

36th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 18 November 2015

This is my thirty-sixth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 8 October until 4 November 2015.

Executive Summary

Trade Visit to Japan

Between 12-16 October, I visited Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo and Yokohama, on a trade mission aimed at strengthening economic and city-to-city ties between London and Japan. Over the course of the visit I attended 19 events, spoke directly to over 1000 people and gave numerous interviews to Japanese and international media.

London Living Wage increase as 30,000 capital workers now benefit

On 2 November, I announced a near three per cent increase in the London Living Wage and revealed that 295 additional employers this year are now paying their staff the capital's hourly rate. The London Living Wage has increased from £9.15 to £9.40 per hour, a rise of 2.7 per cent, and the calculation of the rate reflects the higher costs of living in the city.

First Steps

On 8 October, I announced that more than 52,000 Londoners on modest incomes have moved into new homes all across the capital as part of my First Steps housing scheme. Having exceeded my manifesto to target help 50,000 people into intermediate homes, I want to double the number of shared ownership units built in London by 2020 and again by 2025 to help an estimated 250,000 more Londoners access affordable homes to rent or buy.

Plan to save London's music venues

On 19 October, I revealed my support for the campaign to halt the drop in the number of music venues in the capital. Since 2007, London has lost 35 per cent of its grassroots music venues and it is feared that if this decline continues it could have major implications for the long term future of a creative and cultural sector that feeds into the UK's £3.8 billion music industry.

A new report, London's Grassroots Music Venues Rescue Plan, produced by my Music Venues Taskforce, suggests that whilst London's music industry is generating billions for the economy, a vital part of this important cultural, as well as economic sector is under threat. The Rescue Plan identifies a range of factors for grassroots music venues closing and continuing to be under threat.

Policing, Crime and Community Safety

Crime Museum Uncovered

On 9 October, I attended the new 'Crime Museum Uncovered' exhibition at the Museum of London. This is a fantastic exhibition showcasing some of the most important artefacts from the Crime Museum in Scotland Yard.

The exhibition, created in partnership with the MPS and MOPAC, uses evidence from real-life criminal investigations and examines the changing nature of crime and advances in detection over the last 140 years, while also giving voice to the real people behind the crimes - the victims, offenders and police officers alike. While at the museum I also announced plans to create a permanent public home for the fascinating collection of objects.

Fighting Burglary

On 13 October, I announced that 60,000 homes in London have now been equipped with a pioneering new anti-burglary kit which I launched in March this year. The Met Trace kit contains an invisible traceable liquid that allows people to mark their possessions with a unique forensic code and warning stickers to deter burglars. The code is used by the police to trace the items should they ever be stolen and to link suspects to crime scenes.

The MPS aims to provide 440,000 homes with the free kits over three years, equivalent to one in seven of London's homes. This will help to further reduce burglary rates in London, which have already dropped 26 per cent compared to 2012. It is estimated that the roll-out could prevent over 7,000 homes being burgled over three years, saving the MPS almost £5 million.

Supporting Victims of Sexual Abuse

On 14 October, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Stephen Greenhalgh, accompanied the Duchess of Cornwall and the Home Secretary, Theresa May MP, to a visit to the South London Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre. The Duchess of Cornwall has a keen interest in sexual violence support services and this was an opportunity for her to see the work of the Rape Crisis Centres.

I am committed to addressing violence against women and girls and have recently approved the release of funds to continue the funding and current commissioning for the four separate service providers of Rape Crisis Centres in London up to March 2017.

New Hate Crime App

On 16 October, I launched a new smartphone app to make it easier for Londoners to report hate crime and access support services. The app was launched during National Hate Crime Awareness Week with the aim of boosting confidence in reporting and encouraging victims of hate crime to come forward.

With 14,631 hate crimes recorded in London last year, the Crime Survey for England and Wales suggests that up to 52 per cent of hate crime goes unreported. However, my Hate Crime Strategy published in 2014 aims to make it easier to report hate crimes and there has already been a 30 per cent increase in reporting in London in the last year.

The new app, which is free to download and available on both Apple and android platforms, enables victims to immediately report an incident, with the information going directly to the Police via a secure server. Users can also upload photographic and video material as part of their report, providing the option to submit a verbal statement or footage of the incident.

The aim is to increase the chance of obtaining swift justice for victims and to ensure they receive support to help them cope and recover from the effects of the incident.

Transport

New road safety policing surge to make London's streets safer

On 22 October, I announced a major increase in police enforcement operations as part of a continuing effort to make London's roads safer. Officers from the Roads and Transport Policing Command (RTPC), in partnership with TfL, will be covering dozens more locations across London, targeting road users whose careless, dangerous or illegal behaviour puts other road users at risk.

MPS and City of London Police officers are now stepping up their road safety enforcement activity, the equivalent of an extra 9,800 officer days a year, which will include one day of dedicated road safety action each week on average.

As part of the enforcement activity, Operation Safeway, which was launched in November 2013, will be expanded to cover more than 300 priority locations across the capital and will see officers targeting road users committing a range of traffic offences, as well as engaging with them on road safety advice.

Furthermore, a new hard-hitting TfL advertising campaign to raise awareness of road safety will be seen across London and will complement the policing activity taking place. TfL has also published 'Safe London Streets: our approach', setting out how working closely with the boroughs it will tackle sources of road danger and achieve my road safety targets through a wide range of activities.

New London Freight Enforcement Partnership to tackle unsafe HGVs and make London's streets safer

On 13 October, the formation of a new London Freight Enforcement Partnership was announced in order to make London's streets safer for all road users.

The new partnership will build on the work of TfL and partner agencies in recent years, including the Industrial HGV Task Force and Commercial Vehicle Units. It will further tackle unsafe HGVs and take any non-compliant and unsafe commercial vehicles, drivers and operators off London's streets.

October also marked the second anniversary of the Industrial HGV Task Force which has had great success in targeting the most dangerous commercial vehicles. The Task Force, jointly funded by TfL and the Department for Transport, acts as a deterrent against non-compliant companies that attempt to undercut those operating legitimately.

Since October 2013, more than 6,030 vehicles have been targeted and stopped, 87 vehicles seized, 4,500 prosecutions progressed through the Criminal Justice System and 2,134 fixed penalty notices issued for a range of offences.

New measures affirm TfL's transparency commitment

On 8 October, a new range of measures designed to make TfL a more transparent organisation were announced as part of a new TfL Strategy. The Strategy follows on from a public consultation with customers and stakeholders which sought views on the usefulness of the wide range of information currently published by TfL and how this is presented.

A total of 93 responses were received from a range of stakeholders, with many helpful suggestions about further information they would like to see made available on a regular basis. Actions that TfL will take include:

- Publication of all FOI requests online to commence in 2016;
- Establishing a schedule for when regular information and datasets will be published. The first schedule will be available in December 2015;
- Webcasts of Board meetings to be made available via TfL's YouTube channel. This will start from December 2015, ensuring that recordings are still viewable after their removal from the GLA website;
- Review how information is presented on TfL's website;
- Identifying any gaps in the information TfL publishes about the number of customers using each service and standardising how this is presented; and
- Publish twice yearly updates on the progress made by TfL to further increase transparency, including making more open data freely available.

Santander Cycles app gets new interactive map

On 9 October, TfL announced that the popular Santander Cycles app has been updated to make it even easier for customers to use. Users of the app can now scroll across the docking station map, helping them easily and accurately plot routes across London and also find docking stations close by. The new updates were implemented based on comments from users through the app stores and social media channels.

The free app developed by Corethree has proven popular since it was launched in May with more than 120,000 downloads so far.

High Court declares that smartphones used in private hire vehicles are not taximeters

On 16 October, the High Court declared that smartphones used by some private hire drivers are not taximeters.

TfL, along with Uber, the Licensed Taxi Driver Association and the Licensed Private Hire Car Association, had asked the High Court to make a declaration on whether smartphones, which use GPS technology and connect to external servers for the calculation of fares, comply with the law which prohibits taximeters in private hire vehicles in London.

TfL's view has always been that smartphones are not taximeters. However, it recognised the validity of arguments to the contrary and the significant public interest in establishing legal certainty in the matter.

Mr Justice Ouseley determined that whilst the smartphone with the driver's app may be essential to enabling the calculation of fares to take place, that did not make it a device "for" calculating fares in breach of the taximeter prohibition. He also found that it is the drivers, not their vehicles, who are equipped with smartphones.

With the legal position now clarified, TfL will continue to work with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver safe, modern and innovative taxi and private hire services to the benefit of customers.

TfL awards new £6.5m contract to Loughborough Tube and Rail supplier

On 16 October, TfL announced the winners of a new contract for up to £6.5 million to refurbish and fit the train motors for the Piccadilly line. The victorious bidders were Brush Traction, a manufacturer based in Loughborough. London Underground's Managing Director, Nick Brown, made the announcement during a visit to the factory floor with Nicky Morgan, MP for Loughborough.

The £6.5 million contract will see the company working on trains for the Piccadilly line which sees around 200 million passenger journeys per year. The Piccadilly line will be the first to have the modern, air-cooled New Tube for London trains in service around 2022.

Around 60 per cent of TfL expenditure is spent with suppliers based outside London and this supports approximately 60,000 jobs in a supply chain, stretching the length and breadth of the country. More than 19,500 jobs have been supported in the midlands alone, while over 5,700 apprenticeships have also been created nationwide by TfL and its supply chain.

Contactless payments and Oyster set to make travel to and from Hertford East easier

As of 19 October, thousands of rail passengers are now experiencing more convenient journeys as contactless payment and Oyster pay as you go have been extended to Abellio Greater Anglia services to and from Hertford East station.

The move is part of TfL's work to make life easier for customers and it will see Rye House, St. Margarets, Ware and Hertford East stations along the Hertford East line all accepting contactless and Oyster.

Currently an Anytime Day Return ticket from Hertford East to London Liverpool Street costs £15.70. With contactless payment or Oyster pay as you go, customers will now pay £15.20 for the same journey during peak times.

Construction of new station at Abbey Wood gets underway

Network Rail has now begun work to build the new station at Abbey Wood as part of the Crossrail programme. The first of more than 100 piled foundations which will support the new station have now been installed. The piling will continue until the end of the year when the building will start to become visible above ground. The station, which will be built over two new dedicated Crossrail tracks and those used by North Kent services, will open at the end of 2017.

Work has been underway in Abbey Wood since 2013 and has included the construction of an interim station, the demolition of the old station, and the installation of a new one mile section of track. The new station at Abbey Wood will include:

- A bright, spacious concourse that leads directly onto a wide forecourt connecting the station to the Harrow Manorway flyover, which runs above the station;
- Two new 'island' platforms for Crossrail and North Kent services; and
- Six lifts to help passengers get around the station and to provide step-free access to every platform.

From 2018, a train every five minutes during the peak will allow residents to travel right through the capital without having to change trains. The journey from Abbey Wood to Canary Wharf and Bond Street with TfL-run Crossrail will be around 20 minutes quicker and passengers travelling to Heathrow will be able to cut around 40 minutes off their journey.

TfL to release land for over 10,000 homes across the capital

On 20 October, TfL announced that it is to release more than 300 acres of land to help create more than 10,000 new homes across London.

The TfL land will be developed over the next decade to provide vital new homes, offices and retail units, in order to support London's rapidly growing population and the capital's contribution to the economy of the country. Sixty-seven per cent of this phase of development is in travel Zones 1 and 2.

The new land-release programme is in addition to the work of TfL's £360 million growth fund, which is creating more than 50,000 homes and 30,000 jobs by supporting 14 transport projects across London that are directly unlocking development.

TfL is one of the largest landowners in the capital, with assets ranging from Zone 1 locations such as London Bridge and Oxford Circus, to sites in Zone 6 areas, such as Northwood. In total, TfL owns around 5,700 acres. While much of that land remains part of the operational transport network and is not simple to develop, TfL remains determined to work with all partners to bring forward land to respond to London's needs in terms of infrastructure, housing and commercial and retail property.

UK first as incline lift opens at Greenford Tube station

Customers at Greenford Underground station are now enjoying an innovative new lift as the Tube station became step-free for the first time since it opened in 1947.

The project is a first for London Underground (LU) and the wider UK rail industry, as the special 'incline' lift travels on a gradient alongside the escalator and stairs. This innovative lift is cheaper to install, as it saves the cost of excavating a lift shaft, can utilise an existing escalator space and, is 50 per cent more efficient than a standard lift, as it only uses half as much power to run.

Ealing Council and LU have been working closely together to deliver the new lift, and its opening makes Greenford the 67th step-free station on the London Underground network. Earlier this year I brought forward a target for more than half of stations on TfL's underground and rail network to be step-free by 2018.

Although the new lift is not suitable for every location across the Tube network, similar lifts are already being installed as part of the Crossrail stations at Farringdon and Liverpool Street. TfL is also examining where else they could be introduced on the Tube in the future.

First section of North-South Cycle Superhighway opens

On 20 October, the first section of the North-South segregated cycle route opened. The Superhighway will ultimately run from Elephant & Castle to Kings Cross, six months after I helped dig out the first piece of tarmac.

TfL has now completed the two-way 800m section, from Elephant & Castle to the Peabody estate on Blackfriars Road, and engineers are now hard at work to complete the new route in its entirety. The new North-South section will intersect with the new Quietway 1 from Waterloo to Greenwich at Webber Street, as well as the existing Cycle Superhighway 7 at Princess Street.

This marks the latest milestone in the creation of a major new cycle network, and as new routes are completed and other major improvements are finished, the traffic impact across London will start to reduce.

Already congestion levels along St George's Road have greatly eased since work finished. At certain times, especially outside the peak hours, traffic is reducing back to similar levels seen before the work began, but with the added benefits of better cycle facilities and pedestrian crossings.

In the new year, cyclists will be able to travel from Elephant and Castle to Blackfriars Bridge along the new North-South route, with Blackfriars Road being transformed from a car-dominated street into a new urban boulevard, with almost 20,000 square feet of new space for pedestrians and a two-way segregated cycle track.

The link across Blackfriars Bridge will open to cyclists by spring 2016, connecting it with the East-West Cycle Superhighway and Farringdon. The North-South route will be co-branded Cycle Superhighway 6, bringing it into the wider Cycle Superhighway network.

ULEZ requirements finalised for taxi and minicab trades

On 26 October, TfL confirmed how the taxi and private hire trades will play their part in improving London's air quality when the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone is introduced in the capital in 2020.

From 1 January 2018, all taxis licensed for the first time must be zero emission capable, while new diesel taxis will not be allowed in London.

For private hire vehicles, there are several milestones which will ensure that all vehicles granted a private hire licence for the first time after 1 January 2023 will be zero emission capable, regardless of age. These are:

- In advance of the ULEZ requirements, and to clean up the private hire fleet, all private hire vehicles licensed for the first time between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019 must feature a Euro 6 petrol or diesel engine, or a Euro 4 petrol-hybrid engine;
- From 1 January 2020 all new private hire vehicles, defined as those under 18 months old, licensed for the first time will have to be zero emission capable; and

- Older private hire vehicles, those over 18 months old, will need to feature a Euro 6 engine when licensed for the first time between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2022. They will also need to be zero emission capable from 2023.

This confirmation followed a second consultation with the taxi and private hire trades, stakeholders and the public, on proposed licensing changes ahead of the ULEZ. In order to assist drivers in upgrading the zero emission capable vehicles and, to help achieve a target of 9,000 zero emission capable taxis by 2020, TfL and I have secured £65 million to fund decommissioning and top-up car grants.

TfL is also committed to ensuring all 300 single-decker buses operating in the ULEZ are zero emission at point of use (e.g. electric or hydrogen-powered) by 2020. Additionally, all 3,100 double-deck buses operating in central London will be hybrid, including 800 New Routemasters. TfL is also proposing the retrofitting of 400 Euro 5 buses that operate outside the ULEZ to bring them up to Euro 6 emission standards. These 3,800 buses will deliver air quality benefits well ahead of 2020 across the whole of London.

With these new requirements in place, alongside additional funding for Low Emission Neighbourhoods in central London and, support for other double decker bus operators, the overall package is projected to nearly halve emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) from vehicle exhausts in central London. This means more than 80 per cent of central London is expected to meet the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) annual legal limits in 2020. The ULEZ will also significantly reduce the number of people living in areas of poor air quality (where levels of NO₂ exceed legal limits) by 72 per cent in central London and 54 per cent across London.

Public consultation begins on route and design of 'transformative' Crossrail 2

On 27 October, TfL and Network Rail announced the launch of a public consultation on more detailed plans for Crossrail 2. TfL and Network Rail have already carried out two consultations which have shown overwhelming support for the railway from the public, businesses and others. Feedback from these has been used in the development of more detailed proposals. This consultation is now seeking views on:

- Proposed station locations, entrances and exits for the tunnelled section of the route;
- Proposed locations of ventilation shafts for the tunnelled section;
- Proposed construction sites required to build and operate the tunnelled section of the scheme; and
- Proposed service patterns and changes to existing National Rail services.

Some 200,000 new homes and 200,000 new jobs could be supported by the scheme, through the housing and economic growth it would support, with 60,000 full-time jobs also being supported through the construction and operation of Crossrail 2. It has been estimated by KPMG that Crossrail 2 could make a significant contribution worth up to £102 billion to the UK's economy through boosting productivity.

The consultation closes on Saturday 9 January 2016.

Growing Places Fund – West Anglia route improvements, Stratford to Angel Road

I have approved the GLA's:

- Retention of up to £3.6 million of the allocated Growing Places Fund (GPF) funds to enable the GLA to retain financial control of the project until the start of "GRIP Stage 5". In total, up to £5.94 million will remain with the GLA from the £30.7 million GPF funds, which includes the £2.34 million previously approved;
- Variation of its current Development Services Agreement with Network Rail to cover the remainder of "GRIP Stage 3" and all of "GRIP Stage 4" (increasing the value by up to £2.098 million) and for the GLA to incur expenditure on implementation supplies and works from Network Rail for the project for the period January – April 2016 (with a value of up to £1.5 million); and
- Transfer of GPF project funds to TfL (less development costs and early enabling works costs of up to £5.94 million) for funding of the project from "GRIP Stage 5" to project completion.

Regeneration, Business, Enterprise and the Economy

Trade Visit to Japan

Between 12-16 October, I visited Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo and Yokohama, on a trade mission aimed at strengthening economic and city-to-city ties between London and Japan. Over the course of the visit I attended 19 events, spoke directly to over 1000 people and gave numerous interviews to Japanese and international media.

In Tokyo I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Governor Yoichi Masuzoe to increase exchange and cooperation in the key issues facing our two growing world cities. I met Toshiaki Endo, Minister for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Yoshirō Mori, President of the Tokyo 2020 Games Organising Committee, to promote London's private sector expertise in hosting major world sporting events. David Goldstone, Chief Executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation, had detailed discussions and shared the lessons learnt with many key organisations.

My visit coincided with England hosting the Rugby World Cup during which world records for match attendance and TV viewing have been broken. The success of England 2015 and London 2012 offer a unique opportunity for Japan to use London know how to make both their Games and Rugby World Cup a massive success.

I was able to highlight new sectors for collaboration between London and Japanese business – tech, life sciences, and innovation. With my Tech Ambassadors I spoke at London & Partners Financial Technology event to showcase how London's fin-tech firms are uniquely placed to to share their world-beating expertise, and highlight the opportunities to grow this area in partnership with Japan. The event has already generated scores of new investment leads for London & Partners and laid the ground for a UKTI Fintech trade mission to Tokyo in December.

Coinciding with my visit was London's first (and the UK's only) representation at BioJapan – Asia's largest bioscience event – and a delegation of London's leading academics and SMEs representing the capital's expertise in cell and gene therapy and regenerative medicine

attended the event. The businesses and academics all used the opportunity to promote themselves and increase trade between London and Japan.

I also announced UCL's research collaboration with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Asia's largest pharmaceutical firm, to understand the role of genes in neurodegenerative diseases – worth more than \$20 million. At BioJapan, UCL was also able to agree separate research collaboration with a Japanese partner, worth at least £400,000 to the university. Japanese investment is already the second largest contributor of life science FDI in London and the South East, and my discussions with leading pharma and life science companies indicate the potential for more job creation in high-end research in the capital.

I unveiled Mitsubishi Motors new Outlander PHEV and welcomed Toyota choosing London as one of their first European markets for the new Mirai (hydrogen vehicle). Both are success stories of my low-emission policies – including the ULEZ - and offer Londoners cleaner, greener transport options.

I also opened Burberry's largest store in Japan – a company which has already seen its sales in Japan grow by 50 per cent this year. Other notable outcomes from the visit include new investment leads in commercial property projects, bringing much needed office space to London, and support from Japan's leading banks to help London companies access Japanese markets.

I was accompanied throughout by Sir Edward Lister, my Chief of Staff, a Private Secretary, one International Relations officer and two press officers. Several of my Tech Ambassadors and staff from London & Partners and MedCity joined me at different points of the visit.

A delegation of five representatives from the UK media also accompanied the entire trip. In addition to the direct value of potential contracts won by the SMEs and new investment leads created, the visit greatly enhanced London's profile in Japan through positive media coverage.

London Living Wage increase as 30,000 capital workers now benefit

On 2 November, I announced a near three per cent increase in the London Living Wage and revealed that 295 additional employers this year are now paying their staff the capital's hourly rate. The London Living Wage has increased from £9.15 to £9.40 per hour, a rise of 2.7 per cent, and the calculation of the rate reflects the higher costs of living in the city.

The number of employers now paying their staff the London Living Wage has grown from 429 to 724 in the last 12 months. This compares with just 27 employers who publically backed the Living Wage in 2008. Since 2005, the London Living Wage has grown by 40.3 per cent and more than 30,000 workers stretching across the capital have benefited from the increased wage since 2011.

Major brands including Oliver Bonas, Chelsea Football Club and GlaxoSmithKline have all joined the army of organisations now accredited as London Living Wage employers over the last year, while last month Lidl became the first major supermarket to pay its staff the rate.

I am actively encouraging businesses and organisations across London to sign up to the Living Wage Foundation's accreditation scheme and have written to more than 100 chief executives in the last 12 months, primarily in the retail, legal and service provider sectors, as well as football clubs and a number of FTSE 100 companies.

New Tech Map reveals businesses are booming in London

On 19 October, I revealed that London's science and technology industry is booming and 90,000 businesses in these industries are now employing approximately 700,000 people in the capital according to a new interactive map.

The new 'Tech Map London' has also revealed that London is home to 82 fast-growing 'scale-ups' – science and technology businesses with an annual turnover of more than £1m - which have grown by more than 20 per cent over two successive years. Most of these businesses are in the digital sector and more than half of them are in just four boroughs, Westminster, the City of London, Camden, and Hackney.

London is now widely regarded as Europe's leading tech cluster and the city is increasingly recognised as a leading centre for the life sciences industry with MedCity.

The map has been produced by Trampoline Systems. It shines a light on the capital's vibrant and rapidly growing science and technology business base, showing who the businesses are, where they are located, where new clusters are emerging and how fast they are growing.

The map will be a useful tool for investors and businesses wanting to see where London's science and technology clusters are emerging and how fast they are growing. In addition, it includes graphical visualisations of hotspots and charts showing trends and analysis over the last 10 years.

London's £35 billion creative industries critical to city's success

On 14 October, I highlighted that London's creative industries are now worth almost £35 billion to the economy and provide almost 800,000 jobs in the capital according to 'The creative industries in London' Report published by GLA Economics.

Over the post-recessionary period, the creative industries showed relatively higher growth than London's economy as a whole. In 2014, there were 795,800 jobs in the creative economy as a whole in London, equivalent to 16.3 per cent of total jobs in the capital. The report shows that London's creative industries are more productive than the average for the city's economy as a whole. Median hourly pay in the creative economy in 2014 was £18.80, compared to a median hourly pay of £15.26 in the non-creative economy.

High Street Fund

On 28 October, a project funded through my High Street Fund, Old Manor Park Library was formally opened. The Grade II listed building has been transformed into a centre for publically accessible workspaces for artists and creative businesses, due in part to a £177,500 award from my High Street Fund. London's high streets and places of work are the beating heart of the capital's business community and part of what makes our city special. I am therefore delighted to be supporting projects that seek to diversify and unlock opportunities in our most prized urban assets.

I want to see more affordable and accessible workspaces open up for the artists and talented people that contribute to the capital's thriving creative industries, which are worth almost £35 billion to the economy and am pleased to back the development of this brand new space in Newham.

Growing Places Fund

On 21 October, the third round of the Growing Places Fund closed. I received 10 bids seeking a total of £13.9 million capital investment. The majority of bids are private sector led, which aligns well with the aim of this fund; to use public sector funding to encourage private sector investment. The focus of bids submitted ranged widely and included those that seek to:

- Create workspace for SMEs across a range of sectors, including science, technology, arts, culture and design;
- Improve London's infrastructure by creating a smarter way of using energy for businesses;
- Support the growth of investment funds for social SMEs;
- Establish a mixed-use development, providing both residential and employment space;
- Help London stay open for business by providing public realm improvements; and
- Unlock housing growth through the improvement of local transport infrastructure

In Round 3 I asked bidders to address how they will support the implementation of the ten priorities set out in the London Enterprise Panels 'London 2036: An Agenda for jobs and growth' report. All ten priority areas have been addressed by the portfolio of bids received. Bids will now be assessed, with the successful projects scheduled to be announced in February 2016.

New technology to be embraced at Old Oak and Park Royal

On 14 October, it was revealed that The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) has teamed up with an organisation that promotes technological innovation to ensure that all future development at the UK's largest regeneration site embrace the latest high-tech innovations.

I launched OPDC in April to drive forward future regeneration of the site and deliver up to 25,500 homes and 65,000 jobs. As well as creating the standard-bearer for new sustainable neighbourhoods, Old Oak and Park Royal will also be an exemplar in 'smart' regeneration, embracing the latest technological advances to boost economic growth and quality of life.

In order to achieve this 'smart' regeneration, OPDC is being supported by #HyperCatCity, a collaboration of leading technology providers. #HyperCatCity will work with OPDC to develop a smart strategy and come forward with solutions that will address urban challenges in the area. These challenges will likely include using technology effectively and securely to help plan, deliver and manage exceptional quality new developments and parks, alongside exploring how streets and spaces should be designed to accommodate future transport modes such as driverless cars.

Launch of London Office of China Development Bank Corporation

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans attended the launch of China Development Bank Corporation's first representative office in London. The event was held during the President of the People's Republic of China's state visit to the United Kingdom.

LEP New Homes Bonus Programme

I have approved the receipt and expenditure of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) top slice as per Department for Communities and Local Government's NHB Grant Determination for 2015-16; and approved the package of proposals to be delivered by London's 32 boroughs and the City of London under the LEP New Homes Bonus Programme.

I have also delegated decisions on the rebalancing and approval of borough project proposals, entry into funding agreements and, variations to projects required within the funding period, to the Executive Director Development, Enterprise & Environment, following advice from the Investment and Performance Board and the London Enterprise Panel.

International Business Programme

I have approved:

- The GLA being a strategic partner in the proposal for London and Partners' (L&P) delivery of the "Mayor's International Business Programme", which aims to support 800 London businesses to generate new sales overseas;
- The granting of permission to L&P to use 'supported by Mayor of London' and 'Mayor's International Business Programme' branding in relation to the project, subject to a rolling one-month break clause; and
- The GLA's provision of in-kind support to the programme, in the form of staff time on policy matters relating to the project.

Digital Talent Programme

I have approved expenditure of up to £7 million, including £5 million funded from the Growth Deal and £2 million from the European Social Fund, for the Mayor's Digital Talent Programme, inclusive of expenditure of £0.205 million for programme staffing costs and £0.095 million to procure evaluation services for the programme.

I have also delegated authority to the Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment, to approve changes to the proposals for individual elements of the programme as may be required for delivery.

LEP Revenue Funded Projects

I have approved £1.005 million of revenue expenditure on a number of project and research strands to deliver the LEP priorities.

Housing and Land

First Steps

On 8 October, I announced that more than 52,000 Londoners on modest incomes have moved into new homes all across the capital as part of my First Steps housing scheme.

First Steps targets low and medium income Londoners and is designed to help people purchase a home at a lower cost than buying in the same neighbourhood on the open market. With large

deposits being a major problem for many potential buyers, the scheme's deposits start from as little as £5,000, averaging at £13,000, with average household wages of £37,000.

I visited the new Gallery Court, Fulbourne Road development in Waltham Forest to meet residents who are in the final stages of buying shared ownership homes. The site, which is a former camera factory, includes a mixed tenure of 124 affordable rent, private and shared ownership new properties, starting from £63,750 for a share of a one bedroom apartment. The 107 affordable properties at the site are targeted at local people on modest incomes.

Having exceeded my manifesto to target help 50,000 people into intermediate homes, I want to double the number of shared ownership units built in London by 2020 and again by 2025 to help an estimated 250,000 more Londoners access affordable homes to rent or buy.

Environment

Launch of the London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan

On 29 October, I launched the draft of the first London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan for consultation. This is a long-term strategic plan to roll back the tide of grey, impermeable surfaces across the city and replace them with a mosaic of new green features, such as raingardens and green roofs. Not only do these sustainable drainage measures help manage flood risk, but they can also bring wider benefits to people and wildlife, for example by providing more attractive streetscapes and food for pollinators.

The launch event was held at the Derbyshire Street Pocket Park, Tower Hamlets. Originally a dead-end road that attracted anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, this small site now boasts six different sustainable drainage measures, including a raingarden and permeable paving. This outstanding project was delivered using funds from a range of partners including my Pocket Parks programme.

Proposed Changes to the Feed-in Tariff

I submitted a response to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's consultation proposing to make significant cuts to the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) for solar power. I understand the spending constraints the Government faces and support action to phase out subsidy for solar deployment as fast as is reasonable. However, I expressed my concern that the approach proposed by the consultation has affected project pipelines and business cases, which has made it very difficult for the solar industry and its customers to plan deployment.

I strongly believe that Government should be avoiding the sharp cliff-edges the consultation proposed and providing certainty through planned FIT reductions to ensure long-term sustainability of the solar industry as it transitions to zero subsidy. The solar PV industry is on the cusp of being able to function subsidy-free and withdrawing or reducing support to the extent proposed at this crucial time could prove damaging to businesses, jobs and deployment.

Social Inclusion and Health

London Health Board

On 8 October, I chaired a meeting of the London Health Board in which we discussed some of the key health challenges for London. This meeting continued our discussion on what can be done to tackle childhood obesity, particularly in relation to the negative impact that some unhealthy food outlets are having on diets. We also had a fruitful discussion on the opportunities to improve primary care provision in London.

London One Year On event

On 21 October, I spoke at an event to mark and discuss progress following the publication of the London Health Commission's *Better Health for London* Report which set out ten aspirations for improving the health of Londoners.

I was joined by the Lord Darzi, Councillor Teresa O'Neill and, other elected members and health and care leaders, to explore how London's health and care services might be further improved. There was also an exchange of ideas and some healthy competition between London and New York, with Dr. Oxiris Bardot, First Deputy for Health, New York City, presenting the challenges and progress being made across the Atlantic.

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England, also spoke at the event, with both of us agreeing that 'more of the same' is not a sustainable option for London's health and care system. Given the considerable progress made in the last year, the Spending Review proposition for devolution of health and care provides a strong framework for unlocking the change needed.

Publication of *Better Health for London One Year On*

On 21 October, the London Health Board published *Better Health for London One Year On*. This Report focuses particularly on prevention of ill health, promoting health and wellbeing, closer working between health and social care, more personalised services and improving patient experience.

Education and Youth

Early Years Education and Health

On 15 October, my Education and Youth and Health teams collaborated to host an event in London's Living Room entitled 'GLA support to Early Years Education and Health'. Over 50 attendees offered their thoughts on my work to date in this area and they included borough Heads of Early Years, local Healthy Schools Leads, Department for Education, Family and Childcare Trust, Public Health England and a range of childcare providers.

I am keen to support work to address some of the significant challenges to the early years education system in London. Currently, the Department for Education offer 15 hours of free childcare to parents of all 3 and 4 years olds and 20 per cent of the most disadvantaged 2 year olds. However, this offer will increase to 30 hours of free childcare to working parents by September 2017. I am aware of a number of barriers to effective early years education in the

capital, linked to sustainability, access to places and quality of provision. My Education and Youth Team are currently scoping plans to help alleviate some of these challenges by exploring mixed model approaches to childcare, to combine the social benefits of a quality group setting with the flexibility of home based care.

The event also presented an opportunity to discuss my interest in extending the highly successful Healthy Schools London programme to the early years. I am keen to build on this success by developing a programme which supports and rewards early years and childcare settings across London that create healthy learning environments. I will continue to consult with boroughs to inform the development of such a programme, as all attendees were positive about a pan-London healthy early years programme.

£42,000 for schools to grow their own food

On 16 October, I confirmed details of a £42,000 funding pot that will allow schools in Lambeth and Croydon to grow their own food as part of my ongoing drive to tackle obesity in the capital and get young Londoners eating more healthily.

The announcement came on World Food Day as Rosie Boycott, Chair of London, joined UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other influential leaders at the Milan Expo to discuss the challenge of sustainably eradicating hunger and poverty over the next 15 years.

The School Garden Grants scheme will give state funded schools in both boroughs the chance to apply for grants ranging between £300 and £3,000 to create or improve edible gardens, which will be used to educate children about the food they eat and help them to lead healthier lives.

Lambeth and Croydon were both selected to be Food Flagship Boroughs last year, working to tackle child obesity through better diets and food education. In a UK first, the Boroughs are making changes to the way food is served in schools, hospitals, and working with major supermarkets and other retailers on the high street. The aim is to show that joined up thinking can improve health and academic attainment of pupils and also of adults in the local communities they serve.

I have teamed up with Whole Kids Foundation to deliver the School Garden Grants scheme. The scheme will consider requests ranging from tools to training, equipment to part-funding a school gardener until the application process closes on 4 December 2015.

Project Oracle Annual Conference

On 14 October, the children and youth evidence hub Project Oracle held their Annual Conference at BASE, King Cross. Delegates included academics, funders, commissioners and providers. Highlights of the conference included a key note speech provided by my Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza, and a lively panel discussion with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe (Commissioner of the MPS), Professor Jane Elliott (CEO of the Economic and Social Research Council) and Lord Victor Adebowale, (CEO of Turning Point), which was chaired by GLA's Caroline Boswell.

Project Oracle is funded by the GLA and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to help improve the life-chances of children and young people in the capital by promoting quality evidence of what works. Project Oracle provides supporting services to improve the delivery of youth programmes and informing the funding process.

The London Curriculum

I have approved expenditure of £127,000 in 2015-16 and £100,000 in 2016-17 for the next phase of the London Curriculum. I have also delegated to the Director of Communities and Intelligence the authority to approve receipt and expenditure of any additional external income from suitable external funders to enhance delivery of the Curriculum.

Budget, Finance and GLA Organisation

Projects seeking to maximise Business Rates and Council Tax Income in London

I have approved the GLA undertaking work, in partnership with the 33 London billing authorities, to maximise the size of the non-domestic rating list in the capital and consequently the level of rating income it receives under the business rates retention system.

I have also delegated authority to the Executive Director Resources to enter into agreements with any, or all of the 33 London billing authorities, to agree funding to support projects which have the direct objective of maximising business rates income, on the condition that they should be self-financing and result in additional rates income on an ongoing basis.

Olympic and Paralympic Legacy and Sport

Rugby World Cup 2015

On 30 October, the Stadium hosted its final match in the Rugby World Cup 2015 featuring South Africa and Argentina. With five matches played at the Stadium during the tournament, the venue hosted around 250,000 spectators who were lucky enough to enjoy this most spectacular of stadia.

Wheelchair rugby

On 15 October, I called on world rugby leaders to embrace wheelchair rugby as a key part of their future plans. My call for equal billing took place as the England and Japan wheelchair rugby teams came face-to-face at the Copper Box Arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, as part of the BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge.

2015 represents the first time that wheelchair rugby has been played alongside a Rugby World Cup and I am keen for the global rugby community to follow suit and ensure both versions of the sport are given an equal billing at future events.

ArcelorMittal Orbit slide

Following the granting of planning permission, work is now well advanced on the procurement of the world's longest covered slide for the ArcelorMittal Orbit, which is planned to open next spring. The addition of the slide will enhance the visitor experience while respecting the venue's artistic role in the Park.

Local programming

This month marks the successful conclusion of LLDC's pilot Local Programme. Its aim was to deliver a year-round programme of events on the Park delivered by local organisations and focused on building new local audiences.

Two open application rounds attracted 62 applications from a wide variety of local organisations of which 16 were appointed to stage events. Some 354 days of activity were delivered from October 2014 to October 2015, with 31,400 participants and audience members of whom 50 per cent were local people. In addition, three training sessions, delivered by ECHO, east London's innovative time and skills sharing project, enabled 40 people to develop their skills in event management, marketing and budget management.

The scheme's success means that developers for the first three housing neighbourhoods on the Park will use the model to deliver their Section 106 obligation on cultural events.

Establishment by the London Legacy Development Corporation of a charitable company to promote Olympicopolis

I have consented, further to the LLDC Board's decision at its meeting on 29 January 2015, to the LLDC forming a company limited by guarantee (a body corporate), as required by Section 212(2) of the Localism Act 2011, which it is proposed will become the corporate vehicle for a new charity. This charity will promote the objectives which the culture and higher education quarter (Olympicopolis) on QEOP is designed to deliver, and will undertake fundraising activities in support of achieving these objectives.

Refinancing of Wembley National Stadium Limited

I approved the following:

- The GLA providing such consent as may be required by it, in relation to a refinancing of the English National Stadium Project, Wembley, as proposed by the Football Association Limited (FA);
- The GLA entering into a Deed of Amendment between the GLA, the FA, Wembley National Stadium Limited and, various public and private sector funders, in relation to the amendment of an Intercreditor and Security Trust Deed and the Funding Agreement (to which the London Development Agency was originally a party), along with any other agreements or documentation as may be required to be entered into by the GLA in relation to such refinancing; and
- The Executive Director of Resources (and any senior officer nominated by him for such purposes) can agree on behalf of the GLA the form of such agreements and documentation to facilitate such refinancing.

Culture and Events

Plan to save London's music venues

On 19 October, I revealed my support for the campaign to halt the drop in the number of music venues in the capital. Since 2007, London has lost 35 per cent of its grassroots music venues

and it is feared that if this decline continues it could have major implications for the long term future of a creative and cultural sector that feeds into the UK's £3.8 billion music industry.

Plans include support for the so-called Agent of Change principle, which puts the onus on developers to mitigate potential future conflicts between new developments and long-standing live venues, a night time economy champion to promote the merits of a sector that in the UK is worth £66 billion a year, and a London Music Development Board to take forward an action plan to protect grassroots music venues in the capital.

A new report, London's Grassroots Music Venues Rescue Plan, produced by my Music Venues Taskforce, suggests that whilst London's music industry is generating billions for the economy, a vital part of this important cultural, as well as economic sector is under threat. I established the Taskforce earlier this year and chaired by the Music Venue Trust, it has undertaken an audit of grassroots music venues and found that, from 2007 to 2015, London has seen the number of spaces programming new artists drop from 136 to just 88 today.

The Rescue Plan identifies a range of factors for grassroots music venues closing and continuing to be under threat. However, the Music Venues Rescue Plan notes that there are forward-thinking developers that recognise grassroots music venues can add community value and improve a project's image. They include Cathedral Group's Old Vinyl Factory development at Hayes, Benson Elliot's plans for Ealing Broadway and Consolidated Developments' plans for Denmark Street. All include new or redeveloped live music venues, with the music venue treated as a community and cultural asset that adds to the place-making impact of each scheme.

The Report was launched in historic Denmark Street, which for decades has been associated with the music industry, and is where work is about to begin on central London's first new purpose built live music venue in decades. Plans by the developer – Consolidated Developments – include creating a new venue underground, next to the new Crossrail Station. They also propose to retain the former 12 Bar as a grassroots live music venue and to add a brand new underground gig space to the building. Consolidated are working with the GLA and Camden Council to make Denmark Street a thriving 'Music Zone' in the heart of London.

An A-Z of Planning and Culture

On 26 October, I published 'An A-Z of Planning and Culture', which for the first time outlines practical steps that can be taken to integrate and protect culture and support new cultural activity in developments.

This guide is for the people and organisations shaping London's future, including councils, developers, planners, community groups and cultural bodies. It coincided with a high level summit of around 250 developers, planners and cultural leaders at City Hall, looking at how culture can be protected and placed at the heart of London's future development.

Busk In London

On 28 October, my Busk In London team held a meeting for street performers from all over London. Boroughs, BIDs, TfL and others also attended a review of the scheme which is being rolled out across the capital. We are currently operating an on-street busker liaison service in the West End to build a strong busking community, act as intermediaries between buskers and others to resolve problems, and monitor the progress of Busk In London.

There have been marked improvements with the Buskers' Code, promoted busking pitches and pitch guidance, therefore helping to reduce problems of noise and obstruction. Buskers now report feeling much safer performing in the area and as a result a larger variety of responsible performers are using the spaces. Business and buskers are now entering into constructive dialogue which is also a big step forward. One of the key problems has been the 'pressure cooker' effect with high demand by busker and low supply of suitable pitches. To ease this pressure we are creating mini busking guides and running busker liaison activity in new areas in November, including the Northbank and New West End Company areas.

Experiential Roundtable

On 27 October, my Cultural Strategy Group led a roundtable to explore issues and challenges faced by creative companies producing temporary experiential performance and installations in unused/old buildings around the city. This is a burgeoning area of activity, with London artists the trailblazers of this unique area of immersive activity. Additionally, it really marks London out as a centre of experimentation in the live arts and draws a domestic and international audience.

A list of recommended actions has been drawn up by cross sector working group that includes local authorities, developers, landowners, creative producers, funders and the blue light services, with the ambitions of strengthening advocacy and communications, promoting leadership and developing policy.

Frieze Art Fare

On 13 October, my Deputy for Education and Culture, Munira Mirza, attended the opening of Frieze Art Fair and the extended Sculpture Park in Regent's Park. Frieze Art Fair is one of the largest art fairs in the world, not only cementing London's reputation as a global centre for culture and the art market, but contributing significantly to London's economy. I'm delighted that leading international galleries have agreed to let the Sculpture Park run for a full three months, which means that many more Londoners and tourists will be able to visit this unique exhibition and all for free.

Africa on the Square

On 10 October, Trafalgar Square hosted Africa on the Square for the second year running. Around 25,000 attended the event including my representative, London Assembly Member Andrew Boff.

The event sought to engage both with London's African communities and the wider population and visitors to the Square were treated to a lively programme of African music and dance, a fashion show, talent show and African themed family workshops. A popular feature of the event was the African Market which provided a platform for many small businesses and traders. Africa on the Square was sponsored by Lebara and Air France, with both organisations having their own activations on the Square to engage with the public.

Diwali

On 11 October, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the annual Diwali celebrations at Trafalgar Square on my behalf. This year saw huge crowds of around 35,000 enjoying the event. From Bollywood dance classes, a children's Ramayana play, arts and crafts and sari dressing, to yoga and meditation, a National Army Museum's exhibition of the

Commonwealth's participation in WWI, and Sikh, as well as Hindu and Jain talks explaining the meaning of the celebration, the day offered something for everyone.

The children's 'Return of Lord Ram Parade' from the South Bank ended with a magical performance on the main steps of the Square to open the show, swiftly followed by a public-participation garba dance. The fast-paced and vibrant stage programme featured everything from professional Indian sub-continent traditional and classical artists and drum ensembles to talented community contemporary medleys. The event also offered delicious vegetarian curries and the chance to buy Diwali souvenirs.

The event was produced with the help of the various organisations that form the Diwali in London Committee, was media partnered by Zee TV and sponsored by Lebara Mobile. This year we were also pleased to welcome supporting partners Kerala Tourism and Western Union with their 'light up India' project using solar power.

Volunteering and Community Relations

Speed-Networking event

On 22 October, Team London successfully set a new record for the UK's largest ever youth speed-networking event. The day was delivered in partnership with the Lords Community at the iconic Lord's cricket ground.

The event was designed to enable young people to meet professionals from 117 organisations, giving them the opportunity to question them and learn about careers which they may be interested in and also those they didn't even realise existed. Over 5,000 'speed networks' took place, meaning there was over 300 hours of careers advice provided in total.

Our Ambassadors Wayne Hemmingway, Michael Absalom and Andy Barrow, kindly gave their time to inspire the young people.

Schools volunteering conference

On 13 October, Team London held its annual schools volunteering conference in the chamber at City Hall. Team London's Young Ambassadors programme has now reached over 1,000 state schools in the capital and the conference celebrated the successes to date, whilst engaging new schools in the programme.

Guests at the conference heard presentations from pupils from Sunnyhill Primary School and Jo Richardson Community School on their volunteering efforts in their local communities and what they had learnt about their efforts. The programme is available free of charge to all London schools and offers assemblies, workshops, youth summits and recognition opportunities.

Team London Skill-UP

On 23 October, Team London launched the third module of the Skill-UP programme. Mentors with over 300 years of finance experience between them delivered an all-day session to support 20 charities with sound financial planning and reporting. Each charity now has a mentor who will support them over the coming year in their work. The module was a huge success and we look forward to future training opportunities for charity staff and trustees.

Enterprise Adviser Programme

Team London has been selected and offered funding by the Careers and Enterprise Company, to deliver the Enterprise Adviser programme in London. The Programme matches professional volunteers with schools to develop a strong careers education strategy to enable their students to succeed in the workplace. This builds on the existing work Team London and the Education and Youth Team to support schools and teachers, and to connect them with business to ensure a work work-ready, informed pipeline of young people.

I have therefore approved the receipt of £125,000 funding from the Careers & Enterprise Company and expenditure of up to a maximum of £250,000, including the income, plus £50,000 in-kind match from Team London Young Ambassador's programme, £50,000 in-kind match staff budget and, £25,000 from the Team London programme budget, in order to deliver the programme.

British Bangladeshi Who's Who Publication Launch and Gala Dinner 2015

On 5 November 2015, my Deputy Mayor, Roger Evans, attended the British Bangladeshi Who's Who Publication Launch and Gala Dinner where he praised the contribution that the Bengali community makes to our great city.

Planning and Development

Welcoming planning changes that will protect London's key business districts

On 13 October, I welcomed the Government's decision to reconsider planning proposals that would have potentially seen valuable office space in the capital turned into homes. I have been actively lobbying the Government to amend proposals that would have put the capital's key business districts at risk by allowing office space to be converted into homes without developers applying for planning permission for the change of use.

Thanks to my intervention, the Minister for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis, has announced that he will amend the original proposals to ensure London is able to maintain a stock of quality office space in existing key areas, and allow the city to continue to attract jobs and growth.

Last year I successfully negotiated for defined areas of central London to be exempt from the policy. These areas covered the 'Central Activities Zone' which incorporates the City of London, the South Bank, parts of Kensington and Chelsea, the West End, the commercial area north of the Isle of Dogs and London's Enterprise Zones in the Royal Docks, plus the part of the City Fringe in east London which makes up the emerging "Tech City" opportunity area. However, new proposals announced by the Government would have removed these exemptions, potentially threatening London's internationally important business locations.

The Government has now announced that it will allow local authorities to bring forward special planning regulations known as Article 4 directions if they wish to continue determining planning applications for the change of use. This will ensure that London's commercial heartlands will be protected from planning changes.

The current exemptions will remain in place until May 2019, providing time for these local authorities to make an Article 4 application to remove the rights and require a planning application for any proposed change of use.

‘City in the East’ masterplan

On 22 October, I released a new framework that aims to transform East London and deliver more than 200,000 homes and 250,000 jobs. The ‘City in the East’ masterplan details how major development should take place from London Bridge to the Isle of Dogs and Greenwich Peninsula, right through to Ilford in Essex and Dartford in Kent.

It is designed to bring together a vast number of major developments that are already taking place in the capital, known as designated Opportunity Areas, which have been identified as London’s major source of brownfield land with significant capacity for new housing, commercial space and other development.

In 2004, it was estimated East London had the capacity for 52,000 new homes, but detailed modelling, which includes linking 13 Opportunity Areas, now reveals that a minimum of 203,500 homes and 283,300 jobs could be delivered over the next 20 years.

The ‘City in the East’ document also contains a series of maps, which for the first time brings to life how the city is moving eastwards, covering much of the Thames Gateway, and could benefit from improvements to transport infrastructure such as Crossrail and HS1.

The plan envisages how land across East London could be split up for commercial and industrial use and suggests where new schools, work space and hospitals could be located.

Planning strategy for Old Oak and Park Royal given the green light

On 4 November, I approved the planning framework which will deliver more than 25,500 new homes and create up to 65,000 jobs at Old Oak and Park Royal. Old Oak in West London is set to become a new home to a world-class HS2 and Crossrail Station by 2026, handling 250,000 passengers a day and acting as a super hub between London and the rest of the UK, Europe and the world.

This presents the opportunity to create tens of thousands of new homes and could provide almost 14 per cent of Greater London’s employment needs up to 2031, with early estimates of a £7 billion annual contribution to the UK economy.

Earlier this year, I published an Opportunity Area Planning Framework for consultation, which sets out my long-term vision for the area. Following the conclusion of that consultation, I have now approved the document which sets the strategic planning direction for the area. The planning framework aims to:

- Create a new urban neighbourhood at Old Oak, supporting a minimum of 24,000 new homes with an additional 1,500 in non-industrial locations in Park Royal;
- Plan for the new High Speed 2/Crossrail and National Rail interchange to regenerate the area and contribute significantly to London’s competitiveness;
- Support the creation of 55,000 new jobs at Old Oak and a further 10,000 at Park Royal;
- Protect and enhance Park Royal as a strategic industrial location;

- Ensure new development safeguards nearby amenity assets such as Wormwood Scrubs and the Grand Union Canal; and
- Work with communities, residents and businesses to realise the strategy.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Padcroft Works, Tavistock Road, 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.

Kodak Factory Site, Headstone Drive, LB Harrow

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

13-14 Appold Street, LB Hackney

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

Trocoll House, Wakering Road, LB Barking and Dagenham

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

3-5 Nightingale Lane, 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.

24-34 Sutton Court Road, LB Sutton

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

The Archbishop Lanfranc School, LB Croydon

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

Sleaford Industrial Estate, 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.

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

Stockley House, City of Westminster

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

Warren Farm Sports Centre, LB Ealing

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

55 Southwark Street, LB Southwark

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

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- City Pride Public House, LB Tower Hamlets
- Holland and Holland Shooting School, LB Hillingdon
- Hogarth Business Park, LB Hounslow
- Site at Hawley Wharf, LB Camden
- Canada Water Sites C and E, LB Southwark
- 169-173 Blackfriars Road, LB Southwark
- Land at Enderby Wharf, RB Greenwich
- St Lukes Woodside Hospital, LB Haringey
- One Tower Bridge, LB Southwark
- Reynard Mills, LB Hounslow
- 181-183 Warwick Road, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Newfoundland, LB Tower Hamlets
- Trico House, LB Hounslow

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Millbank Complex, Millbank, City of Westminster
- Imperial House, The Hyde, LB Barnet
- 77-79 Jermyn Street and 34-36 Duke Street, St James, City of Westminster
- Red House Building, Wembley, LB Brent
- Nova Place and Nova East, Victoria Street, City of Westminster
- Nova Place and Nova East, Bressenden Place, City of Westminster
- Barking and Dagenham College, LB Barking and Dagenham
- The Perfume Factory, Wales Farm Road, LB Ealing
- Conquest House, 25-27 Elmfield Road, LB Bromley
- Project Monico, Piccadilly, City of Westminster
- Nightingale House, 65 Curzon Street, City of Westminster
- Westferry Printworks, Isle Of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets
- Brunel University, Kingston Lane, LB Hillingdon
- Southall Gasworks, LB Ealing
- 9-24 Broadway, LB Ealing
- St John's Wood Delivery Office, Lodge Road, City of Westminster
- Block 8 Nurses Home, Former Oldchurch Hospital, LB Havering
- 16-48 Cambridge Road, LB Barking
- Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, LB Haringey
- Innovation Centre, 225 Marsh Wall, LB Tower Hamlets
- 98 York Road, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the Gallery Court housing development in LB Waltham Forest on 8 October to meet two First Steps homeowners to mark 52,000 successful purchases through the First Steps affordable housing scheme
- I chaired the London Health Board on 8 October
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 8 October
- I met with H.E. Keiichi Hayashi, the Japanese Ambassador to the UK, on 8 October to discuss my forthcoming visit to Japan
- I visited the new Crime Museum at the Museum of London on 9 October
- I visited Japan from 12 to 16 October
- I attended the opening of Bloomberg's CityLab Conference on 19 October
- I attended the Foundation for Future London Lunch on 19 October
- I had my regular meeting with David Goldstone, Chief Executive, and David Edmonds, Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation, on 19 October
- I met with the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Rt Hon Patrick Mcloughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 19 October to discuss private hire vehicles
- I met with the Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 19 October to discuss the TfL Bill
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 October
- I had my regular meeting with representatives of the Taxi trade on 20 October
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 21 October
- I attended the London Health Commission one year on event on 21 October
- I attended the Daily Telegraph Smart Cities Conference on 21 October
- I met with the Rt Hon Patrick Mcloughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 21 October to discuss transport issues
- I attended the Mayor's Fund for London breakfast on 22 October
- I chaired the London Land Commission on 22 October
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 22 October
- I met with the Rt Hon Teresa May MP, Home Secretary, on 22 October to discuss policing issues
- I had an introductory meeting with Mayor John Tory, the Mayor of Toronto, on 22 October
- I visited the Hurlingham Academy, Fulham, on 23 October
- I visited the Putney High Street development site on 23 October ahead of the representation hearing
- I attended the EU Head of Mission annual lunch on 26 October
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with the Sir Bernard Hogan Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 26 October
- I took part in the annual launch of London Poppy day on 27 October
- I chaired the Putney High Street development site representation hearing on 27 October
- I visited the south bastion at Tower Bridge on 27 October to view the planned development at Bishopsgate Goodsyard
- I held my regular "Ask Boris" Twitter session on 27 October
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 27 October

- I had my regular meeting with Mayor Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils, on 27 October to discuss areas of joint working
- I met with Ian Paisley MP on 27 October to discuss bus issues
- I met with the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Sir Peter Hendy, Chair of Network Rail and David Higgins, Chair of HS2, on 28 October to discuss HS2 and Euston Station
- I co-hosted a Life Sciences Roundtable along with George Freeman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Life Sciences at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health, on 28 October
- I met with the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 28 October ahead of the Spending Review
- I attended the Black History Month event at City Hall on 29 October
- I attended an "In Conversation" event at Brunel University with Will Self on 30 October
- I attended the Rugby World Cup Final at Twickenham on 31 October and met with the Governor of Tokyo
- I attended the London Living Wage event on 2 November
- I had my regular meeting with Gordon Innes, London & Partners, on 2 November
- I had lunch with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 2 November
- I met with Lord Adonis, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, on 2 November to discuss infrastructure
- I hosted my regular monthly "Ask Boris" phone in with Nick Ferrari on 4 November
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 4 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 4 November
- I addressed the All Party Parliamentary Corporate Responsibility Group on 4 November
- I attended a dinner in honour of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan on 4 November

Ends