on 22 September to discuss LLDC issues
- I attended Sir Peter Hendy's Farewell Reception on 22 September
- I attended the Lloyds Construction Skills Breakfast on 23 September
- I held my regular "Ask Boris" Twitter session on 23 September
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 23 September
- I spoke to the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 23 September, to discuss Transport for London
- I hosted a Community Reception for Bexley & Bromley on 23 September
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 24 September
- I met with Cllr Tony Newman, Leader of LB Croydon, on 24 September to discuss borough issues
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London and Crossrail on 24 September
- I met with the Mayor's Charities representatives on 28 September to celebrate £20m raised
- I spoke to the Governor of Tokyo on 28 September to discuss my forthcoming visit to Japan
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 28 September
- I had my regular meeting with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority on 28 September
- I met with the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, on 28 September to discuss health devolution
- I attended the Pride of Britain Awards Ceremony on 28 September
- I visited the Cereal Killer Café in Brick Lane on 29 September
- I visited the Transport for London Traffic Control Centre at Palestra on 29 September
- I attended a Mayor's Music Fund lunchtime concert in London's Living Room on 29 September and then hosted a lunch for supporters of the Mayor's Music Fund
- I attended the "Let's come together to make a difference" fundraising campaign to support the Tata Medical Centre in Calcutta on 29 September
- I met with AC Rowley on 30 September to discuss policing and security in London
- I met with Dave Lewis, CEO of Tesco, on 30 September to discuss London Living Wage, Apprenticeships, environment and the food programme
- I had lunch with Richard Desmond, Chairman of Northern & Shell PLC, Hugh Whittow, Editor of the Daily Express, Martin Townsend, Editor of the Sunday Express, and Dawn Neesom, Editor of the Daily Star and the Daily Star Sunday on 30 September
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 30 September
- I met with the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for DCLG, on 30 September to discuss housing

- I visited the Bishopsgate Goodsyrd & Blossom Street planning development sites on 1 October
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 1 October
- I met with Anita Zabludowicz on 1 October to discuss Olympicopolis
- I attended the England Australia World Cup Rugby match taking place at Twickenham on 3 October
- I attended the Conservative Party Conference from 4 October to 7 October
- I met with the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Minister for Government Policy in the Cabinet Office, on 5 October to discuss Transport for London
- I hosted my regular monthly “Ask Boris” Phone in with Nick Ferrari on 7 October

Ends