

London Assembly
MQT – 18 May 2011
Thirtieth Mayor's Report to the Assembly

This is my thirtieth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 10 March to 4 May 2011.

Sir Simon Milton, 1961 - 2011

"In Simon Milton London has lost a brilliant public servant and one of the nicest and cleverest men in politics. We in City Hall have lost a wonderful colleague and friend.

It is hard to think of anyone in politics who commanded such universal respect and admiration from people of all parties.

He was instrumental in drawing up the new London Plan and in securing the budgets for Crossrail, the Tube upgrades, and many other projects for the benefit of the city he loved. It feels very hard and strange to be saying all this now about someone who was so young, and who still had so much to offer.

His political origins were essentially Thatcherite. He grew up with the struggles of his family's patisserie business, and he once described his anger at seeing the impact of high taxation on the business, and on his father's health.

But as leader of Westminster Council and at City Hall he developed a broader and more generous understanding of how the leaders of a great city should bring people together, and how a low-tax administration could work for the benefit of the poorest and neediest. He could magic tens of millions from the flintiest developers, to pay for more affordable housing. He had the tact to persuade world-famous architects to lop many storeys off their latest proposals, for the sake of protecting London's views, and without unduly ruffling their feathers.

He was warm and kind, and also possessed of a first-rate logical brain, as you could tell if you watched the metronomic efficiency with which he would simultaneously carry out a conversation and fill in the most difficult Sudoku puzzle in the Times.

We always knew that we were lucky to have him in City Hall, in the sense that 12 years ago he had survived a serious bout of leukaemia, and was always operating with greatly reduced lung capacity.

It was a testament to his skill and mental energy that few who met him were aware of the underlying frailty of his condition.

He was above all a very funny man, an ironist who never failed to see the comedy of whatever might be happening. He and I were once watching some unfortunate footage of me falling into a river in Catford.

Simon turned and said: "I've got the Standard their headline. River Crisis – Mayor Steps In."

He will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his much-loved partner Robert, his mother, Ruth, and his sister, Lisa.”

Executive Summary

London 2012 countdown clock and tickets

On 15 March, as the 500 day countdown to the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games began, LOCOG, OMEGA and I unveiled the Countdown Clock in Trafalgar Square. 15 March also marked the worldwide release of tickets for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

World-class consortium to construct London’s cable car

On 18 April, I confirmed work will start this summer on a cable car across the Thames helping to boost the on-going regeneration of east London. This follows the appointment of a world-class consortium to build and operate the cable car with Mace as lead contractor.

New Barclays Cycle Superhighways herald safer and easier cycling across the city

On 12 April, TfL announced the start of work on two new Barclays Cycle Superhighway routes, which will open in July 2011 making it easier and safer for cyclists to commute into central London on direct and continuous cycle routes. The routes will run from Bow to Aldgate (CS2) and Wandsworth to Westminster (CS8).

£14 million safeguarded for 2012 skills and employment programmes

On 24 March, I announced that we have safeguarded funding to boost skills and employment opportunities for Londoners before, during and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

Royal Docks to become one of country’s largest Enterprise Zones

On 23 March, the regeneration of London’s historic Royal Docks came a step closer as 125 hectares of development land, adjacent to City Airport and with excellent transport connections, were given Enterprise Zone status, following successful negotiations with the Coalition Government.

Safer Parks

On 17 March, I visited Montefiore Gardens in Wandsworth to announce the winners of my first Safer Parks Award. My Safer Parks Award recognises and promotes new and existing good practice in tackling anti-social behaviour and increasing safety in London’s parks.

Section 60 Responses

Legacy United? The Legacy of London's Olympic Venues

Responses to the recommendations set out in the London Assembly's Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee's report, *Legacy United? The Legacy of London's Olympic Venues*.

Recommendation 4

The Olympic Park Legacy Company should include obligations to guarantee community access in any agreements with future venue operators. It should also ensure that physical layout and branding supports community access to the venues, alongside public transport improvements discussed in Recommendation 3 (enhancing transport connectivity). In a response to the Committee by the end of April 2011 the Mayor and the OPLC should set out how they intend to implement these measures, and clarify the extent to which they remain committed to the goal of 90 per cent community usage of sporting facilities.

Response

My Sports Commissioner and I are committed to doing everything we can to work with the OPLC to maximise community use of the Park and its facilities. By July 2011, the OPLC will agree its Sport and Healthy Living policy with the boroughs and other stakeholders, which will balance the role of the Park as an important London visitor destination with its status as an important community asset. I am confident that through working with the boroughs and other partners, the OPLC will encourage community use of the venues by local people, clubs and organisations.

Recommendation 5

The Olympic Park Legacy Company should set long-term targets for the employment of local residents, previously unemployed people and apprentices at the 2012 venues, and include obligations to implement these in any agreements with venue operators. The OPLC should also identify training needs for local people to compete for jobs on the Olympic Park, work with funders and providers to ensure these are met, and oblige venue operators to participate in skills initiatives. In a response to the Committee by the end of April 2011 the Mayor and the OPLC should set out how they intend to implement these measures.

Response

I am committed to transforming the skills and jobs prospects of Londoners, and particularly residents of the Host Boroughs as a result of the Games, which is why I lobbied to get a fair deal from Government to safeguard funding to boost skills and employment opportunities before, during and after the Games.

Working with our partners we have already helped thousands of Londoners into work or training associated with London 2012. I am confident that we can achieve even more with the OPLC and other partners such as Westfield to deliver training that will enable local people to take advantage of the retail, leisure, hospitality and catering opportunities that will be created on the Olympic Park, as well as at Stratford City.

The OPLC is also committed to delivering benefits for local people, whilst providing venues that are commercially sustainable and require little or no ongoing public subsidy. We are already seeing this commitment in action through the socio-economic considerations

(including employment) that have been built into the specifications for the ArcelorMittal Orbit, the Aquatics Centre, the Multi-Use Arena and the Estates and Facilities Management contract. In addition, the procurement processes associated with these operations will specifically assess bidders' approaches to generating 'targeted' employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

I will also work to ensure that the DWP Work Programme providers operating across London are effectively engaged with the work of the OPLC. The six successful Prime Contractors announced across the East and West Contract Package Areas in London will all have a role in providing job ready candidates for opportunities generated by the OPLC. The Single Work Programme will be a valuable additional resource to the programmes of activity underway across the Host Boroughs and pan-London through the Construction Employer Accord and the Legacy 2012 project. The pan-London nature of the Work Programme and its contractual longevity will also help to ensure that Londoners from across the capital will be able to benefit from the legacy of the Games.

The GLA will seek dialogue with the Prime Contractors to ensure that relationships with the OPLC are effective and that they maximise the support available.

Recommendation 6

The Olympic Park Legacy Company should implement procurement initiatives that support local businesses to win contracts at the Olympic Park, including the use of CompeteFor to all post-2012 tender opportunities at the park. Agreements with venue operators should oblige them to participate in these initiatives. The OPLC should also explore the potential for social enterprises and community-owned organisations to provide goods and services at the Olympic Park or become involved in managing the venues. In a response to the Committee by the end of April 2011 the Mayor and the OPLC should set out how they plan to achieve these goals.

Response

Ensuring London businesses and SMEs in particular have access public sector contracts forms a key part of my Economic Recovery Action Plan (ERAP). CompeteFor has formed a key part of this plan, and contracts from ODA and LOCOG have been a catalyst for driving up the number of business opportunities on the system. Through ERAP and the City Charter I have championed CompeteFor's growth, with the GLA Group, Crossrail and a number of London boroughs now using the system both for their own contracts, and those of their major contractors. The GLA Group alone has advertised over 900 contract and subcontract opportunities through the system. I expect the OPLC to openly advertise its contracts on-line, and require its majors to do the same with subcontracts to make these opportunities more accessible to SMEs.

More widely my Responsible Procurement programme has worked to identify and remove where possible barriers to small and local businesses bidding for public sector contracts. This includes not just improving the visibility of contract opportunities, but also streamlining processes wherever possible and ensuring small businesses that do win contracts are paid within ten working days. Around ninety percent of small businesses supplying GLA Group are paid within 10 working days.

Major projects such as Crossrail and the East London line extension have included innovative contractual requirements and evaluation criteria to ensure bidders develop clear plans for proactively engaging local businesses, social enterprises and community owned organisations in sub-contract opportunities. I expect the OPLC to adopt a similar approach in its

procurement activity, as we move towards its being reformed as a Mayoral Development Corporation and becoming part of the GLA Group.

Recommendation 7

The Olympic Park Legacy Company or any successor body should have a clear remit and long-term funding for its programmes. After 2012 it should exercise ongoing oversight of agreements with venue operators, and ensure the strategic co-ordination of activity and development across the whole Olympic Park. In a response to the Committee by the end of April 2011 the Mayor should set out his plans for the remit and funding of the OPLC, for strategic co-ordination of the park, and for oversight of agreements.

Response

In my proposals for the Olympic Park Legacy Corporation, which I published on 7 February 2011, I make clear my expectation that the new body should take over the assets and responsibilities of the existing Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), and also take on some programmes and assets of other agencies currently working in the area. This would give the Corporation responsibility for driving regeneration in the Olympic Park and surrounding area, and empower it to co-ordinate development between the Olympic Park estate and major publicly owned development projects that are situated alongside it.

I propose that the Corporation should become the planning authority for the area and intend for it to be established by 1 April 2012. Until then, the OPLC will continue to be responsible for securing the long-term future of the Olympic site, maximising the legacy from the Games inheritance, and for overall estate management.

We have been able to secure a funding package for the OPLC of £290m over this Spending Review period, which enables the OPLC to put all the necessary infrastructure for the early stages of development into the Park. This is an exceptionally good settlement in the context of a very tough spending round, which allows the OPLC to get on with the task of securing operators for the stadium and venues. We are seeing more and more interest from private sector investors from around the world that want to find a home in the Park. This type and scale of private investment has never been seen before in this part of east London and is a testament to the good work the OPLC is undertaking to promote an exciting long-term vision for the Park and the surrounding area.

A Sporting Legacy for London?

Responses to the recommendations set out in the London Assembly's Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee's report, *A Sporting Legacy for London?*

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the Sports Commissioner and London Community Sports Board develop their partnership approach to incorporate the local health and education sectors. We ask the Sports Commissioner reports back to the Committee by May 2011 on how she plans to ensure the state and independent education sectors, and local and regional health providers, can contribute to the Mayor's strategic aims for sports participation; and what the timescale is for this work.

Response

We are already working closely with both sectors.

We have a dedicated 'Health' strand as part of our Skills Programme and are working with the Royal Society for Public Health and Primary Care Trusts to deliver training opportunities; and we have encouraged applicants seeking funding from the Sports Participation Programme to forge partnerships with health organisations such as Primary Care Trusts.

NHS London is a member of the Development and Implementation Group (DIG), a working group comprising key stakeholders that co-ordinates sport and physical activity in London. The DIG reports regularly on its work to the London Community Sports Board. There are also regular meetings between staff in GLA Sport Unit and NHS London to ensure close liaison with the work being undertaken to deliver a health legacy for London from the 2012 Games.

In respect of the education sector, we are funding a number of sports projects that link with schools and have helped to promote and support the work of the Youth Sport Trust and the London Youth Games. Where we are funding sports facilities in schools, we ensure that community use is part of the funding conditions.

We do think there remains further scope to make better use of sports facilities in the independent and state education sectors and will pursue this with the relevant organisations.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that the Sports Commissioner and the London Community Sports Board negotiate with LOCOG to broaden the way the Olympic brand could be used to raise the profile of the work being done to achieve a sports participation legacy. We ask that the Sport Commissioner reports back to the Committee in May 2011.

Response

I recognise the power of the Olympic brand to generate interest and excitement in sport. It is vital that as much as possible is done to harness the benefits that being associated with the Games can bring. We are in discussions with LOCOG about how we might make better use of the 'Inspire Mark' as we would like to see more sports projects being officially recognised through that initiative.

Recommendation 3

We recommend that after the announcement of the second round of successful bids for the facilities fund in May 2011, the Mayor's Sports Commissioner report to the Committee on how the Mayor's funding is adding to the supply of sports facilities in areas where demand exceeds supply.

Response

I should be happy to report back as requested.

Recommendation 4

We recommend that the Sport's Commissioner evaluate the costs and benefits of the different approaches that have been taken to managing and allocating the Mayor's funds. We ask that she report back to the Committee in May 2011 on the outcome of this review and how they will be taken into account in future funding rounds.

Response

We considered the benefits of managing the Sports Participation Fund 'in-house' at the GLA as part of our business planning process in 2009. The main rationale for the approach we have taken is that the Skills and Facilities Funds require high levels of specialist expertise, for example technical and architectural in the case of facilities

We believe that this remains the most effective and efficient way of working.

Recommendation 5

We recommend that in December 2011 the Mayor's Sport's Commissioner report to the Committee on the outcomes from the grants awarded from the Mayor's sports funds. This should include details of the numbers of additional people who have started taking part in sport and progress against other social objectives set out for the funds.

Response

I should be happy to report back as requested.

Recommendation 6

We recommend that the Mayor commit to retaining a role for his Sport Commissioner and the London Community Sport Board after 2012. We ask that in a response to this report in May 2011 he set out his plans for delivering a sporting legacy beyond 2012 and the extent to which seed funding might be available to ensure the GLA role is retained.

Response

I should very much like to see the London Community Sports Board and the role of Sport Commissioner carrying on after 2012.

In respect of continued funding, we will make decisions about the budget as part of the GLA budget planning process that will be undertaken later this year.

Recommendation 7

We recommend that by May 2012 the Mayor set out to the Committee: whether he remains committed to a 90 per cent target for community use of the Olympic Park facilities; and how he proposes to meet any target, with key milestones and a timetable for achieving it. In doing so, he should address the question of what alternative mechanism he proposes to ensure community access is central to decisions about the Park after the Games.

We further recommend that the Olympic Park Legacy Company ensures targets for community access are included in its ongoing discussions with potential future tenants or owners of sporting facilities on the Olympic Park.

Response

My Sports Commissioner and I are committed to doing everything we can to work with the OPLC to maximise community use of the Park and its facilities. By July 2011, the OPLC will agree its Sport and Healthy Living policy with the boroughs and other stakeholders, which will balance the role of the Park as an important London visitor destination with its status as an important community asset. I am confident that through working with the boroughs and

other partners, the OPLC will encourage community use of the venues by local people, clubs and organisations.

Nick Bitel, an OPLC Board member, currently sits on the London Community Sports Board and he will continue to update my Sports Commissioner and the Board on the Company's progress in securing a sports legacy from the Games for London.

Policing and Community Safety

Protecting Rape Crisis Centres

On 22 March, I re-affirmed my commitment to support rape crisis centres during a visit to the new East London Rape Crisis Service with the Duchess of Cornwall. At the centre we met therapists and counsellors from the Nia Project who provide a mix of support, counselling, and holistic therapies to women and young people dealing with the aftermath of rape and sexual violence.

In the current financial climate many women's services in particular are facing budget cuts from local authorities and Government agencies, and it is feared some may not survive. In addition to quadrupling rape crisis services in the capital I am also proactively working with and lobbying boroughs to secure sustainable long term funding for rape crisis provision across London.

Safer Parks

On 17 March, I visited Montefiore Gardens in Wandsworth to announce the winners of my first Safer Parks Award. My Safer Parks Award recognises and promotes new and existing good practice in tackling anti-social behaviour and increasing safety in London's parks. The high standard of applications is impressive and I am pleased that friends groups, local authorities and police all submitted applications. Representatives from all 31 award-winning parks will be invited to a winners event in May to receive their plaques - 12 Gold, 11 Silver and 8 Bronzes have been awarded. The Award winners are:

Albert Road Recreation Ground	Haringey
Barking Park	Barking and Dagenham
Beaversfield Park	Hounslow
Bishops Park	Hammersmith and Fulham
Burgess Park	Southwark
Bury lodge Park	Enfield
Bush Hill Park	Enfield
Canbury Gardens	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Canons Park	Harrow
Chiswick House and Gardens	Hounslow
Danson Park	Bexley
Dukes Meadows	Hounslow
Elmhurst Gardens	Redbridge
Elthorne Park	Islington
Harrow Recreation Ground	Harrow
Hyde Park	Westminster
Iford War Memorial Gardens	Redbridge
Manor House Gardens	Lewisham
Markfield Park	Haringey
Montefiore Gardens	Wandsworth
Plumstead Common	Greenwich
Roxeth Recreation Ground	Harrow
RUSSIA DIOCK WOODLAND	Southwark
South Park	Redbridge
South Park	Hammersmith and Fulham
South Park Gardens	Merton
Spikesbridge Park	Ealing
St Lukes Gardens	RBKC
The Grove Park	Sutton
Valentines Park	Redbridge
Victoria Recreation Ground	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Project Oracle

The Oracle website went live on 1 April. The official launch event was on 27 April at City Hall and was attended by community and voluntary sector groups and local funders. The website will be populated between now and the autumn with projects that have been shown to be effective. I hope that this marks the beginning of us understanding what services really work for young Londoners.

Spotlight Event on Domestic Violence and Rough Sleeping

On 18 March, Kit Malthouse, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and Richard Blakeway, my Advisor for Housing, hosted an event that for the first time brought colleagues working on domestic violence and rough sleeping together. The event aimed to provide London partners with some examples of excellent initiatives and provide insight into how to reduce and prevent rough sleeping that is a result of domestic violence.

Kit Malthouse was also able to highlight my strategy to combat violence against women and girls (*The Way Forward*) in which I aim to ensure services develop ways of reaching homeless women who are hidden, and to develop and provide services that meet the variety of specific needs, including sexual and domestic violence services, in settings and practices that maximise accessibility.

Violence Against Women and the Corporate Sector

On 13 April, I launched the "Know where to go" directory in partnership with Eaves.

Know where to go is London's first ever comprehensive directory of violence against women service provision in London which I hope will be an invaluable resource for women in London and those who come into contact with women experiencing violence. The directory has 3 key routes to the public; a searchable online directory which is now available online at <http://www.london.gov.uk/blog/helping-women-know-where-go-help>; a print version which will be distributed via practitioner organisations and through the London Datastore, which will give anyone access to the database of listed organisations to open up access even further.

On 13 April, I hosted the Reducing the Cost event in London's Living Room, in partnership with Eaves. The aim of the event was to raise awareness of violence against women within the private sector so that companies play their role in tackling violence against women issues. The event was a huge success with over 140 attendees from across the corporate sector.

Community Conversations

On 13 April, I attended the fourth Community Conversations Programme in Haringey. It was extremely well attended and evaluation of the event has been very positive. The next event will take place in Hackney on the 24 May 2011, followed by Lambeth and Southwark. These events:

- Are a chance for the community to have direct contact with GLA staff and myself to discuss one of my key priorities – tackling serious youth violence.
- Provide a platform for local people to share their experiences and views.
- Promote and raise awareness of action and current action being taken to address youth crime.

- Engage with local communities to get them talking about what action can be taken at a local level, and
- Encourage people to discuss, sign up to and promote my Mentoring Programme.

London Resilience Forum

On 4 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, chaired the London Local Resilience Forum. The forum was established by statute on 1 April 2011 and includes representatives of the emergency services, local authorities and others who are responsible for managing emergencies across the capital. It is the principle mechanism for multi-agency cooperation across London and defines the strategic direction for the work of the London Resilience partnership. The meeting marks the new role of the GLA in coordinating resilience planning across the capital.

The London Resilience Team supports the work of the forum and the wider partnership. Following the closure of the Government Office for London the team became part of the GLA. It consists of 4 GLA staff and secondees from organisations in the London Resilience partnership.

London Crimestoppers Annual Dinner

On 7 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the London Crimestoppers Annual Dinner at Haberdashers' Hall, Smithfield.

Visit to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit

On 1 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit at the Territorial Policing Headquarters on Victoria Embankment.

London Public Sector Counter Fraud Partnership

On 28 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, made the opening speech at the London Public Sector Counter Fraud Partnership Conference at New Scotland Yard.

Richard spoke on the impact of fraud on the public sector and the importance of organisations in tackling the problem.

National Security Conference

On 24 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, appeared as the guest speaker at the 3rd Annual Edinburgh Community Resilience Week's National Security Conference. Richard spoke to the conference on his previous work in the resilience and security field, his current role of leading on Resilience matters and his views and thoughts on the 7 July 2005 bombings in London.

Project Titan

I have approved funding totalling £2,600,000 divided equally between two new projects ('structured uniformed activities' and 'Mayor's Mentoring Programme') over three financial years (2011-12 to 2013-14).

I have also approved GLA Expenditure of up to £145,000 over three financial years (2011-12 to 2013-14) on the evaluation of the programmes.

Transport

Outer London Sky Ride events

I have invited cyclists in the capital and beyond to take part in two mass cycling events taking place in Hillingdon on 31 July and in Barking & Dagenham on 21 August building on the success of the last two years, which has seen events take place in Hounslow, Ealing and Redbridge. The two outer London Sky Ride locations will offer people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to re-discover the fun they can have on two wheels cycling on traffic free routes, through their local borough, offering a day of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

Cyclists in Barking & Dagenham and Hillingdon were also able to celebrate the news that their boroughs were among 13 that have received significant funding to spend on cycling improvements. Earlier this year they bid from a fund of £4million to be invested to help London's 13 biking boroughs engage their local community in cycling, creating better cycle infrastructure and making cycling safer.

World-class consortium to construct London's cable car

On 18 April, I confirmed that work will get under way this summer on a cable car across the Thames, helping to boost the on-going regeneration of east London. This follows the appointment of a world-class consortium to build and operate the cable car with Mace as lead contractor to build the cable car and operate it for three years.

The cable car will span the Thames, providing a low-emission, quick, direct and fully accessible link connecting the Greenwich Peninsula and the O2 with the Royal Victoria Docks and the ExCeL. It will provide a spectacular architectural addition to London and a much needed river crossing in this area, cutting travel times to five minutes. It will also boost the once-in-a-lifetime economic regeneration of east London, forming an essential new addition to a newly created Enterprise Zone.

Mace has a strong track record of delivering innovative projects including the London Eye. The company is currently constructing the Shard Tower in London and is involved in a consortium to deliver the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Stadium. Mace will lead a consortium of experts, including the cable car specialists, Dopplemayr, and Watson Steel, URS Scott Wilson, Buro Happold and Aedas. The cable car has been designed to the highest standards by Wilkinson Eyre.

London Underground racks up record ridership figures

On 20 April, TfL announced that record numbers of passengers are now using the London Underground network. Latest figures showed that during the recent financial year 2010/11 the network carried more than 1.1 billion passengers for the first time in its 148 year history.

During the year ending 31 March the Tube saw some 42 million more passenger journeys than the previous year, in addition the network also broke its record for the number of passengers carried over a four week period – topping 90.6 million in the four weeks leading up to

Christmas. Overall, London Underground has seen a rise in passenger numbers of 14 per cent in seven years and 40 per cent in 15 years.

The record ridership figures were announced as London Underground presses ahead with the biggest upgrade in the Tube's 148-year history, replacing signalling, trains and track and rebuilding key stations to increase capacity on the network by 30 per cent and give passengers quicker, more comfortable and more reliable journeys.

The upgrades of the Jubilee and Victoria lines are now nearing completion, and full upgrade works will start on the Northern line once work on the Jubilee line is complete. A preferred bidder has also been announced for the upgrade of the Metropolitan, District, Circle and Hammersmith & City lines. New walk-through air conditioned S-Stock trains are already being introduced to these 'Sub-Surface' lines, with the first new trains – which replace some of the UK's oldest serving rolling stock – currently running on the Metropolitan line.

London Buses trial new equipment to tackle air pollution

On 15 April, TfL announced the start of a trial that will see 18 buses retrofitted with specialist equipment to tackle NO_x air pollution. The trial will evaluate a number of the latest available technologies, to see which provides the best results before extending it to more buses in the fleet.

TfL has taken considerable steps in the last ten years to reduce the environmental impact of its bus fleet. All buses achieve Euro IV standard for particulate matter (PM) pollution and, as a result, emissions of particulate matter from the fleet have dropped from over 200 tonnes in 1997 to 14 tonnes in 2010.

My Air Quality Strategy proposes that, subject to Government support, by 2015 all buses in London will meet the Euro IV standard for NO_x. The majority of the 8,500 buses in the Capital's fleet should meet this but it is estimated that around 2,700 buses will need to be retrofitted or replaced in order to bring them in line with this standard.

London Underground offers new multi-year pay deal

On 14 April, London Underground made a multi-year pay offer to trade unions which would see staff get a four per cent pay rise in the first year followed by a rise of inflation plus 0.25 per cent in subsequent years.

The fair and affordable five-year offer was made to all trade unions at a meeting of London Underground's Company Council. In addition to the pay offer, LU has also committed to examining further issues raised by the unions, including working on statutory public holidays and the company's family-friendly policies which aim to make working for LU easier for parents and carers.

Going for Gold – TfL announce updated details of FORS membership

On 13 April, TfL announced that freight companies operating in the capital were being invited to apply for Gold standard membership of its Freight Operator Recognition scheme (FORS), which helps operators become safer, greener, more efficient and to save money.

More than 75,000 freight vehicles are currently registered with FORS and it is estimated that members managed to reduce their CO₂ emissions by a total of 70,000 kg last year. TfL has

now updated the criteria for membership of the scheme to allow operators to apply for Gold membership. To qualify, companies will have to demonstrate standards that will put them at the pinnacle of freight operations in the capital.

The three levels of membership - Bronze, Silver and Gold - allow freight operators to raise standards within their organisation through education and incentives. As well as passing an on-site assessment of their operation members can also benchmark their performance against comparable operators or the industry average. This allows operators to identify areas where improvement could be made, as well as chart the progress they are making to increase efficiency of their vehicles.

Tour of Britain cycle race to return to central London this September

On 21 April, TfL announced that the Tour of Britain, the UK's biggest professional cycle race, will return to the capital's streets this year on the final stage of the Tour.

On 18 September, 96 professional cyclists will race over two stages as the battle for the Tour of Britain reaches a climax in central London with an iconic finish on Whitehall.

In a change from recent years some of the world's top cyclists will take on the challenge of a 10 kilometre individual time trial in the morning before the Tour of Britain finishes with its traditional circuit race over a total of 80km on a 10km circuit.

This is the eighth time the Tour of Britain has come to the Capital. The world-class sporting spectacle has each year attracted Olympic, world, commonwealth champions and Tour de France stage winners to race in London.

The last time the race visited central London was in 2009, when over 150,000 spectators saw the final stage of the tour finishing on the streets of Westminster.

Biggest investment in London's transport in 80 years as TfL publishes its Business Plan

On March 30, TfL published its revised Business Plan confirming that thanks to record levels of investment, London's transport network will see massive growth in both the number of passengers it carries and the number of services it operates.

During the next four years the number of Tube services operated will increase by 10 million kilometres and an extra 112 million passengers will be carried - 1.25bn in total, while the London Overground network will see a 20 per cent increase in passengers.

The Plan also sets out an increased savings and efficiencies programme totalling £7.6bn to 2017/18, up from around £5bn, demonstrating the lead that TfL is taking across the public sector on delivering value for money. Despite an eight per cent reduction in TfL's overall spending power following last year's Government Spending Review, there will be an unprecedented upgrade of London's transport network, while front line services are protected now and in the future, as well as the capital's generous concessions including the 24 hour Freedom Pass.

Over the course of this Business Plan, which runs until 2014/15, TfL will deliver:

- The Jubilee line upgrade, providing a 33 per cent increase in capacity across the line with more trains and faster journeys;
- The Victoria line upgrade will see a 21 per cent increase in capacity with new trains and a 19 per cent improvement in journey times;
- The Northern line upgrade will see a 20 per cent increase in capacity across the line and an 18 per cent reduction in journey times;
- New trains on the Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan, District and Circle lines;
- Major progress on Crossrail, with tunnelling completed and station construction both above and below ground underway;
- Delivery of transport for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- 4,000 traffic signals reviewed to reduce delays on London's roads;
- The introduction of a lane rental scheme to cut unnecessary delays caused by roadworks, subject to support from the Government;
- The cable car crossing between North Greenwich and The Royal Docks;
- The eastward extension of Barclays Cycle Hire;
- The completion of all 12 Barclays Cycle Superhighways;
- The New Bus for London;
- The completion of the London Overground rail network, London's first orbital railway, and;
- The Source London electric vehicle charging network.

London's transport network will play a key role in delivering the 2012 Games and will deliver a lasting transport legacy for the Capital. All 2012 transport improvements are on track to be delivered well ahead of the Games including the Jubilee line upgrade, a 50 per cent increase in capacity on the DLR and an extension from Canning Town to Stratford, enhanced walking and cycling routes, major improvements at Stratford Regional station and step-free access at Green Park and Southfields stations.

New major signalling contract will mean improved Tube services

On 12 April, London Underground moved a step closer to awarding a major signalling contract for the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines (Sub Surface lines) by selecting Bombardier Transportation as the Preferred Bidder.

This contract signifies the start of the single biggest piece of work to upgrade the Tube. Coupled with a fleet of 191 new air-conditioned walk-through trains, already being rolled out on the Metropolitan line, when complete the new signalling system will mean customers can travel more quickly and frequently on all Sub Surface lines. The upgrade will deliver 65 per cent more capacity on the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines, 24 per cent more capacity on the District line and 27 per cent more capacity on the Metropolitan line.

London Underground has been working with and learning from other world metros, such as Madrid Metro, in order to develop innovative ways to upgrade the Tube in order to minimise disruption. As a result, this contract provides for no weekend closures simply for signalling installation and testing work. There will still be a need for weekend closures to upgrade track and platforms, however these will be contained in much smaller geographical areas and will not mean closures to full lines as has been experienced during previous upgrade work on other lines.

Oyster Extension Permits withdrawn

On 11 March, TfL announced that the Oyster Extension Permits are to be withdrawn following an agreement being reached with train companies.

These permits were introduced in January 2010 when Oyster was rolled out onto National Rail services. Customers found the permits confusing to use and following last year's Rail Summit, train companies undertook a review of the system and have agreed that the permits should no longer be required.

It was also agreed that TfL and train companies would continue to work together to enhance the experience of those travelling to and from the capital.

The measures agreed included:

- Introduction of a new comprehensive Rail and TfL Oyster map for London;
- Finalising of plans to extend Oyster pay as you go outside London;
- Evaluating the extension of contactless payment on National Rail services;
- Improving passenger information and finalising travel arrangements for the 2012 Games, and;
- Jointly seeking sustained and continued investment to improve transport in the capital, and meet the expected rise in demand in coming years.

TfL's undercover inspectors crack down on fare evasion

On 18 March, TfL issued a warning to fare dodgers in the capital that they are likely to be the target of a crackdown by undercover TfL ticket inspectors.

To tackle the problem TfL has been deploying plain clothes ticket inspectors to carry out an increased number of operations across the entire transport network. TfL has around 500 inspectors patrolling across all modes of transport in London who work closely with more than 2,500 TfL funded police and police community support officers. Anyone suspected of deliberately avoiding paying the correct fare may be prosecuted.

Last year fare evasion cost TfL almost £75m in lost revenue, including around £40m lost on London's buses and more than £20m on the Tube network.

Successful prosecutions for fare evaders on London buses stood at 99.8 per cent in 2010, so for those caught there is a high chance of ending up with a criminal record.

New Barclays Cycle Superhighways herald safer and easier cycling across the city

On 12 April, TfL announced the start of work on two new Barclays Cycle Superhighway routes, which will open in July 2011 making it easier and safer for cyclists to commute into central London on direct and continuous cycle routes.

As work takes place on the new routes, which will run from Bow to Aldgate (CS2) and Wandsworth to Westminster (CS8), TfL announced funding to help boroughs along the route develop cycling improvements. The five boroughs, City, Tower Hamlets, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and Wandsworth, can bid for a share in funds in order to provide:

- Cycle parking along the two new routes. This will be a mixture of on-street and residential parking which will be installed within 1.5km of the routes;
- Cycle training for residents to help to improve their cycle commuter skills and safety awareness, and;
- Cycle checks from the launch of the new highways until autumn 2011 to make sure people's bicycles are safe to ride.

Since the launch of the first two Barclays Cycle Superhighways last summer (July 2010) TfL has provided funding for 4,113 new cycle spaces along the routes, provided 4,206 hours of cycle training, and checked the safety of 4,143 bikes.

New gateway to the 2012 Games opens at Stratford Regional Station

On 21 March, TfL announced the opening of the new London Underground ticket hall and entrance at Stratford Regional Station.

Over £200m is being invested at Stratford Regional Station by the Olympic Delivery Authority and TfL. The steps leading up to the new mezzanine entrance were funded by Westfield. The new station facilities will provide an important legacy for the Capital and was delivered well ahead of the 2012 Games. The new entrance is part of a multi-billion investment in transport, and will make this part of East London one of the best connected areas of the Capital.

Around 120,000 people are expected to use Stratford Regional Station at peak times during the 2012 Games.

TfL announce shortlisted bidders for additional trams in Croydon

On 24 March, TfL announced the shortlisted bidders that will supply TfL with up to 10 more trams that will increase services on the Tramlink network.

The three bidders, City of Edinburgh/CAF, Stadler and Pesa have been invited to submit proposals to supply the additional trams which would increase the frequency of services on the busiest parts of the network between Therapia Lane, central Croydon and Elmers End.

The London Borough of Croydon has confirmed a £3m contribution in funding to the project which will also include the refurbishment of tram stop surrounds. If acceptable bids are received, the extra trams could be in service in just under a year's time.

Tube customers could be checking their emails at stations by the 2012 Games

On 25 March, TfL announced that following a successful trial of Wi-Fi technology at Charing Cross Tube station, London Underground had invited telecoms companies to tender for Wi-Fi provision at up to 120 stations across the network by June 2012.

A contract will be awarded by the end of 2011, which could mean that customers will be able to log on to the internet from their laptops or mobile devices at stations before the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The trial at Charing Cross Tube station, which began in November 2010 and will continue to run until later this year, has tested how the Wi-Fi service works and monitored customer reaction over several months. The trial, which was carried out with BT Openzone, was welcomed by passengers.

Royal Wedding Oyster card design unveiled

On 29 March, TfL unveiled the design of the limited edition Royal Wedding Oyster card. The design features a portrait of the couple and the wedding date of 29 April 2011 and will be on sale in the week leading up to the ceremony.

Around 750,000 Royal Wedding Oyster cards will be available while stocks last from all London Underground and London Overground stations and some National Rail ticket offices, as well as TfL Travel Information Centres. Regular commuters might want to collect the card as a souvenir, and for visitors to London during the celebrations the card will not only ensure they pay the cheapest fares for their journeys, it will also act as a reminder of their part in the Royal Wedding festivities.

More than 80 per cent of all public transport journeys in London are made using an Oyster card and it is the world's most popular travel smartcard, with more than 43 million cards issued since 2003.

London Underground announces plan for new District line timetable

On 29 March, London Underground announced that as part of work to improve the reliability of the District line a new timetable will be introduced in December 2011.

The timetable is designed to deal with the issues associated with bottlenecks in the Earl's Court area, one of the most complex junctions on the Tube network and the source of many of the delays that occur on the line.

London Underground proposes to remove weekday services to Kensington (Olympia), which carry less than one per cent of District line passengers. This will allow services to be re-routed on the Wimbledon branch, which sees nearly 30 per cent of District line traffic, by providing five extra trains during the morning peak, an increase of 12 per cent.

The Olympia service will still operate during the weekend, and special services are planned to serve major weekday events at the Olympia exhibition centre.

Ninety cleaner hybrid buses to hit London's streets

On 27 March, TfL announced that during 2011 an additional 90 new hybrid buses will be hitting the streets of London as part of my efforts to improve London's air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

The buses which pump out less particulate matter and nitrogen pollution than traditional diesel double deck buses are being deployed in some of central London's air quality hotspots (including Marylebone Road and Edgware Road) as part of efforts to improve the capital's air pollution.

The funding for the latest hybrid buses has come from the DfT's Green Bus Fund and it brings the total number of hybrid buses in TfL's fleet to over 200. The fund was set up to support the introduction of low carbon vehicles which will in turn have a positive effect on the environment. TfL was awarded £5m in 2009, and a further £8m in 2010.

Crossrail awards remaining tunnelling contracts

On 7 April, Crossrail announced its intention to award the remaining tunnel contracts for Europe's largest construction project. The two contracts for Thames Tunnel construction and Connaught Tunnel refurbishment are worth in the region of £225m and will deliver the construction of around 3km of twin-bored tunnel.

In total, around 21km of twin-bore tunnel will be constructed for Crossrail. Tunnelling activity will commence in late 2011 with the first tunnel boring machine starting out on its journey in spring 2012. The combined Crossrail tunnelling contracts are worth in the region of £1.5bn.

Over £2bn has been invested in Crossrail to-date with further contractual commitments being taken on every day. All the tunnelling contracts have now been let and work underway at all central London station sites. Further delivery contracts worth in the region of £1.5bn will be awarded during 2011 including main construction contracts for new Crossrail stations in central London.

Network Rail awards major Crossrail design contract

On 23 March, Network Rail announced the award of a contract covering the design of station improvements along the 25km north east section of the Crossrail route, covering Romford, Ilford, Goodmayes, Forest Gate, Harold Wood, Gidea Park, Chadwell Heath and Brentwood stations.

Platform extensions will allow longer, higher capacity trains to run and step-free access will be provided at the majority of the stations on the route. Other works will include infrastructure improvements, such as extra train stabling capacity and turnback facilities that will improve the reliability of passenger services.

When fully open, Crossrail will provide 12 trains per hour on the Great Eastern Main Line at peak times in each direction between central London and Shenfield.

Crossrail confirms shortlist for rolling stock and depot facilities

On 30 March, Crossrail confirmed the shortlist for the supplier of rolling stock and depot facilities. Around 60 new trains are required to serve the 37 stations along the route, bringing an additional 1.5 million people within a 45 minute commute of London's key business and leisure districts.

Each train will be around 200 metres in length and able to carry up to 1,500 passengers. It is envisaged that the contract for new Crossrail rolling stock and depot facilities will be let in late 2013.

Life sized mock-up of Crossrail below ground platform unveiled

On 16 March, Crossrail published the first images of the full size mock-up of a below ground Crossrail platform. Constructed at Leighton Buzzard, the mock-up has been built to help Crossrail understand how the designs for the new platforms will look and feel in real life and to decide whether any design modifications need to be made before main construction of the stations begins later this year.

The internal design of these stations is critical as they have been designed to last for the next century. It will also help Crossrail to make the right decisions concerning inclusive design features to improve services for Crossrail passengers with restricted mobility or those with visual and hearing impairments.

The mock-up is also being used to inform a number of other important design decisions, including platform signage to assist passengers entering and exiting trains, CCTV camera coverage and locations, lighting levels and platform acoustics. Having the mock up has already led the designers to consider locating the next train information displays above the platform edge doors to make them easier for passengers to read, rather than having to look along 250m platforms.

Congestion Charge Auto Pay account membership tops 100,000

On 21 March, TfL announced that more than 100,000 drivers have now signed up to the Congestion Charge Auto Pay System.

The Auto Pay (CC Auto Pay) system was launched on 4 January as part of a series of changes to the Congestion Charge, providing a simple, easy way for drivers to pay the Congestion Charge automatically with customers getting a £1 discount from the £10 daily charge at the same time.

Drivers registered with CC Auto Pay need never worry about being fined for forgetting to pay the charge again. They will only be charged for the days they travel within the zone and charges will be automatically deducted from their nominated debit or credit card.

Taxi and Private Hire Licence Fees Frozen

On 4 April, TfL announced that all taxi and private hire licence fees would be frozen with driver licensing fees being frozen for a second year running.

Taxi and Private Hire licence fees are reviewed annually and all funds generated are used to cover licensing and administrative costs. The taxi and private hire driver, operator and vehicle licence fees remain frozen at 2010/11 levels. However, there will be increases in both the Knowledge of London appearance and written test fees respectively.

These changes continue to reflect the cost of administering the Knowledge of London examination process including the back office administration activity, managing the written test and the knowledge appearances themselves.

TfL and motorcycle industry meet to discuss motorcycling in London

On 31 March, Transport for London and I brought together key motorcycle manufacturers and insurance companies to discuss how motorcycle safety can be improved across the capital in the first ever meeting of its kind to be held in the UK.

The meeting examined how motorcycle manufacturers, along with road safety experts from TfL and the Metropolitan Police's Motorcycle Tasking Team can help reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on the capital's roads.

Manufacturers, which included Ducati, Kawasaki, Triumph and Suzuki, agreed to look at how they could encourage more riders to sign up to BikeSafe-London Rider Skills Days when

purchasing a motorbike. BikeSafe-London provides riders with practical training as well hints and tips on how to stay safe whilst moving around the capital.

It was also announced that TfL is working on a motorcycle safety action plan, and will be engaging with manufacturers and stakeholders as it develops actions and proposals to improve road safety for motorcyclists. The action plan is due to be published later this year.

As well as discussing TfL's current plans for improving road safety in London, the meeting also looked at creating future partnerships between the manufacturers, insurance companies and TfL, which could help promote motorcycle road safety to a wider audience more effectively.

Updating of GLA Road Orders

I have approved updates to the Designation Variation and Special Parking Area (Amendment) Orders which have been agreed with the affected London Boroughs and in doing so to authorise the GLA's Executive Director of Development & Environment, to sign these variation and amendment Orders.

Economic and Business Policy

London Living Wage

On 2 May, I announced that the London Living Wage will increase by more than five per cent to £8.30 per hour. The rise of 45 pence on last year's figure - the biggest annual increase since the wage was introduced in 2005 - will help further reduce poverty levels in the capital.

The new figure means the London Living Wage has increased by almost a quarter since it was first introduced. The latest rise reflects the high level of RPI inflation, which has raised the cost of living and resulted in the need for the rate to increase to ensure recipients do not suffer a fall in real living standards.

More than 100 London-based employers have now signed up to the London Living Wage, a three-fold increase on the 27 who had committed to the policy when I was elected in 2008. Nearly all major banks in London and all the major law firms pay the London Living Wage, and across the GLA Group, more than 3,000 employees receive the wage.

Research carried out by Queen Mary University of London estimates that since its introduction in 2005, the London Living Wage has benefited almost 10,000 workers boosting their pay by an extra £60 million. Workers in the capital currently paid the living wage will see an extra £5.5 million in their pocket once the new rate is applied.

The new rate is outlined in the seventh annual London Living Wage report, A Fairer London: The 2011 Living Wage in London, which has been published today by GLA Economics. The report concludes an hourly wage rate of 22 per cent above the National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate is needed in London just to take the wage-earner above the poverty level. Around one in 10 workers in the capital currently receive less than the poverty threshold, and one in six receive less than the £8.30 London Living Wage.

£14 million safeguarded for 2012 skills and employment programmes

On 24 March, I announced that we have safeguarded funding to boost skills and employment opportunities for Londoners before, during and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

Following negotiation with the Government over the financial settlement for the London Development Agency, I have pledged to continue funding for vital schemes specifically set up to deliver an employment and skills legacy as a result of the Games.

£14 million will be channelled into three different projects over the next three years as part of a targeted approach to ensure that Londoners can find employment or to improve their job prospects through training or practical support.

£50m fund to boost regeneration

On 28 March, I announced a £50m fund to boost regeneration and rejuvenate town centres at the very heart of local London communities.

After months of tough negotiations with government, this key fund will revitalise projects or get new schemes off the ground at exactly the right time for communities concerned about the future.

This money will go a long way to support the establishment of local businesses districts, and the improvement of retail, leisure, culture and arts provision, all bringing vibrancy back into communities, providing more secure futures for those who live and work locally and above all improving the quality of life of many.

A major step forward to stimulate economic growth in London's vital network of London town centres, this fund will specifically target those boroughs which benefit less directly from the 2012 Games and Crossrail and will accelerate a pan-London economic recovery advancing job opportunities not just for a few but for many.

Royal Docks to become one of country's largest Enterprise Zones

On 23 March, the regeneration of London's historic Royal Docks came a step closer as 125 hectares of development land, adjacent to City Airport and with excellent transport connections, were given Enterprise Zone status, following successful negotiations with the Coalition Government.

Thousands of jobs are expected to be created by this status which will provide a significant boost to my plans to transform the Royal Docks into a brand new district to live, work and invest in.

New businesses locating there during the term of the current Parliament will benefit from reduced business rates for five years and, most importantly, the business rates collected from those newly established businesses in the zone will be retained by London's recently created Local Enterprise Partnership for the next 25 years. This will create an ongoing economic development fund which can be re-invested in promoting economic growth elsewhere in the capital or set against borrowings for investment.

Separately, I was invited by Haringey Council to enter into discussions to explore establishing a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) in the N17 area of the borough – one of London's most deprived neighbourhoods. This would be London's second MDC after the one proposed for the Olympic Park and would also be able to offer business rate incentives to new enterprises using powers being granted under the Localism Bill. Talks between Haringey leaders and the local business community are set to start immediately.

Together these initiatives will help create significant economic growth for two of London's key regeneration areas in the Upper and Lower Lea Valley.

Construction Sector Reception

On 14 March, I hosted a reception for CEOs of leading construction firms who are delivering Mayoral projects such as Crossrail, TfL and Olympic Delivery Agency programmes.

The reception highlighted the successful GLA pilot, which delivered initial construction training for suitably motivated and job-ready ex-offenders. The initial cohort of trainees had a pass and completion rate of 100% with participants gaining their CSCS cards which allow them to work on site, as well as entry level qualifications in a range of skills including Steel Fixing, Roofing, Kerbing and Block Paving. Trainees have started to progress into full-time employment with contractors who are working on the Crossrail and Olympic projects.

Developing partnerships with the construction sector to improve access to employment for ex-offenders supports our efforts to improve resettlement outcomes and reduce re-offending. The National Offender Management Service reports that progression to secure employment reduces the likelihood of further re-offending by 50%. The London Crime Reduction Board, which I chair, has highlighted reducing re-offending as a key workstream. By utilising the employment and training opportunities offered by the £15 billion investment in Crossrail and over £20 billion worth of investment in TfL track upgrades and station modernisation programmes, I am keen to ensure we develop effective partnerships to ensure that we reduce re-offending rates by identifying employment opportunities for ex offenders.

A bed in Feltham costs £54,000 pa. By diverting 200 young offenders away from further custody we are able to achieve a saving of £10 million for London.

London & Partners

On 1 April, I launched a new flagship agency that will showcase London to the world as the best city to visit, invest and study in.

With the global spotlight shining on the capital ahead of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the new agency - London & Partners - will bring together the current work of the capital's key promotional agencies – Visit London, Think London and Study London, which were previously responsible for attracting tourism, inward investment and international students.

London currently welcomes almost 25 million visitors, creates over 6,100 jobs through inward investment and attracts 105,000 international students every year. London & Partners will pool the extensive knowledge and expertise from the previous agencies under one roof and deliver a single strategy for the promotion of London with one voice and mission.

Promoting leisure and business tourism, foreign direct investment and business growth as well as attracting major events, conferences, meetings and overseas students is crucial, especially with the city gearing up for a series of global events including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the world's largest ever sporting event, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Working with both the private sector and specialist organisations, London & Partners will promote the capital both domestically and internationally. The new agency will continue to work closely with other London organisations such as Transport for London and Film London to highlight the capital's transport initiatives and the film and the production industries which attract both investment and leisure visitors.

Hotel and restaurant to create new jobs at Chequers Corner, Dagenham

In March the London Development Agency exchanged contracts with Premier Inn to build a hotel and restaurant at Chequers Corner in Dagenham.

The development, on a cleared site that formerly comprised of a run-down shopping parade, will create up to 80 new jobs in Dagenham with good career development and progression prospects.

The agreement follows the LDA's recent exchange of contracts for 35 acres of land at the nearby Beam Reach 5 site in Rainham to Tesco's property arm Spen Hill for the development of a new 500,000 sq ft regional distribution and processing facility.

GLA Economics Reports

In March, GLA Economics published, "Estimating the contribution of leisure day visitors to London's tourism industry" (<http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/estimating-contribution-leisure-day-visitors-londons-tourism-industry>) which, in the absence of timely, official tourism data, attempts to estimate the value of tourism day visitors to London's economy.

In April, GLA Economics published, "Visit London Economic Impact Evaluation: Preliminary findings from enhanced conversino research of a North American leisure marketing campaign". This paper estimates the economic impact of a leisure tourism marketing campaign conducted by Visit London in North America. This work should enable policy makers to better understand the economic returns they achieve from spend in this area. Moreover, lessons from this research should be applied to strands of promotional activity other than tourism marketing. This will improve the information available to policy makers in allocating public funds to and between different promotional activities on a robust and consistent basis.

Farewell to London Employer Accord

My Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the 'Farewell to London Employer Accord' in London's Living Room at City Hall on 15 March.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): Round 3 and 4

I have approved a package of seven projects recommended to proceed to contract negotiations to secure the ERDF. Total ERDF requested is £7.7 million.

101 Single Telephone Number

I have consented for a final payment from the GLA of £350,000 and a capital grant of £200,000 to TfL to pay for the 2010-11 costs of the 101 Single Telephone Number for London project.

Environment

EU Vice President asked to play a part in improving Capital's air quality

On 14 April, I met the European Commission Vice-President responsible for Transport, Siim Kallas. Mr Kallas was on a visit to London organised by TfL to be briefed on the urban transport challenges that major cities face. I emphasised how much was being done in London to combat the effects of transport on climate change and poor air quality and asked the Vice-President for greater efforts from the Commission, in particular concerning regulation of emissions from vehicle engines, brakes and tyres.

Energy efficiency programmes to create green-collar jobs confirmed

On 6 April, I confirmed the continuation of key energy efficiency programmes funded by the London Development Agency which will set the capital firmly on track to create green growth and new jobs in a low carbon economy.

As a result of the leverage of substantial levels of money from a range of sources (for example, the private sector, the London Green Fund and other European programmes), the London Development Agency's funding pot for climate change and environment programmes is at record levels with the prospect of more to come from these external sources. The emphasis on creating commercially viable, and therefore effective, programmes means less reliance on public funds and that a total pot of £116.5m is being spent on or in place for carbon reduction projects. Of this amount £16.5million is now confirmed as coming from the London Development Agency over the next financial year - this includes the LDA's allocation of money coming from the European Regional Development Fund and money committed from the European Commission.

Discount deals for van drivers ahead of pollution scheme changes

On 4 April, I announced that we have secured significant discounts off new vans and minibuses in an unprecedented package of financial deals for drivers set to be affected by changes to the capital's Low Emission Zone.

A range of major manufacturers have pledged offers to provide the owners of around 72,000 larger vans and minibuses, more affordable ways to buy new, cleaner vehicles, in order to avoid fines when changes to the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) come into effect in January 2012. These manufacturers are: Ashwoods, Citroën, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Peugeot and Volkswagen. 80 per cent of vehicles affected by LEZ for the first time in 2012 are vans and the deals in some cases amount to thousands of pounds off a new vehicle.

Green fund 'open for business'

On 21 March, I declared 'open for business' an innovative fund totaling at least £70 million which will finance low carbon waste and recycling infrastructure. This will help make London a

world leader in finding new ways to exploit the cash value of waste, using it to generate green energy whilst creating jobs and developing valuable exportable skills.

Addressing an influential audience of senior financiers at the London Stock Exchange, I announced that Foresight Group, a leading sustainable asset manager, will manage the waste and recycling fund on behalf of and as part of the London Green Fund. The Foresight Environmental Fund as it will be known, includes £35 million investment from the London Green Fund which Foresight has doubled with commitments for a further £35 million from local authority pension funds and a range of other investors; Foresight seeks to leverage in an overall total of £200 million from pension funds and other private sector investors. The London Green Fund is a trailblazing initiative – the first UK fund to combine European, public and private finance to invest in environmental infrastructure.

Fire stations, hospitals and universities in line for energy makeover following £2.7m cash boost

Hundreds of public buildings such as fire stations, hospitals and offices will be able to get an energy makeover and save cash off fuel bills following a £2.7 million boost for my RE:FIT climate change programme.

RE:FIT is my innovative scheme that helps public organisations to give their buildings an energy overhaul - this can include fitting of solar panels, insulation and smart meters. The cash boost follows a successful bid to the European Investment Bank's Elena (European Local Energy Assistance) fund for a grant of 2.8m Euros (approx £2.4m). I will also provide an additional 320,000 Euros (£270,000) for the programme. This funding will pay for a team to help hundreds more public buildings use the programme for an eco-overhaul. It is estimated the money could help organisations retrofit up to 600 buildings with energy efficiency measures.

£450,000 to plant trees and boost volunteering

Thousands more trees are set to be planted by more volunteers in the latest phase of my RE:LEAF programme.

On 22 March, the Forestry Commission confirmed that £200,000 will be available for grants of between £500 to £5000 to projects that work closely with London communities to plant more trees. The grants are specifically aimed at schools and community groups with a view to improving biodiversity and managing the capital's woodlands. Now in its third year, the grant scheme has previously funded projects such as a community orchard in Blondin Park in Ealing, tree-planting on Clapham Common and planting in schools across the five Olympic boroughs.

My Team London volunteering programme, launched earlier this month, is also now set to support tree related volunteer projects. Team London is seeking to fund the establishment of community volunteering programmes in order to significantly improve Londoners' chances to participate in new tree planting and the conservation of existing tree and woodlands. The total amount of funding available is £250,000. Bids are now being sought from voluntary and not-for-profit organisations for grants of between £100,000 and the full £250,000 to increase tree planting and volunteering on the ground by coordinating the establishment of more community-led projects such as tree nurseries, urban orchards and mass-tree planting events. It is hoped that these projects would be ready for Londoners to register interest by June 2011.

In addition, the fourth and final round of my existing street tree grant is now open to receive requests from boroughs and communities to plant the remaining 500 trees of the 10,000 target. 9,500 trees have already been planted in areas across London that are most in need of them. This has been funded from an existing £4million delivered from efficiency savings.

Love Clean London

On 10 March, I launched the London-wide version of Lewisham's scheme in Richmond. 'Love Clean London' works by allowing people to upload photographs onto an online map of environmental issues that require action by the local authority. A GPS signal enables participating boroughs to receive the report as an email to then action. An interactive map shows all the reports, updating on the progress taken.

The website shows environmental black-spots and also places where clean ups have taken place either by councils or volunteers.

Children and Young People

Team London – Improving Children's Literacy

My Team London volunteering programme will be offering £250,000 to fund a maximum of two projects to improve children's literacy in London, with a focus on under 5s and families who are most in need of support. The project(s) will use volunteers to engage parents and carers of young children to build their skills for improving their child's readiness for learning.

The deadline for applications closed on 26 April and we will be selecting the successful bidder(s) over the next few weeks.

Financing early intervention expert roundtable

On 6 April, my Advisor for Health and Youth Opportunities, Pam Chesters, chaired a roundtable on financing early intervention in London. Held in partnership with London Councils and Graham Allen MP, the roundtable brought together a group of leaders and experts from London boroughs, the police, health, social investors and the voluntary and community sector to critique and develop the latest findings of Graham Allen's Early Intervention Review.

Delegates explored the potential to attract private social investment to fund evidence-based early intervention programmes for children and young people in London.

The event identified a number of ways that the GLA and London Councils could progress this - including helping the voluntary sector to prepare for social investment and supporting boroughs and other partners interested in piloting a social investment model - and my Children and Young People's Unit are now taking this forward.

London Education Partnership Awards

This is the third year that I have been a sponsor of the London Education Partnership Awards, run by the Institute of Education.

The winner of the 'Building bridges' category in 2010-11 was IntoUniversity and on 28 March I hosted an event for the programme at City Hall. IntoUniversity is an education programme addressing low aspiration, social exclusion and underachievement among disadvantaged young people.

Its six centres across nine London boroughs provide study support and mentoring for young people. The mentoring involved being paired with undergraduates from the University of London who provide help with school work, social and inter-personal skills, and confidence-building. IntoUniversity provides 7-18 year olds with a blend of:

- after school academic support
- undergraduate mentors
- specially designed study weeks

They have helped more than 5000 young Londoners with the help of volunteer mentors from universities and corporate partners.

One of IntoUniversity's corporate partners commented at this celebration event that taking part in this work "shows our employees that we do care".

Near peer mentees do 'The Apprentice'

On 23 March, my Near Peer Mentoring pilot for children in care in three boroughs (Hackney, Islington and Kensington and Chelsea) held the culmination of their Apprentice-style project at City Hall.

The young people demonstrated team working, financial awareness and presentation skills with their pitch to the panel. These skills had been learnt throughout the project, with help from their mentors. They also presented a short TV style commercial about their new piece of confectionary. I was represented on the panel by two of City Hall's apprentices, Christian Fadoju and Harry Hazell, in the Children and Young People's Unit.

Childhood Obesity in London

In April, the GLA Intelligence Unit published, "Childhood Obesity in London" (<http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/childhood-obesity-london>). This paper, which supported the work of the London Assembly's Health and Public Services Committee, looked at the effectiveness of programmes in this area as well as an estimate of the costs of childhood obesity in London.

Transition funding relating to the ZSL London Zoo free school visit scheme

I have approved the variation of the GLA's funding agreement with ZSL so that it makes provision for a further final payment up to £59,000 to cover transitional arrangements to enable the school visits scheme to adjust and continue without GLA funding.

Academies Programme

I have directed the LDA to exercise the power in section 121(2) of the GLA Act 1999 to pay a £721,000 revenue grant to the GLA in respect of the Aylward and Nightingale Academies in the borough of Enfield, for delivery of my "Three Part Offer" which assists young people in finding employment and raises adults' and young people's employability skills.

Social Inclusion and Health

Calls for community spirited champions for each borough

On 24 March, I called for Londoners to volunteer as local champions for the Big Lunch. An annual one day event, the Big Lunch aims to be more than just a time for enjoyment and making friends, but also has the underlying purpose to help build a greater sense of community spirit.

The London Survey has found that six out of ten Londoners do not feel there is a strong sense of community in their local area and the number of people who trust their neighbours is decreasing. After taking part in the Big Lunch last year, 95 per cent of participants felt closer to their neighbours. I would like to establish as many champions as possible, who will assist my Street Party Ambassador Barbara Windsor in helping to promote a massive day of local participation across the city on 5 June.

Inclusive London

On 11 March, InclusiveLondon.com was launched - a new website designed to enable visitors to London with specific accessibility needs to plan and make the most of their stay in the capital

The user-friendly site, which will continue to run after the Games, allows people to post reviews and give feedback about the accessibility facilities offered by a place they have visited. Businesses are being encouraged to log on and sign-up to the site so they can register their details and advertise the accessible facilities they offer. The plan is for the site to become a first port of call for people who will be planning a trip to the capital in 2012 and beyond.

London Health Commission and London Health Improvement Board

I attended the reception which followed the final meeting of the London Health Commission (LHC). This was held to acknowledge the excellent and innovative work which it had carried out since its establishment in 2000. It was a pleasure to welcome past and present board members to City Hall and to thank Cllr Mary O'Connor the current chair for her leadership.

I was delighted to be able to advise those present that the Secretary of State for Health had recently written to me to confirm his support for the establishment of a London Health Improvement Board (LHIB) under my chairmanship and I look forward to picking up the baton laid down by the LHC in championing the tackling of health inequalities in London.

Mr Lansley has also agreed that the LHIB, although not technically a Health and Well Being Board (HWBB), should be considered to be a pathfinder alongside a number of other London HWBBs and therefore my Health Advisor has attended the inaugural meeting of the London pathfinders and will continue to ensure that the LHIB is represented in these discussions.

Event to support boroughs with Healthy Catering Commitments

My health team hosted an event on 15 April designed specifically for Environmental Health Officers and Borough Food Officers to skill them up to implement the Healthy Catering Commitments Scheme.

The Scheme was developed with The Chartered Institute for Environmental Health (CIEH), The Association for Local Environmental Health Managers and Borough Food Managers. The commitments are designed for a range of catering businesses, but principally small fast food outlets. Participating businesses will sign up to deliver eight commitments, four of which are essential. Examples of changes businesses could implement are not re-frying chips and changing cooking oils.

Borough Environmental Health Officers and Food Safety Officers will implement the scheme when they inspect a property. Participating businesses will receive a sticker and their names will be posted on the CIEH website.

Census campaign

On 25 March, I urged Londoners to return their completed Census forms or risk the Capital losing out on millions of pounds of funding for vital services.

2011 Census Information Scheme

The Intelligence Unit has succeeded in setting up a 2011 Census Information Scheme (CIS) between the GLA and the London Boroughs. Effectively a pan-London consortium, the CIS will deliver the highest quality, most relevant outputs from the 2011 Census for the capital - vital in meaningful service planning and grant allocation. Because the GLA leads the effort centrally, there are also large efficiency gains for every participating organisation.

The scheme required 22 boroughs to sign up to the project and the requisite number was achieved within three weeks of putting the proposal to the boroughs. It had previously been approved, unanimously, by the Chief Executives London Committee. Transport for London and LFEPA have also agreed to join the consortium. Other pan-London organisations may also be invited to join. The project will cost £1 million, all of which has been committed by the participants.

Volunteering Action Plan

I have agreed that the GLA should accept funding of £2m from the Reuben Foundation and enter into a funding agreement. I have approved the expenditure of funds associated with the launch of the Volunteering Action Plan.

I have also delegated power to the Executive Director – Communities and Intelligence to approve all elements of my volunteering action plan.

The London Health Inequalities Public Health Network

I have approved entry into a funding agreement with the Department of Health (London Regional Public Health Team) under which the GLA will be awarded £80,000 in grant funding for use in its commissioning of support on behalf of the London (NHS) health inequalities public health network.

I have approved the use of the grant funding noted above to commission a suitably qualified person(s) to undertake the role of health inequalities co-ordinator for the network for a period not exceeding six months from the date of the contract.

London Enriched: my Refugee and Migrant Integration Strategy

On 30 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, launched the implementation plan for the second year of delivery on my refugee and migrant integration strategy for London. Working in partnership with the UK Border Agency and other members of the London Strategic Migration Partnership, the plan outlines how in Year 2 we will move towards the integration core objectives on English language, housing, employment, health, community safety and cohesion, children and young people and community development. The priority for 2011/12 is to improve access to English Language courses and to get the transition right for newly recognised refugees.

Seminar for policy makers on barriers to employment for refugees

On 19 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a seminar for policy makers on barriers to employment for refugees, using the evidence from a GLA commissioned study by the Refugee Council and Community Links into the participation of refugees in the informal economy. The seminar reported the two main findings of the study: that a small proportion of the refugee population are working in the cash-in-hand or informal economy and that like non-refugee Londoners who work in the informal economy, the main reasons are poverty and barriers to accessing the formal labour market. The Deputy Mayor asked the representatives of Government departments to consider this evidence when developing employability and enterprise support programmes and the Universal Credit.

Civic Participation and Representation Roundtable

On 21 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a Civic Participation and Representation Roundtable at City Hall. There was a widespread attendance from civic organisations across the capital and from individuals representing London's diverse community. Participants identified obstacles to better civic participation in London and gave a commitment to work together on initiatives to overcome them.

National Equality in Procurement Trailblazers Group

On 8 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke at the National Equality In Procurement Trailblazers Group at City Hall.

The group is chaired by the Government Equalities Office and hosts a guest speaker at each meeting to talk about equality and procurement.

Sri Lankan New Year Celebration 2011

On 17 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations in Plaistow. Richard spoke briefly at the event and wished the assembled guests every good wish for the New Year.

Celebrating 10 Years of the Afghan Council UK and the Afghan New Year

On 28 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended a celebration of 10 years of the Afghan Council UK and the Afghan New Year at the House of Commons.

Richard spoke at the event and also presented certificates to Afghan women studying in London.

The Big Response

On 25 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke at the Evelyn Oldfield Unit's 'The Big Response' in Islington.

The unit arranged the discussion day to discuss 'The Big Society' and its impact on voluntary sector groups. The conference brought together trustees, funders, policy makers, staff and volunteers from mainstream and migrant organisations across London. Richard took questions from the invited audience after his speech.

Somali Youth Development Resource Centre's 10th Anniversary and Educational Achievement Award

On 16 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Somali Youth Development Resource Centre's 10th Anniversary and Achievement Award at the London Irish Centre in Camden Square.

Belize Mayoral Delegation

On 21 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a delegation of mayors from cities and towns in Belize at City Hall. The delegation met with Richard to discuss the organisation of governance in London and also had a tour of City Hall.

Commemoration Ceremony of Volunteers from India, Africa and the Caribbean in the two World Wars

On 14 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and took part in the Commemoration Ceremony of Volunteers from India, Africa and the Caribbean in the two World Wars at the Memorial Gates, Constitution Hill, Green Park. Some 5 million volunteers from Commonwealth countries took part in active service in both World Wars and the ceremony marked their lives and sacrifice. Richard laid a wreath at the site on behalf of the Mayor and the GLA.

Roundtable – Preparing For an Ageing Population

On 15 March, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and took part in IPPR's roundtable on an ageing population at the Guildhall.

Richard spoke on the challenges facing the capital's ageing population and then took questions from the audience as part of a roundtable discussion. The audience consisted of senior civil servants, policymakers, academic researchers, advocacy groups and representatives from London boroughs.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Legacy and Sport

'One stop shop' for 2012 sports legacy scheme

On 3 May, I launched a 'one stop shop' initiative that aims to transform hundreds of sports groups, ensuring they are thriving for years after the 2012 Games.

London is home to many excellent local sports schemes, but some face closure due to a number of issues from financial hardship to problems with securing venues and increasing capacity. Sport for Social Change Network (SSCN) is a global initiative that I have introduced to London to boost the Olympic and Paralympics legacy by working in partnership with hundreds of local sports groups to equip them with everything they need to run successfully for years after the 2012 Games.

Everyone from pensioners to teenagers and expectant mums will benefit from SSCN London. Over the last few weeks it has started supporting groups providing exercise classes to isolated older people on council estates, targeting gangs with sports and employment programmes and helping football teams for kids with special needs.

I visited the headquarters of the new Sutton SSCN at the Life Centre today, accompanied by Olympic hopeful and British Women's 100 metres record holder, Montell Douglas and Olympic swimming medallist Steve Parry. The SSCN is delivered in partnership with the GLA, Nike, Active Communities Network, and the Community Action Zone.

London 2012 countdown clock and tickets

On 15 March, as the 500 day countdown to the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games began, LOCOG, OMEGA and I unveiled the Countdown Clock in Trafalgar Square. The 15 March also marked the worldwide release of tickets for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

South London to reap 2012 dividend

On 5 April, I confirmed that Team Brazil has chosen the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre as its training headquarters before and during next summer's London Games.

Carlos Nuzman, President of both the Rio 2016 Organising Committee and the Brazilian Olympic Committee, and Crystal Palace operators GLL Sport Foundation, have signed an agreement for an estimated 200 Team Brazil competitors and officials to use the Sports Centre's facilities for their training and competition preparations.

The presence of Team Brazil in Crystal Palace during the London Games will give a significant boost to the wider local economy spreading the benefits of staging the Games to another corner of London.

Gubernator backs my plan to boost sports participation

The 38th Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, threw his weight behind my plan to boost sports participation in London on the day I announced a further £2 million of funding for community sports projects around the capital.

My Sports Participation Fund is specifically aimed at helping community projects that aim to increase participation in sport, or use sport to tackle social issues. This is the second round for the fund, which last year provided £2.3 million for 18 projects across London. Winning projects will be awarded between £50,000 and £250,000.

21st century technology employed to showcase London to the world during 2012 Games

On 1 April, I assembled a top team of experts to help the world's media tell London's story during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Event management firms, including broadcast and telecommunications specialists, will build and deliver the world-class press and broadcasting facilities in the London Media Centre at one Great George Street. This has been established to ensure that media coming to London for the 2012 Games can cover everything that is happening in the capital and showcase unique stories from the Host City to their audiences. London is expecting to welcome up to 25,000 journalists during Games time.

Global producers of world class entertainment and live broadcasting, North One Television, and Flint London have been appointed as the broadcast and digital services production partners both at the London Media Centre and at iconic filming locations around the capital. Event telecommunications networking specialists Etherlive and Easynet will be responsible for ensuring continuous transmission of hundreds of thousands of hours of video content and voice calls. They will also establish internet and intranet connections throughout the centre, and to and from the key broadcasting positions across the capital.

International event management specialists, Rushmans, will be responsible for the operation and smooth running of the London Media Centre, integrating all the broadcast and telecommunications services. They will also handle the accreditation of media using the media centre and manage all their daily requirements.

It is my aim that London's media operation in 2012 will set a new benchmark for broadcasting major events and activities in today's multimedia world. As well as providing these unique facilities, my new international promotion agency, London & Partners, and I will be providing news content and story angles for the media.

Special Olympics Greater London Regional Indoor Athletics Event

On 3 April, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Special Olympics Greater London Regional Indoor Athletics Event at the Lee Valley Leisure Complex in Edmonton. Richard watched some of the races taking place before presenting some of the winners with medals.

SportAccord Convention 2011

London hosted the 9th annual SportAccord Convention which took place from the 3 – 7 April 2011. The event brought together 1500 of the top officials in world sport including the International Olympic Committee as well as media, sponsors and other commercial businesses in the global sporting industry.

The 2 day conference included, key AGM meetings for many of the key sporting bodies, a social programme and uniquely for 2011 the presentations for the bidding cities hoping to host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

I attended and addressed the audience at the Opening Ceremony at the Indigo2 alongside the President of the IOC Jacques Rogge, President of the IPC Sir Philip Craven, President of SportAccord Hein Verbruggen as well as sponsors Greenwich Council and AEG. The evening

entertainment programme featured West end shows Mamma Mia, Chicago and We Will Rock You, and music performances from Jocelyn Brown and The Overtones.

“London House”

I have approved the competitive procurement of a contract to deliver the concept of “London House”, including raising of sponsorship to cover the cost of my planned hospitality for dignitaries during the Olympic Games 2012.

I have agreed the subsequent award of contract to the bidder submitting the most economically advantageous proposal (work to be completed by September 2011). As well as delegating to the Director of External Affairs authority to approve entry into sponsorship arrangements relating to and such other contracts required for the project.

London 2012 – Procurement and funding for the Southbank Accessibility Improvements Project

I have approved the procurement of consultants to take forward the design and consents work.

I have delegated to the Director of London 2012 Coordination, the authority to exercise any function of the ‘Improvements to the Southbank’ project. This delegation is subject to the following conditions:

- All decisions that would in the course of normal GLA operations and in light of this delegation have been made by a Mayoral Decision form, must instead be made by an Director’s Decision form (DD) signed by the Director of London 2012; and
- Any decision which concerns issues of significance in policy terms, or which is novel or contentious, must be referred to the Mayor for a decision via an MD.

I have approved the overall Southbank Accessibility project budget of £4m to be funded from the Public Sector Funding Package for the Games using the GLA Olympic precept.

2010-11 ODA Grant Payment

I have approved grant payment of up to £16.6 million and signed a supplemental deed setting out the terms of the grant from the Greater London Authority to the Olympic Delivery Authority for 2010-11, to part fund the ODA’s investment in regeneration, infrastructure and facilities required for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Olympic Art and Design Initiative reprofiling

I have directed the LDA to pay a capital grant of £1m to the GLA in 2010-11 under section 120(2) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

2012 Games: City LOOK & FEEL transport scoping and concept work

I have awarded a contract to Jack Morton Worldwide for £106,773.60 to scope in LOOK & FEEL programme across London’s transport network in accordance with the attached brief. I have established a budget of £125,000 for the LOOK & FEEL transport network consultancy to be funded from the council tax precept for the Games.

Government Relations

Lunch with Borough Leaders

On 18 March, I had an informal lunch with the Leaders of Redbridge, Bromley, Bexley, Croydon, Southwark and Waltham Forest and discussed a range of issues.

Meeting with Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, City of London

On 1 April, I met with Stuart Fraser, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, City of London. We discussed financial services; lane rental; air quality; Potter's Field access; Thames River Park and disabled parking.

Meeting with Chair of LFEPA

On 6 April, I met with Brian Coleman AM, Chair of LFEPA. We discussed AssetCo; industrial relations; FiRecontrol; 7/7 inquest and the London Fire museum.

Housing

Help to get more Londoners on to property ladder

On 11 April, I announced a new First Steps website which will provide a one stop shop for Londoners to find homes under my First Steps programme. The website will offer a range of low cost home ownership opportunities, making it easier to search and apply for affordable homes and, crucially, containing an affordability calculator to help people work out the monthly cost of renting or buying

I also revealed that we are over three quarters of the way to delivering 50,000 affordable homes for Londoners by 2012.

Against the backdrop of an expensive London housing market, we have continuously explored new ways to help Londoners on to the home ownership ladder. I want specifically to help workers and their families on low incomes, who are essential to the capital's economic growth, to overcome one of the main challenges with the cost of living in the capital.

Culture and Events

Lighting make-over for Tower Bridge

On 21 April, I announced a deal between City Hall, City of London Corporation, EDF and GE to install a state-of-the-art energy-efficient lighting system on Tower Bridge. As well as helping to cut carbon and reduce energy costs, the project will enhance this global icon's architectural features at night.

Currently Tower Bridge has traditional, static flood-lighting which can flatten the architecture. The new LED lighting system will be flexible, allowing for both varying colours and intensity of light, and it will reduce the energy consumption of the existing lighting system by an estimated 40 per cent.

The project must now obtain the necessary planning permissions but if successful, work could start by September and be completed by spring 2012, in time for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Commercial agreements have now been signed between all relevant parties and a detailed planning application is being drawn-up.

London voted event capital of the world

On 6 April, at the SportAccord Convention, the world's largest sports conference, I revealed that London has been named the number one city in the world for hosting major events,

I announced the results of a new survey of global business in which 70 per cent voted it top city for delivering excellent investment returns and said they were keen to partner with London to create new annual, signature sports events in the city in the future.

The survey was commissioned by London & Partners, the capital's new promotional agency, and over 100 global industry leaders in the events business were contacted. The results put London ahead of international rivals Sydney and New York, when it comes to investment returns on major events.

The global leaders also voted London as the best city for generating the highest media profile for a major event, ahead of New York. Over 80 per cent said London's attractiveness was due to the presence and strength of the city's global commercial and brand partners.

Royal Wedding screened live at iconic London locations

On 29 April, Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square hosted free live screenings of Prince William and Kate Middleton's special day. The broadcasts were jointly organised by the Department for Media, Culture & Sport, The Royal Parks and the GLA.

I also took to the stage in Trafalgar Square to propose a toast and unveil the capital's gift to the Royal Couple - a specially commissioned tandem bicycle based on London's iconic Barclays Cycle Hire scheme.

St George's Day

On 23 April, I supported a free concert on Trafalgar Square to mark the occasion of St George's Day.

For the second year the event was staged to incorporate the finale of my Rhythm of London week, the London-wide initiative to promote music education for young people.

The concert featured a varied programme with performances by young musicians from London schools and colleges, winners of my Busking Underground competition and a specially finale celebrating popular musical theatre. This section of the show featured an orchestra with top West End players and singers, plus special guest star Alfie Boe.

My Statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes attended the event on my behalf and addressed the audience in Trafalgar Square.

Rhythm of London Week (16-23 April)

On 28 March, I announced my Rhythm of London Week alongside Busking Underground champion and platinum selling musician Newton Faulkner.

A key part of my Music Education Strategy, Rhythm of London Week shone a spotlight on the capital's incredible young musical talent. It included the semi-final of my Busking Underground Competition with musicians aged between 16 and 25 playing live to travellers and passers by at seven London Underground busking sites, as well at the British Music Experience at the O2.

For young people wanting to work in the music industry I hosted an Access All Areas music seminar at City Hall on 17 April with special guests including chart topping recording artist Chipmunk; hip hop MCs Roll Deep and SWAY; vocalist and editor-in-chief of SuperSuper magazine, Namalee Bolle; conductor and orchestrator, Stephen Hussey; singer-songwriter and violinist, Eska; and BBC Radio1 DJ, Charlie Sloth. The following day saw a free lunchtime concert in The Scoop featuring Bexley Music Service's Little Big Band and Hounslow Music Service's young Brass Quintet.

The week culminated with the St George's Day Concert in Trafalgar Square featuring young musicians from across the capital including the youngest band to play Glastonbury The Theory of 6 Degrees, previous Busking Underground winners, Newton Faulkner plus West End stars and Top 10 recording artist Alfie Boe.

Fourth Plinth Schools Award

On 4 April, Yinka Shonibare MBE, the creator of the current Fourth Plinth artwork, announced the winners of my Fourth Plinth Schools Awards at a ceremony in the Chamber at City Hall. The competition brought in submissions from over 500 primary and secondary school-children across the capital. The winner was 'ECO London' by Dinesh from Newham. See this and the other winning art-works [here](#).

The Culture Diary

My 2012 Culture Diary closed for new registrations on 31 March. There has been a fantastic response with 4017 events registered and 3,567 individual users. It remains accessible to continue updating events already entered. This information will shape the marketing and promotional campaign for 2012 and prove an invaluable resource for city wide infrastructure planning.

St Patrick's Day

On 13 March, I supported a free festival and parade to mark the occasion of St Patrick's Day.

The parade through central London, was the largest ever, with marching bands, carnival groups, community groups and floats – from Ireland and the UK, and representation from several schools across London.

The parade was led by a small group of VIP's including Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Eugene Forde, Economic Attache, Irish Embassy and the statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes, who attended the event on my behalf and addressed the audience in Trafalgar Square.

The event in Trafalgar Square included a stage, which showcased traditional and modern Irish music and dance, and an area for key community groups and sponsors.

I was delighted to once again support this event, which showcases annually the contribution of the Irish community to our city and promote Irish culture so prominently. My Statutory Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes attended the event on my behalf.

Thames to host Diamond Jubilee 2012

In June, the River Thames will provide the backdrop for the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant – the largest flotilla to be assembled on the river in modern times – as the public are invited to take part in one of the major celebrations of Her Majesty's sixty year reign.

The Diamond Jubilee River Pageant will be a piece of theatre on the water and will integrate music, fireworks and special effects. The flotilla will be made up of five sections each separated by a 'herald barge' the first of which will be a floating belfry of eight new bells cast by the Whitechapel Bell foundry and commissioned by the church of St James Garlickhythe. Their peals will be answered and echoed by chimes from riverbank churches along the route. Other barges will feature water jets and sprays reminiscent of the old Thames fire-fighting boats, live entertainment and music from the six decades of The Queen's reign, and a pyrotechnic barge will provide further entertainment for the watching public, with daytime fireworks and a mechanical flame spitting dragon.

The water-borne parade will include representatives from the Armed Forces, fire, police and rescue, as well as passenger boats carrying up to 30,000 people as part of the flotilla itself. Roads, piers, and bridges will be closed to traffic to allow the public to enjoy this unique spectacle from as many vantage points as possible. Along the route there will be up to fifty giant video screens. The pageant site is expected to stretch from Putney Bridge in the West, to Tower Bridge and onwards to Canary Wharf in the East.

Fears about impact of visa points system on arts sector

Arts organisations in the capital want the points-based visa system changed to ensure the capital maintains its position as one of the world's greatest cities for arts and culture. Since being introduced by the Home Office in 2008, concern has been growing about the impact the system is having on the sector, with evidence of artists and performers from outside the European Union being refused entry, with events and programmes also having to be changed or even cancelled.

A new survey, commissioned by the GLA, has shown that 82% of arts organisations believe that the points-based visa system has resulted in increased administration and bureaucracy. 64% say that it has generated increased costs and has led to lost revenue for 63% of those who have had to cancel or change events at short notice, due to artists not being granted visas in time.

Museum of London

I have given approval for the Museum of London to enter into a new lease of the quayside at West India Quay outside the Museum of London Docklands for a term of 10 years from 1 April 2011.

GLA Organisation

LDA Settlement

On 16 March, after months of hard negotiations, the GLA was able to confirm the LDA's financial settlement from Government for the next three years.

The LDA will receive a total of £388m, spread over the forthcoming financial years to 2013-14, allowing key commitments to continue in the areas of youth opportunities, skills and employment and the green economy, all in addition to the 2012 Games and revolutionising London's transport network.

Approval of Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2011-12 for the GLA

I have approved:

- The 2011-12 Treasury Management Strategy;
- The Treasury Management Policy Statement;
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
- The Prudential and Treasury Indicators;
- The Specified and Non Specified Investments

for the GLA, including the borrowing strategy to support the authority's £4.1 billion contribution the Crossrail project which is financed through the Business Rate Supplement.

GLA Group Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2011-12 to 2013-14

I have agreed the Authorised borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2011-12 to 2013-14 for the GLA and for each functional body.

MPA and LFEPA Borrowing Limits for 2010-11

I have agreed the following changes to the Metropolitan Police Authority and London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's borrowing limits for 2010-11:

MPA

Authorised limit for 2010-11 to be increased by £6.3m to £436.7m

Operational boundary for 2010-11 to be increased by £6.3m to £421.6m

LFEPA

Authorised limit for 2010-11 to be increased by £20m to £225m

Operational boundary for 2010-11 to be increased by £20m to £220m

Transport for London's Borrowing Limits for 2010-11

I have agreed the following changes to the Transport for London's existing approved borrowing limits for 2010-11:

Authorised limit for 2010-11 to be increased by £1,535.0 to £7,221.4m

Operational boundary for 2010-11 to be increased by £1,535.0m to £7,021.4m

Treasury Management 2009/10 Out-Turn and 2010/11 Mid-Year Report

I have noted the performance of the Treasury Management function throughout 2009/10 and to 30 September 2010. I have also noted the progress of the GLA's financing arrangements for Crossrail and the management and collection of the Crossrail Business Rates Supplement (BRS).

GLA budget and strategic plan deliverables 2011-12

In March, I agreed the detailed GLA budget allocation and the GLA strategic plan deliverables for the new financial year.

Recent audit reports

I have agreed the 2011-12 Internal Audit Plan, noted the recent internal audit reports and noted the External Audit's Audit Plan for 2010-11.

Appointments

New Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor

Edward Lister is the long-standing Leader of Wandsworth Council. He will bring experience and wisdom to my team and expertise in the crucial areas of planning and development.

Having lived in Wandsworth most of his life, Councillor Lister was first elected to the council in 1976 and has been Leader since 1992. Under his leadership, Wandsworth has combined a four star Audit Commission rating for excellence with the country's lowest council tax bills and top satisfaction ratings from its residents. He campaigns on environmental, quality of life and transport issues and played a lead role in forming the all-party alliance in south west London that defeated plans to expand Heathrow. He was also a member of the Forensic Audit Team appointed following my election in 2008.

He will manage the GLA's budgets, relations with the boroughs and ensuring City Hall continues to deliver my priorities.

Changes to the Mayoral team

On 19 April, I announced a number of changes to strengthen my top team.

Isabel Dedring is to become Deputy Mayor for Transport, to ensure that the unprecedented investment in the network we have secured delivers a better and more reliable service for Londoners. Daniel Moylan will increase his time commitment as Deputy Chairman of Transport for London from two to four days a week, supporting Isabel in this task and working on the delivery of my key projects.

Kulveer Ranger has been rewarded for his successful delivery of the cycle hire scheme, increased Oysterisation of the transport network and the promotion of river transport, by being promoted to Director of Environment. He will have the task of delivering a cleaner, healthier London and long-term improvements in quality of life. He will also take charge of my digital agenda, to ensure Londoners get the full benefits of the Internet and new technology.

Sir Peter Rogers will be joining the team to lead on Regeneration, Growth and Enterprise, including Enterprise Zones, as soon as he is able to stand down from his current position as Chief Executive of the London Development Agency.

Anthony Browne will be leaving City Hall to join my campaign team, with the task of developing policy for the next Mayoral contest.

Street Party Ambassador

On 9 March, I announced the appointment of Barbara Windsor as my Street Party Ambassador. I have also written to borough leaders across the capital, urging them to help eradicate unnecessary bureaucracy and costs, so that communities can feel more confident in hosting street parties and fetes.

Appointment of GLA Head of Paid Service

I have approved (noting that it is a joint decision with Assembly) the appointment of Jeff Jacobs, Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence as the Authority's Head of Paid Service.

I have approved the appointment of John Bennett, Head of Special Projects and Elections, as the Greater London Returning Officer.

Appointment of GLA Monitoring Officer

Noting that it is a joint decision with the Assembly, I have approved the appointment of Ed Williams, Head of Committee and Member Services, as the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

Referendum on the Parliamentary Voting System

I have noted the appointment of the Greater London Returning Officer as deputy to the Regional Counting Officer for London for the referendum on the Parliamentary voting system on 5 May 2011.

Planning and Development Control

Inspectorate confirms Draft London Plan is 'sound'

On 3 May, I published the Inspectorate's Examination in Public (EIP) Report into the draft London Plan, which carefully looked at each of my proposed policies for the future development of the capital.

At the same time, I sent a draft of my new London Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Subject to Ministerial approval, the final Plan, which will be more focused than the current version, will be published in the summer.

The EIP Panel Report can be viewed online at: www.london.gov.uk/london-plan-eip.

White City plans will deliver thousands of homes, jobs and better public places

On 8 April, I published for consultation ambitious plans to redevelop the White City area of west London to help deliver 4,500 new homes, and up to 10,000 jobs.

Over the next 15 to 20 years the White City Opportunity Area, which includes areas of under-used land on the eastern edge of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham near the Westfield shopping centre will be regenerated into new communities with new green and open spaces.

Working in close partnership with the Borough, I want to deliver thousands of affordable homes, as well as a vastly enhanced public realm. I also want to see new community and leisure facilities, with improved connections for pedestrians and cyclists across the area, to and from Kensington & Chelsea, Shepherd's Bush Town Centre, and Wormwood Scrubs.

Building on the presence of key organisations such as the BBC, Imperial College and Hammersmith Hospital, the aim is also to encourage economic growth by developing the area into a world leading hub for the creative, media and bio-tech industries which will create the new jobs.

Details of the plans for White City are published in the White City Opportunity Area Planning Framework, which proposes a raft of measures to encourage social, economic and environmental regeneration of the area.

Royals Business Park hotel to be ready for 2012

On 20 May, planning permission was granted to build a new five-storey 131-room Travelodge hotel on the LDA's Royals Business Park before the start of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The vision for the Royal Docks includes making its waterfront into a hub of activity once more – a thriving destination for Londoners and visitors alike. This new hotel, close to Excel and its International Conference Centre, will help bring more people and more jobs to the area.

The scheme is part of the emerging Royal Docks Masterplan. The planning permission is subject to conditions and the completion of a section 106 legal agreement.

London River Park

Following its success at the London Planning Awards, I have had a number of meetings to discuss the London River Park.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Surbiton Hospital Site, RB Kingston

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

Hammersmith Palais, LB Hammersmith & Fulham

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

Creative Industries Quarter, LB Barking & Dagenham

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

Former Oldchurch Hospital site, LB Havering

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

Site We8 (The Pumping Station), LB Newham

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

Land adjacent Walthamstow Central Station, LB Waltham Forest

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

Capital House, 40-46 Weston Street, LB Southwark

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

One Tower Bridge, Land adjacent to Lambeth College & Potters Field, LB Southwark

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

NCP Car Park, LB Hammersmith & Fulham

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

Bow Enterprise Park, 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.

231-241 Blackfriars, LB Southwark

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

Tileman House, 131-133 Upper Richmond, 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.

Leamouth Peninsula North, 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.

226-244 High Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge

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

Tropical Zoo, Hatton Cemetery, LB Hounslow

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

Delegated Stage II decisions

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

East Thames Cable Car Development, LTGDC

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Twickenham Railway Station, LB Richmond
- Stockwell Street, LB Greenwich
- Surrey Canal Triangle, LB Lewisham
- 39 Ilford Hill, LB Redbridge
- Wandle Park, LB Croydon
- Orchard Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets
- Saatchi Block, 80 Charlotte Street & 65 Whitfield Street, LB Camden
- 18-20 Hanover Square, City of Westminster
- 100 West Cromwell Road, RB Kensington & Chelsea
- Greenwich Industrial Estate, LB Greenwich
- St Alphage House, City of London
- Fulham Reach, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
- Thurston Road Industrial Estate, LB Lewisham
- Battersea Reach, LB Wandsworth

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

The Deputy Mayor has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- 84-88 Upper Richmond Road, LB Wandsworth

Development Plans

I have written to the following Councils giving a response to their development plan consultations:

- Newham Core Strategy, Statement of General Conformity, LB Newham
- Newham Local Development Scheme, LB Newham
- West London Waste DPD
- City of London Local Development Scheme, City of London
- Hillingdon Core Strategy, Pre-submission, LB Hillingdon
- Hounslow Revised Local Development Scheme, LB Hounslow

- Hammersmith & Fulham Core Strategy – Further Representations, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
- Sutton Site Development Policies DPD (Additional Sutton Town Centre and Updated Climate Change Policies and Proposals), LB Sutton
- Haringey Core Strategy, LB Haringey
- Lewisham Town Centre Area Action Plan - Further Options

Development Plans (Delegated to Deputy Mayor)

The Deputy Mayor has written to the following Councils giving a response to their development plan consultations:

- Kingston Core Strategy, Pre-submission, RB Kingston-Upon-Thames

Stopping Up Orders

- Stopping Up Order of the pavement area, Halbutt Street, LB Barking & Dagenham

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Westminster Development Management Plan DPD, Options Consultation, City of Westminster
- East London Waste Authority, Examination Notification
- Sutton Revised Statement of General Conformity, LB Sutton
- Wedge House, LB Southwark
- Stag Brewery SPD, LB Richmond
- Hollyhedge House, LB Lewisham
- Application 3: Seagrave Road, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
- Application 2: Earl's Court, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
- Application 1: Earl's Court, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
- Rowley Lane Sports Ground, LB Barnet
- Erith Western Gateway Development Framework, LB Bexley
- Land West of Fairview Industrial Park, LB Havering (Stage 1)

Key Engagements

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

- I visited Richmond on 10 March to promote Love Clean London, a new online and mobile reporting tool to help Londoners report environmental crimes.
- I visited the newly re-developed Jubilee Gardens in Richmond on 10 March
- I met with Andrea Goss, Chief Executive of Siemens on 10 March to discuss the Siemens Pavilion.
- I hosted the second summit with the Train Operating Companies (TOCs) serving the Greater London area on 10 March

- I met with Channel 4 on 11 March to discuss the Paralympic Games
- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 11 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 11 March
- I hosted a Reception on 14 March to encourage employers in the construction industry to give work placement and training opportunities to former young offenders
- I met with the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State DCLG, Greg Clark MP, Minister of State DCLG, John Penrose MP, Minister for Tourism and Heritage, DCMS, and borough leaders on 14 March to discuss devolution of the Royal Parks
- I met with Baroness Margaret Ford and Andrew Altman, Olympic Park Legacy Company, on 14 March to discuss Olympic matters
- I attended the launch of the 500 Day Olympic Clock on 14 March at Trafalgar Square
- I attended the launch of the Olympic Ticketing arrangements on 15 March
- I had my regular meeting with Helen Alexander, Chairman of the Port of London Authority, on 15 March
- I chaired the London Crime & Reduction Board on 15 March
- I attended People's Question Time in Battersea on 15 March
- I met with my Design Advisory Panel on 16 March
- I took part in a photo op to promote the Soldier Challenge on 16 March
- I met with the London Business Advisory Council on 16 March
- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 16 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 16 March
- I attended the Safer London Foundation Kickz Programme dinner on 16 March
- I launched the Safer Parks Awards on 17 March on a visit to Montefiore Gardens in Battersea
- I chaired the Promote London Council on 17 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 17 March
- I had my regular meeting with Ruth Carnall, NHS London, on 18 March
- I hosted a lunch for a group of Borough Leaders on 18 March
- I met with Paul Deighton, LOCOG, on 18 March to discuss preparations for the London 2012 Olympic Games
- I attended an event for the FTSE Environmental Opportunities UK indices and the launch of the London Green Fund's first investment fund on 21 March
- I met with representatives of Peugeot Citroen on 21 March to discuss electric vehicles
- I had my regular meeting with Harvey McGrath and Sir Peter Rogers, LDA, on 21 March
- I hosted a community reception for the Assembly Constituencies of Greenwich & Lewisham on 21 March
- I accompanied HRH The Duchess of Cornwall on a visit to the new East London Rape Crisis Centre in Redbridge on 22 March
- I chaired the Olympic Board meeting on 22 March
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 23 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 23 March
- I attended a Big Lunch Event with Barbara Windsor in New Addington, Croydon, on 24 March
- I marked in Croydon on 24 March the announcement of a shortlist of bidders to supply up to ten trams to increase capacity on the London Tramlink to reduce congestion on the Elmers End to Central Croydon route.

- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 24 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 24 March
- I met with AC Yates on 24 March to discuss policing and security in London
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with the acting Commissioner AC Tim Godwin and Catherine Crawford on 24 March
- I attended BBC Radio 4's Any Questions at Kingston Grammar School on 25 March
- I visited Bromley on 28 March to announce the Outer London Regeneration Fund
- I took part in a photo op on 28 March to boost entries for the Busking Underground competition.
- I met with Mark Florman on 28 March to discuss the legacy of the Olympic Park
- I had my regular meeting with Lord Coe & Paul Deighton, LOCOG, and Justin King on 28 March to discuss preparations for the London 2012 Games
- I met with Lord Baker on 28 March to discuss University Technical Colleges.
- I met Peter Hendy and Daniel Moylan on 28 March ahead of the Transport for London Board later that week
- I attended the Bureau of Leaders on 29 March
- I addressed the Heron Annual Lunch on 29 March
- I spoke at the London Health Commission farewell reception on 29 March
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 30 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 30 March
- I had my regular monthly catch up with James Cleverley AM, Leader of the Conservative Group on the Assembly, on 30 March
- I addressed an event launching plans for a new joint Birkbeck / University of East London campus in Stratford on 31 March
- I met with Arnold Schwarzenegger on 31 March
- I met with Sir Robin Wales, the Mayor of Newham on 31 March ahead of the OPRSG
- I chaired the Olympic Park Regeneration Steering Group on 31 March
- I attended BBC Question Time in Stratford on 31 March
- I attend the launch of London & Partners on 1 April
- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 1 April
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 1 April
- I had my regular meeting with Stuart Fraser, City of London on 1 April
- I visited Bexley on 4 April to announce discount deals for van drivers ahead of LEZ changes
- I met with London Citizens on 4 April to discuss issues of mutual interest
- I attended the official announcement, on 5 April, of plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant that will take place in June 2012
- I met with Lord Heseltine on 5 April to discuss the Regional Growth Fund
- I met with Evgeny Lebedev on 5 April to discuss cultural events in London
- I had my regular meeting with Harvey McGrath and Sir Peter Rogers LDA on 5 April
- I attended the opening of SportAccord on 5 April
- I addressed the SportAccord main plenary on 6 April
- I had my regular meeting with Brian Coleman, Chairman of LFEPA, and Ron Dobson, the Fire Commissioner, on 6 April
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 April
- I addressed the Rowley Lane Lunch on 7 April

- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 7 April
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 7 April
- I had an introductory meeting with Jay Marciano, the new President & CEO of AEG Europe, on 7 April
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with the acting Commissioner AC Tim Godwin on 7 April
- I attended an event organised by London First to promote the London River Park proposal on 8 April.
- I chaired an Affordable Rent Roundtable on 8 April
- I met with Veronica Wadley on 8 April to discuss arts and culture
- I met with Barry & Margaret Mizen on 8 April
- I visited The Ruach Ministries Christian Centre on 10 April
- I visited the Tube upgrade maintenance work taking place at East Ham on 10 April
- I visited Barnet on 11 April to promote First Steps, which provides affordable home ownership opportunities for working Londoners on low and modest incomes
- I met with Murad Qureshi, AM & Chair of the London Waterway's Commission, on 11 April
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 11 April
- I met with the Conservative Group on the Assembly on 12 April
- I met with the Party Secretary of Shanghai on 12 April
- I chaired the London Skills and Employment Board on 12 April
- I attended a reception for leaders of the black majority churches in London on 12 April
- I attended the Community Conversation event in Haringey on 13 April
- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 14 April
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 14 April
- I met with Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Transport on 14 April to discuss transport issues
- I met with Barclays on 14 April to discuss the Cycle Hire Scheme
- I attended the Business As Usual on Oxford Street photo with the New West End Company on 18 April
- I met the Sunday school from 'BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir' on 18 April
- I hosted a lunch for the Housing Taskforce on 19 April
- I met with Sir Paul Stephenson, Police Commissioner, on 19 April
- I met with Victoria Borwick AM on 19 April to discuss The Brompton Hospital
- I attended a photo event with Nissan to promote Electric Vehicles on 20 April
- I met with Chipmunk, who was taking part in the Access All Areas event (part of Rhythm of London) at City Hall on 20 April to help other young people from all backgrounds get a job in the music industry
- I attended the official handover of the UEFA Champions League Trophy on 20 April
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 April
- I met with AC Yates on 21 April to discuss policing and security
- I met with Daniel Moylan, Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss transport issues on 21 April
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 21 April
- I met with David James IIPAG on 21 April for an update on the work of the IIPAG

- I met with the BHA and representatives of the hotel industry on 21 April to discuss working together to promote London's tourist offer in the run up to, during and after the Games
- I attended COBRA on 26 April
- I attended the Royal Wedding at Westminster Abbey on 29 April
- I attended a Royal Wedding Toast event on Trafalgar Square on 29 April
- I visited Sutton on 3 May to launch the first six 'Sport for Social Change' networks in London in partnership with Nike and the Active Communities Network.
- I met with AC Yates on 3 May to discuss policing and security
- I had my regular meeting with Harvey McGrath and Sir Peter Rogers LDA on 3 May
- I addressed GLA Staff on 3 May about the appointment of Edward Lister as my new Chief of staff
- I visited Hillingdon on 4 May to confirm the locations of both outer London 'Sky Rides' this summer
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 4 May
- I had an introductory meeting with the Mayor of Kalfat on 4 May

Ends