

18th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 5th January 2023

This is my eighteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 2 December 2022 – 5 January 2023.

Please note that the information in the Mayor's Report is accurate at the time of publishing.

Executive Summary

Over 1,000 homes delivered for Londoners sleeping rough

On 2 December, I announced that my manifesto pledge to deliver more than 1,000 homes for Londoners sleeping rough has been met, 18 months ahead of his April 2024 target. This landmark achievement has been made possible thanks to the Move On Programme (MOP) and Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), which provide capital and revenue funding to enable the delivery of homes with support to help Londoners sleeping rough towards housing independence. Across the two programmes, more than £120m of capital and £38m of revenue have been allocated to housing associations, local authorities, charities and other registered providers and support organisations, to support rough sleepers off the streets and into longer-term homes. The rough sleeping budget has quadrupled since 2016, and more than 13,500 people have been helped off the street by City Hall services - a record number.

Record funding to help communities stand together against hate

We know that uncertainty and hardship can create fertile breeding grounds for hatred and division as extremists take the opportunity to prey on impressionable young Londoners. On 7 December, I was pleased to announce a new record £725,000 investment via my Shared Endeavour Fund for grassroots community groups to empower them to counter extremism, tackle the rise in hate crime offences and keep Londoners vulnerable to radicalisation safe.

My continued investment in grassroots initiatives has already ensured that thousands of people in our city are actively engaged with projects and programmes working to strengthen our communities and encouraging everyone to reject extremist ideologies. This is part of my ongoing commitment to make our city fairer and safer for all so that more Londoners are better equipped to resist the threat of extremism.

Record-breaking Santander Cycles scheme expands in Southwark with seven new docking stations

TfL and Southwark Council have expanded the capital's record-breaking Santander Cycles scheme in the borough, with seven new docking stations now open for local residents and visitors. Santander Cycles plays a vital role in connecting communities across London and the expansion of the scheme will allow more people in Southwark to explore the capital in an affordable way that supports their physical and mental wellbeing, while helping to cut air pollution and protecting the local environment.

This comes hot on the heels of another great year for the scheme, which has also seen the introduction of fantastic new e-bikes. I am determined to continue building a cleaner, greener and more prosperous London for everyone.

SWEP

On 7 December, I activated the pan-London Severe Weather Emergency protocol (SWEP) for the first time this winter, this is triggered when overnight temperatures in the capital dipped below freezing. This turned out to be the longest continuous SWEP period since 2017, lasting 12 days, during this time more than 650 Londoners were helped into emergency accommodation.

The activation of SWEP ensures that councils across London (alongside homelessness charities) open additional emergency accommodation for people who are sleeping rough during weather conditions that could pose a threat to life. City Hall also provides overflow emergency SWEP accommodation, which outreach teams can refer people to if local provision is full.

Early in morning after first night of freezing temperatures, I joined outreach workers on foot in central London as they located people sleeping rough and supported them off the streets and into emergency temporary accommodation. The outreach team, which is commissioned by the City of London and provided by Thames Reach, responded to referrals received for people sleeping rough and visited the sleep sites of known rough sleepers in the square mile.

70th Anniversary of the Great London Smog event

On 5 December, I promoted a new report by City Hall, marking the 70th Anniversary of the Great Smog of London. This showed the air quality issues Londoners faced in 1952, and illustrated what air quality could have looked like if the Clean Air Acts had not been introduced. The report used a hypothetical scenario to estimate what the present-day concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) and health impacts could have been without the Clean Air Acts. It also illustrated the urgent need for further action today.

On 7 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at an event hosted by the City of London Corporation, marking the Anniversary of the Great Smog. My Deputy Mayor raised the need for action today to tackle toxic air, such as my recent decision to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone. The event also featured talks from Dr Gary Fuller on the history of air pollution in London, and the Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville. On the same day, City Hall released an expanded version of an earlier report which summarised the health impacts of air pollution and the improvements thanks to my policies and investment.

Christmas Carol Service 2022: Wednesday 14 December

On 14 December, I was delighted to host my seventh annual Christmas Carol Service in the beautiful surroundings of Southwark Cathedral. Over 500 invited guests and members of the public came together to enjoy this festive Service, which was also livestreamed via our website so all Londoners could enjoy the carols and readings.

The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark guided us through the Service wonderfully. We were fortunate to have not one but three Bishops joining us for the night; The Rt Revd, Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon delivered a very poignant Address, The Rt Revd Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of the Holy Family of London gave a reading and The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark shared his Prayer and Blessing with us.

This year's theme recognised those Serving London's Communities and I was joined by Avey Couloute from Girls Into Coding, Amy Imeson from Transport for London, Jay Taylor from Newham Food Alliance Hub and Dr Onkar Sahota, Chair of the London Assembly. We enjoyed a performance from Adrianna Forbes-Dorant, a senior scholar from The London Music Fund and welcomed back The Spirituals choir who filled the Cathedral with festive song.

This year, I thanked and paid tribute to my friend, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark who delivered his last Christmas Service for us, ahead of his retirement in July next year.

New Year's Eve 2022

London New Year's Eve returned as a public event in spectacular style so I was absolutely delighted to join over 100,000 people by the bank of the Thames to welcome in 2023.

Millions from around the world watched as our unique and greatest ever show used fireworks, drones, lighting and music to remember key moments in 2022 and look ahead to 2023. The exciting display highlighted the Lionesses history-making Euro 2022 win, marked 50 years of London's Pride with a powerful message from Peter Tatchell of the Gay Liberation Front, sent a message of support to Ukraine, paid tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II featuring a voice recording from Her Majesty and words from Dame Judi Dench, and honoured King Charles III, together with a message from His Majesty about the impact of our actions on the planet's future.

As ever, the team at City Hall worked closely with a wide range of partner agencies including the Met Police, TfL, local authorities and the emergency services to deliver the event. I'm proud that we have sent a message of love, hope and unity to the globe and I am very excited for 2023 as we build a better, greener and more prosperous city for everyone.

Chanukah 2022 - Menorah Lighting Ceremony

I was honoured to join members of London's Jewish communities in Trafalgar Square on 19 December as we lit the Menorah in celebration of Chanukah.

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg led a short ceremony with speeches from myself, Claudia Mendoza, Co-Chief Executive of the Jewish Leadership Council, Marie van der Zyl, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Adrian Cohen, Co-Chair of the London Jewish Forum.

London is undoubtedly a better and brighter place for the presence of our Jewish communities, who make an immense contribution to the life of our city and I continue to be a proud Londoner and an ally of the Jewish Community.

Recovery Programme

The London Recovery Taskforce, chaired by my Deputy Chief of Staff, Richard Watts, met on 20 December. It is expected that it was the Taskforce's last meeting. The Taskforce considered terms of reference and membership of the new a successor to the London Recovery Board, which will embed the partnership structures in London governance for the future. I want to extend my thanks to all members of the London Recovery Taskforce for their work in steering the city through the post-pandemic recovery.

An updated version of the London Economic Recovery Framework was published on 22 December. Since its initial publication in November 2021, there has been significant progress around the five pillars, driven by dynamic collaboration across London's partners. The framework has now been refreshed to reflect this progress, and the significant, but different, challenges that London's economy continues to face.

On 1 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie-Weekes Bernard hosted the final Social Recovery Workstrand meeting. The meeting brought together Chairs from across the five social missions to discuss the progress that has been made across the five social recovery missions. Partners celebrated the success of the Recovery Programme in fostering better collaboration amongst partners on London-wide issues.

Policing, Crime and Security

Fresh action to boost transparency, accountability and trust in policing

On 5 December, I was delighted to join Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley and my Deputy Mayors Sophie Linden and Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard to welcome representatives from London's Black communities and partner organisations to City Hall to reflect on the progress made so far in delivering my Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in policing.

My Action Plan is already working to improve trust and confidence in the Met and to address community concerns about the disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners.

But we need to do more and that starts with listening to and acting on the concerns and experiences of Black Londoners. With the Commissioner I have announced further actions based on those concerns, including a new partnership panel, developed with communities, headteachers, teaching leads, youth justice services, MOPAC and the Met to oversee and inform the work of Safer Schools officers; and new Body Worn Video research conducted jointly with the Met to help improve the police's understanding of the points of escalation and de-escalation in stop and search interactions to reduce its disproportionate impact on Black Londoners.

I look forward to continuing to work together with Sir Mark and London's Black communities as we work towards realising our ambition of a police service that can command the trust and confidence of all Londoners.

Remembering Zara

On 14 December, I gave a statement outside the Old Bailey following the sentencing of Jordan McSweeney for the appalling sexual assault and murder of Zara Aleena as she walked home from a night out in Ilford in June 2022. I include my remarks here.

Can I begin by expressing my deepest sympathies to Zara's loved ones, by paying tribute to their strength and resolve, and by thanking her family for asking me to make this statement today.

They have suffered a trauma no one should ever be forced to endure.

How many of us can say that we too would've carried ourselves with the same grace and dignity in the face of such unbearable pain?

Today, yet another violent man has been sentenced for the horrific killing of yet another innocent woman.

Zara Aleena's future was stolen by someone with no regard for her life or the laws of our land she spent her days working to uphold.

We don't know what motivated this terrible and senseless act of violence, but we know the cost:

A young, bright woman's hopes will never be realised.

Her family and friends' lives forever altered.

And more and more women feeling less safe as they go about their daily lives.

Zara's loss is a tragedy in every sense.

For her family, friends and community who are left bereft.

And for our city, which is deprived of a talented and dedicated public servant.

I'm acutely aware of the question being asked across our city right now...

after Bibaa and Nicole...

after Sarah...

after Sabina...

after Zara...

and after the many other women whose lives have been brutally cut short at the hands of men...

when is this going to end?

There is an epidemic of violence against women and girls.

In the UK, a man kills a woman every three days.

As Mayor, I'm determined to break this sickening cycle of violence, condemnation and inaction.

Because women don't just deserve to be safe – they have the right to be safe.

We've made tackling violence against women and girls a priority in London, with new initiatives and investment.

But I know it isn't enough... we wouldn't be here if it was.

Our city – and our society – must change.

And I'm determined to work with partners to do everything we can to lead the way.

My promise to Zara's loved ones, to women and to all Londoners is that as Mayor, City Hall stands with you.

And we will not rest until our city becomes a place where no woman or girl ever fears for their safety in their home or on our streets.

Thank you.

A strengthened police response to burglary

Burglaries are a horribly intrusive crime that can leave those impacted feeling vulnerable and fearing for their safety in their own home or at their place of work.

Burglaries are down 23 per cent since I was elected in 2016 – but when an incident is reported Londoners quite rightly expect the police to attend and investigate.

That's why I welcome and support the Commissioner's action to ensure that an officer attends every reported domestic burglary in London as well as businesses which have been impacted. Between October and November, officers attended more than 80 per cent of residential burglaries reported, compared to just over 30 per cent for the same period last year. Between October and November 2022, Met officers charged or cautioned 177 burglary offenders in just three weeks.

On 16 December I was pleased to join Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe and neighbourhood officers on patrol in Golders Green to hear first-hand about the work being done to improve the response to burglary in our city. I also met with a local business owner who had recently been burgled, hearing about how the attendance and quick work of Met officers had provided reassurance and led to the arrest and charge of a suspect.

It's vital we put victims of crime first and this change is about the Met getting the basics of policing right, being there when the public need them and improving the service for all Londoners.

Met Commissioner marks 100th day in office

On 21 December, Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley joined officers executing warrants on wanted offenders on his 100th day in post. In a statement issued on the day, Sir Mark reiterated his core priorities of more trust, less crime and higher standards, setting out some of the work happening at pace to make progress in all of these areas. I want to pay tribute to Sir Mark for the energy and openness with which he has begun his tenure, and look forward to working closely with him as we strive to make London a safe city for all.

Transport

TfL awards funding to 87 new community groups to further boost walking and cycling levels among Londoners of all backgrounds

On 9 December, TfL and the London Marathon Charitable Trust awarded more than £416,000 of funding to 87 new projects run by community and not-for-profit groups, as part of the transformative London Walking and Cycling Grants programme.

The funding is the highest ever awarded through the programme, with a record number of groups set to benefit. This investment will make a real difference to communities across the capital, allowing organisations to deliver projects and programmes so that more people enjoy the benefits of active travel. More than £118,000 has also been awarded for 60 existing projects to continue their work in the community.

Active travel has boomed in the capital since the pandemic, and the programme will help even more people to make the most of walking and cycling.

TfL working to get Londoners home safely during the festive period

TfL has been helping Londoners safely enjoy all that the capital has to offer throughout the festive period. While London's public transport system provides a safe and affordable option for travel throughout the night, TfL has been reminding Londoners of how to safely use taxis and minicabs.

Safer Travel at Night activity has been boosted across London, reminding people of the dangers of unbooked minicabs, and providing advice on how to safely get a taxi or booked mini cab home - with the main message that if a minicab is not booked, it's illegal and unsafe. Enforcement activity has been stepped up by the police and TfL to crack down on unbooked minicabs and other illegal activity by targeting priority locations across the capital.

More London Underground stations begin offering high-speed mobile coverage to customers

A further six London Underground stations are offering high-speed mobile coverage to customers, as the next stage of TfL and BAI Communications' (BAI) project to bring coverage to the Tube network gathers speed.

This is now available to customers travelling between Holland Park and Queensway on the Central line, and between Kentish Town and Archway on the Northern line.

Coverage will be in ticket halls and platforms, as well as in tunnels between those stations, allowing customers to get the latest travel information, access social media, check their emails, make calls, and stream videos whilst on the move underground.

I pledged to Londoners that I would deliver 4G throughout the network as part of my commitment to building a better London for everyone and this marks a great step forward in the delivery of mobile connectivity on the Tube.

TfL celebrates a decade of contactless payment on London's buses

On 13 December, TfL marked ten years since contactless payment using a bank card was first introduced as a new way to pay on London's buses, making it easier and more convenient for millions of customers.

The system evolved from TfL's successful Oyster card system and was developed in partnership with the wider banking industry, allows customers to benefit from the ease and convenience of using their contactless bank card or mobile device, rather than having to pre-purchase anything. The system allows for daily and weekly (Monday to Sunday) capping, meaning customers never pay more than the equivalent 7 Day ticket.

TfL's development of contactless payments is seen by many as the catalyst for contactless being adopted more generally by consumers across the world, as well as in the UK. The huge success of pay as you go with contactless in London has led to other cities across the world such as New York, Chicago and Sydney having now introduced contactless payment options for public transport based on London's system.

Art on the Underground announces 2023 programme including major new commissions by Monster Chetwynd, Barby Asante and Jem Perruchini

Art on the Underground has announced its programme for 2023, comprising ambitious and critically engaged new works. Responding to London Underground as a constantly changing site of multiple histories, communities, actions and reactions, the 2023 programme will present new works that address this daily reality through performance, sound, visual and sculptural interventions.

The 2023 programme brings unmissable artworks to the city, encouraging us all to explore and enjoy what London has to offer.

Environment

Announcement of funding Centre for Climate Change Innovation @ the Royal Institution

On 8 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave the keynote speech at the Royal Institution (RI) to announce a £4.35 million grant to support the retrofit of its historic Central London home to dramatically reduce its carbon footprint. The RI is the new location for the Centre for Climate Change Innovation – now called Undaunted – a partnership with Imperial College London, of which the GLA is a founding member. Undaunted is a centre for business innovators to create the climate change solutions London and the world needs, whilst supporting green jobs. The event highlighted the achievements of clean-tech start-up companies that have been supported by Undaunted in London. This includes Notpla, a company making sustainable seaweed-based packaging that won the £1m Earthshot Prize 2022, presented by Prince William on 2 December.

First Strategic Surface Water Governance Group Meeting

On 8 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the first surface water flooding strategic governance group meeting. This group was formed as a result of my roundtable after the summer floods in 2021. It brings together organisations with flood management responsibilities to agree the development of London's first ever surface water flooding strategy and to take forward other measures to ensure London is more prepared for future flood events. The formation of this group is a major step towards ensure a more joined up, coordinated and more consistent approach to managing surface water flooding in the capital.

Breathe London Communities Programme

On 9 December I announced the recipients of the second round of free air quality sensors for local communities, which is part of my Breathe London Air Quality Network Communities programme. The Breathe London Network is providing hyper-local real time air quality monitoring across London and empowers communities across London living in areas impacted by poor air quality and with limited green spaces to track their exposure to harmful pollution and raise awareness of the importance of clean air. The groups receiving the free sensors range from parents' groups and residents' associations to faith groups, GP practices, and schools.

Montréal Pledge Announcement at Biodiversity Conference COP15

On 9 December, I confirmed that London would join with other international cities to protect ecosystems and halt the loss of nature as signatories to the Montréal Pledge. This was announced by Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal at Biodiversity COP15 in Montréal. My commitment to delivering this pledge builds on the work of my London Rewilding Taskforce and my Rewild London Fund to support the restoration and rewilding of London's most valuable places for nature.

Warmer Homes Campaign

On 12 December I launched a final callout to social housing providers and landlords to apply for grants on my Warmer Homes Programme, to make their housing stock warmer and more energy efficient this winter. This is a key part of my response to the cost-of-living crisis facing Londoners. In the long term this will save tenants hundreds of pounds a year on their energy bills and help tackle the effects of climate change – building a better, greener London for everyone. In addition, the recently launched Energy Advice London service (www.energyadvice.london) is providing essential guidance and information to Londoners, furthering the support available in this cost of living crisis.

Green and Resilient Spaces Fund Round 2

On 14 December, I launched the second round of my Green and Resilient Spaces Fund. £3.8m is available for councils and other organisations, with £3m available for projects to create or improve green spaces and an additional £800,000 for large scale tree planting to boost London's climate resilience. The fund will prioritise projects in areas of the capital that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, areas with low tree canopy cover, or areas

where Londoners live more than a 10-minute walk away from green space. The tree planting grants will focus on creating publicly accessible, species-rich woodland and planting large trees to provide shade, cool London's streets, combat heatwaves and tackle flooding. This will add to the more than 430,000 trees I've funded since 2016.

Beddington Energy Recovery Facility expansion consultation response

On 23 December my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, submitted a response to the Environment Agency's consultation on Viridor's request to increase capacity at the Energy Recovery Facility in Beddington, Sutton. I have opposed the proposal based on its failure to comply with my London Environment Strategy in relation to air quality, climate change, and waste management. I have been clear that I will oppose all new incineration capacity not required to manage the capital's non-recyclable waste.

London Community Energy Fund Launch

On 16 December I launched the sixth phase of the London Community Energy Fund (LCEF). LCEF is supporting community energy groups to grow and deliver more community owned renewable generation and helping to decarbonise London's community buildings, bringing us closer to the 2030 net-zero target. Community energy groups are also helping Londoners and to tackle the cost-of-living crisis supporting them to reduce their energy use and bills. Through LCEF the Mayor of London is providing up to a total of £400,000 to community organisations to deliver and develop new projects.

Fire and Resilience

Phone call with CE of LAS

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire & Resilience, Baroness Twycross, spoke to the Chief Executive of the London Ambulance Service about forthcoming industrial action.

Meeting with London Fire Commissioner

On 8 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, and I met with the London Fire Commissioner for our regular discussion on matters relating to the London Fire Brigade.

Meeting with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Fiona Twycross, met with Matt Parr CB to discuss the London Fire Brigade's move into HMICFRS' 'engage' status.

Visit to Bergen, Norway

On 15 and 16 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire & Resilience met with colleagues from Bergen University and Bergen Public Safety, Police, Fire and Rescue, and Public Health services. The visit was part of a research collaboration between University College London Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR) and Bergen University investigating the impacts of Covid-19 on emergency services.

Meeting with the Minister of State for Health and Social Care

On 20 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, the Mayoral Health Advisor Dr Tom Coffey and I met with the Minister of State for Health and Social Care, Will Quince, to discuss forthcoming industrial action.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

AEB Mayoral Board Summary

My Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board met on 6 December 2022. Officers provided an update on recent AEB programme activity since the last meeting. It was noted that data released by the Department for Education indicated that the post-pandemic recovery for education and training had been stronger in London than other parts of England. My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills noted that he had recently led a roundtable with borough and adult education provider partners, during which representatives had recorded thanks to the GLA for its work widening access and increasing funding during a difficult time.

The Board discussed and endorsed the proposed approach to the reconciliation of AEB and Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) funding for the 2021/22 academic year, as well as the indicative AEB and Free Courses for Jobs allocations for the 2023/24 academic year.

AEB Data Publication

The GLA publishes AEB programme data biannually in line with the UK Code of Practice for Official Statistics and following the Department for Education's Further Education and Skills data publication. The most recent [AEB data release](#) includes statistics on AEB-funded Further Education and Skills in London based on data for the full academic year 2021/22.

In 2021/22, there were 221,280 learners in London. Learner participation increased by 11 per cent compared to 199,000 in 2020/21. Amongst learners participating in the AEB programme, 69 per cent were female; 59 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background; and the majority were aged 24-49 (64 per cent). Adult Skills data suggests that the post-pandemic recovery has been stronger in London, compared to the rest of England. Community Learning data shows year-over-year growth, but the recovery has been slower compared to Education and Training. A summary [note](#) was published alongside the data

release to assist in interpreting the 2021/22 AEB statistics and highlights some of the key points and limitations.

Housing

Campaign/NSNO visit

At the start of December, I launched my annual winter rough sleeping fundraising campaign, working with charity partner TAP London to raise money for four charities that work with young homeless Londoners: akt, Centrepunkt, Depaul UK, and New Horizon Youth Centre. The donations help to support the Youth Homelessness Hub, which recently reopened at a new location in north London.

Londoners can donate to the campaign in a number of ways, including at one of the TAP points or [using this link](#). There are 35 TAP points across London, including at Waterloo, Victoria, London Bridge and Liverpool Street stations.

The campaign is also encouraging Londoners can also use the StreetLink app or website to connect people they see sleeping rough with local support services.

I launched the campaign during a visit to a hotel which is part of my No Second Night Out service. This site that provides people with their own room whilst they receive specialist support, including housing advice, and health and immigration support. The hotel was initially used as part of Everyone In - the initiative to ensure that rough sleepers at risk of Covid-19 were safely accommodated during the pandemic. It was one of 16 GLA-procured hotels that supported over 1,700 people

Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme

On the 21 December, I launched the Single Accommodation Programme (SHAP) in London, this programme will deliver homes with support for Londoners sleeping rough and young Londoners aged 18-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. I have secured a portion of a national budget of £270m, this funding will meet gaps in existing housing pathways and address currently unmet need. Capital funding is available for homes that will start and complete from April 2023 to the end of March 2025, and up to three years' of revenue funding is available to fund much-needed support to the Londoners who will move into these homes.

Call for emergency investment to address social housing below minimum standards

On 9 December, I highlighted new analysis which shows the cost of addressing non-decent homes and improving energy efficiency to keep social housing warm across the capital is approximately £4 billion. In the wake of the tragic death of toddler Awaab Ishak in Rochdale, there is an urgent need for the Government to act and provide social landlords with funds to ensure homes meet minimum standards. 343,000 households in London live in social housing that fails either to meet the Decent Homes Standard or energy efficiency compliance (Band C EPC). Accelerating an urgent programme of upgrades will result in tenants saving, on average, 20 per cent on their energy bills.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

On 14 December, I launched our prospectus for organisations in London to apply for a share of £30m targeted to support small businesses in the first phase of the Government's new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

This replaces crucial funding that London used to receive from the European Union before Brexit.

Despite being home to some of the most deprived parts of the UK, I highlighted that London is only eligible to receive a total of £144m from the UKSPF over three years, including this £30m, out of a national total pot of £2.6bn. This equates to less than half the size of the European Union funding it was intended to replace.

Small Business Saturday, Saturday 3 December

Through my social media channels, I raised awareness of Small Business Saturday, which is a fantastic grassroots, non-commercial campaign encouraging consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities. I also contributed to the press release that was circulated nationwide by the organisers of the campaign

Washington DC Visit, Tuesday 6 December

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Washington D.C Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, John Falcichio at City Hall as part of a DC delegation of tech companies and local stakeholders. The objectives of the visit were to strengthen city-to-city ties, to celebrate the business links between London and Washington D.C and to highlight the opportunities for future investment.

Community and Social Policy

Neighbours in Poplar Christmas party and lunch for older residents in Tower Hamlets

On 2 December, the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Debbie Weeks-Bernard, attended Neighbours in Poplar's Christmas party and lunch for older residents in Tower Hamlets. Neighbours in Poplar is a charity that provides multi-faith care in the community and works to reduce loneliness amongst older adults through delivering a range of programmes and community outreach activities. On the day, Debbie Weeks-Bernard worked alongside staff and volunteers to serve a Christmas lunch and spoke to the residents in attendance. She also had the opportunity to listen to the stories of the staff and volunteers at the event and give them a personal thank you for the important work that they do.

20th anniversary of New Wine Church Hamper Distribution event

On 19 December, the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Debbie Weeks-Bernard, attended the 20th anniversary of New Wine Church Hamper Distribution event at Gateway House in Woolwich. The hamper distribution event is part of New Wine Church's service to the community in which they annually distribute Christmas hampers to those in need. During the event, Debbie Weeks-Bernard gave an uplifting speech filled with Christmas hope to those that were going to receive the hampers and gave her congratulations to the church on their 20th Hamper Distribution event and thanked everyone for all the support provided to the community. Debbie then helped to distribute the hampers to people, alongside Pastor Kola Taiwo and event volunteers, and had the opportunity to speak directly with those receiving hampers.

Reception at Union of Jewish students to celebrate festival of Chanukah

On 19 December, the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Debbie Weeks - Bernard attended a reception organised by the Union of Jewish students to celebrate the festival of Chanukah. At the reception Debbie joined over 75 students in lighting the menorah in the courtyard of Kings College (Strand) and then joined the students at the reception where she was invited to speak about her own experiences at university and about the role she plays as Deputy Mayor. She was also able to speak with many of the students who were politically active in the work they were doing through the union and who shared some of their own experiences in social justice campaigns.

Children and Young Londoners

Young Londoners Fund Celebration Event

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, welcomed 150 attendees, including children, young people and youth workers, to City Hall to thank them for their involvement in my £45m Young Londoners Fund. Hosted by young people from my Peer Outreach team, the event celebrated the incredible achievement of reaching over 130,000 young people through a range of activities funded by my Young Londoners Fund since 2018. At the event, the young people showcased the skills gained through these projects by delivering live performances and sharing inspirational testimonials highlighting the support they had received and the impact it has made to their lives. Youth workers also spoke about the impact the funding had on their organisations and the wider youth sector.

The event also provided a platform for those in attendance to network and to hear more about future City Hall opportunities through my New Deal for Young People and commitment to ensure 100,000 disadvantaged young people have access to a mentor by 2024.

Kitchen Social Hub

On 19 December, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited a Kitchen Social Hub, funded by the Mayor's Fund for London. Prospex support vulnerable young people and welcome them in a non-judgemental manner. The Kitchen Social Hub at the Underground Youth Centre on Caledonian Road is a safe space where young people can receive guidance, support and a warm place to go to. My Deputy Mayor reflected on how we can continue to develop our connections with outreach organisations across London to ensure we are supporting those Londoners most in need.

Culture

The Fashion Awards 2022

On 5 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE attended the Fashion Awards 2022 at the Royal Albert Hall. The Fashion Awards is an annual celebration of talent, creativity and leaders of change, which raises money for the next generation through the British Fashion Council Foundation. During the pandemic the Foundation provided £1.5m in emergency grants to struggling businesses to enable them to survive. It also provides grants to new talent.

London Unseen closing event

On 13 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard attended the closing celebration in London's Living Room at City Hall, of London Unseen, part of my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. London Unseen's season of community heritage tours, talks and workshops took place between July and November 2022. This programme of over 45 events was offered to the public free of charge and supported over 32 community heritage practitioners. It acknowledged the importance of the heritage work taking place within London's communities and drew more Londoners into spaces where they could learn about these unheard histories.

Lit! The finale of Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture

On 21 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE attended Lit!, the final celebration of 'We are Lewisham', London Borough of Culture 2022. The closing event included a performance by Revel Puck Circus, London's biggest contemporary circus, in a big top in Beckenham Place Park, followed by a large-scale public parade, with illuminated puppet by Dundu Giants of Light and Festival.Org.

Civil Society and Sport

International Volunteer Day

On 5 December, International Volunteer Day, the Civil Volunteering Team launched London's Lifelines platform, which celebrates and illustrates the scope, impact and social value of volunteers, good neighbours, and kind strangers right across London.

Mayor's Carol Service – volunteer support

On 14 December, 8 of my Team London Ambassador volunteers supported my Mayor's Carol Service. Volunteers helped to register and support guests to seats as they arrived, distributing orders of service, and helping with the collections. They shared information with guests about the event, including accessibility options, and supported the general welfare of guests, helping to provide an excellent visitor welcome.

New Year's Eve Fireworks

On 31 December 2022 my Team London Ambassador volunteers helped to welcome attendees of my New Year's Eve firework display, marking the return of these celebrations for the first time since 2019. Up to 165 volunteers supported on the night providing wayfinding services, supporting information points, and offering a friendly and reassuring welcome to all visitors to the city. My volunteers helped over 100,000 guests, including local residents and businesses in the area to navigate on the night and reach their desired destinations,

London Lifeline's

Throughout December, the Civil Society & Sport team have been working closely with food aid networks to update and post urgent information and signposting on my digital platforms. We are reaching out to more Londoners asking for volunteers, raising the profile of the food security crisis and the urgent needs of food related charities.

Health

Meeting NHS and Public Health Leadership

On 8 December, I met with leaders from NHS London, UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and discussed the planned industrial action in five London NHS Trusts and in the London Ambulance Service, as well as the extraordinary pressures facing the NHS as we head into winter. I was joined by my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and by the chief executive of the London Ambulance Service.

I was briefed on the broader context which was placing stress on the health and care system. As well as Group A streptococcal infections (Strep A), COVID-19 and 'flu, the cost-of-living crisis and the cold weather were all adding pressures. Children and young adults were the most affected by 'flu. Uptake of 'flu vaccination in the over 65s was good, but lower in children, and parents were being encouraged to get their children vaccinated.

Inaugural meeting of Mayor’s Advisory Group on Child Healthy Weight

On 21 December, my Health Advisor Dr Tom Coffey co-Chaired, along with Paul Lindley OBE, my Mayor’s Advisory Group on Child Healthy Weight (MAGCHW). This Group has been convened to continue the important work of my London Child Obesity Taskforce (LCOT), providing expert advice to GLA policy teams on the commitments as set out in the LCOT report Every Child a Healthy Weight. Through this group, members will be asked to bring any emerging concerns or challenges to my attention. The Group discussed progress to date in delivery of the LCOT recommendations, future priorities for the Group and emerging areas of concern in relation to child healthy weight in London.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Carbon Offset Fund awards

LLDC has awarded more than £2million to 16 local community projects in the first bidding round of the 2022 Carbon Offset Fund. The 16 successful projects bring a range of benefits to communities and organisations across Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

Formal opening of GDI Hub

On 2 December, the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) was officially opened at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The GDI Hub is a research and practice centre driving disability innovation for a fairer world. The opening marked the UN’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).

The Bartlett launches new programmes for 2023

The Bartlett has launched seven new degree programmes for 2023. Many of the new courses will be based at the new UCL East campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which is the biggest development in UCL’s near 200-year history. The Bartlett is one of nine UCL faculties to deliver nearly 60 new postgraduate and undergraduate degree programmes at UCL East.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

London Assembly – Budget and Performance Committee

On 7 December, OPDC’s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer attended the London Assembly’s annual Budget and Performance Committee session to scrutinize OPDC’s budget submission for the next year. During the session, officers set out OPDC’s achievements during 2022, its growth plans for delivery and the need to build its capacity over coming year.

Planning approvals

On 15 December, OPDC’s Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission for a 495 sq.m. data centre in Park Royal.

Planning

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, under powers delegated to him by the Mayor, sent a letter in response to the following statutory stage 2 referrals. The Deputy Mayor informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that he was content for them to determine the case itself.

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Current Recommendation and Decision: Recommended Decision
2022/0213	Lidl Belvedere Regional Distribution Centre	Bexley	05/12/2022	Complies with the London Plan
2021/0217	High Lane Estate	Ealing	19/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0565	Twyford Abbey Nursing Home	Ealing	19/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0599	Former Piano Factory	London Legacy Development Corporation	19/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0379	302-312, High Street, Stratford, LONDON, E15 1AJ	London Legacy Development Corporation	19/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0139	Former Jewson Site	Newham	12/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2020/6440	Butterfly Walk Shopping Centre and Land to Rear	Southwark	12/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0003	Cuba Street Site	Tower Hamlets	12/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0175	South Quay Plaza, 183-189 Marsh Wall, London	Tower Hamlets	12/12/2022	Complies with the London Plan
2021/0747	Ensign House, 17 Admirals Way, Isle of Dogs, London, E14 9XQ	Tower Hamlets	19/12/2022	Allow LPA to approve

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Current Recommendation and Decision: Recommended Decision
2022/0754	17 - 19 Thames Road	Barking and Dagenham	05/12/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0789	DHL, Shed A, Barking Logistics Centre, Box Lane	Barking and Dagenham	06/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0778	White Horse Public House	Barking and Dagenham	05/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0891	Salvation Army Hall Albert Road Barnet EN4 9SH	Barnet	30/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0889	Land Formerly Known As British Gas Works Albert Road Barnet	Barnet	30/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0844	Home Farm	Bromley	19/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0777	100 Gray's Inn Road	Camden	05/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0896	156 West End Lane	Camden	21/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0809	Citiscap	Croydon	19/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0782	The Broadway Connection	Ealing	05/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0635	Southall Community Centre	Ealing	19/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

2022/0721	241 Green Street	Enfield	05/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0750	Hyatt Place	Hillingdon	05/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0868	Harlington Pit	Hillingdon	21/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0764	Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD)	Hillingdon	12/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0710	Cambridge Road Estate - Stopping Up Order - Block E	Kingston upon Thames	12/12/2022	Do not hold Inquiry
2022/0694	Land at Carpenters Estate	London Legacy Development Corporation	19/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0583	Ravensbury Estate, Mitcham	Merton	12/12/2022	Do not hold Inquiry
2022/0828	Development Site For Twelvetrees Park	Newham	13/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0831	Fairlop Waters Country Park	Redbridge	19/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0774	Thames Young Mariners Site	Richmond upon Thames	12/12/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0804	Kneller Hall redevelopment	Richmond upon Thames	07/12/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0814	Woodcote Green Garden Centre	Sutton	12/12/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0898	One Sherwood Street (1SS) Development	Westminster	21/12/2022	No Strategic Issues

London Plan Guidance

On 16 December, I published a Practice Note on Wheelchair accessible student accommodation which clarifies the accessibility requirements of the London Plan 2021 for self-contained and non-self-contained student accommodation.

On 19 December, I adopted new London Plan Guidance on Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling. This guidance supports Local Planning Authorities to protect existing - and provide for future - public transport, walking and cycling networks.

Local Plans

On 16 December, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the London Borough of Enfield's draft Meridian Water Western Bank Supplementary Planning Document consultation. My officers provided comments and guidance in relation to the proposed approach to tall buildings and fire safety.

On 22 December, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation. I did not raise general conformity objections but did provide comments and guidance in relation to housing numbers, affordable housing and the borough's intended approach to tall buildings, amongst others.

On 22 December, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's consultation on the draft Earl's Court Opportunity Area Placemaking Framework. In our response we provided general support for the proposed approach.

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the St Mungo's No Second Night Out (NSNO) homeless hub in Waterloo on 2 December
- I spoke at a public review meeting for my Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing on 5 December
- I spoke at the Better Community Business Network 10 Year Anniversary event on 5 December
- I chaired a meeting of the GLA Adult Education Board on 6 December
- I chaired a meeting of my Business Advisory Board on 6 December
- I attended the Metropolitan Police Service Carol Service on 6 December
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 7 December
- I held a meeting with members of the Jewish Community on 8 December
- I spoke at the GLA Staff Christmas reception on 8 December
- I spoke with members of the GMB Union on 12 December
- I attended the Assembly Police and Crime Committee on 13 December
- I chaired the Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Reference Group on 13 December
- I spoke at the sentencing in the case of the murder of Zara Aleena on 14 December
- I attended my Christmas Carol Service on 14 December
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 December
- I joined His Majesty the King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort on a visit to the London Community Kitchen on 15 December
- I joined Assistant Met Commissioner, Louisa Rolfe, to see the new Met approach to attending all burglaries in the capital on 16 December
- I spoke at the Trafalgar Square Menorah Lighting on 19 December
- I spoke with Minister for Health and Secondary Care, Will Quince on 20 December.
- I attended the London New Year's Fireworks display on 31 December
- I attended the Assembly Budget & Performance Committee on 5 January
- I took part in a winter nights patrol and visit to Box Up with the Met Police Commissioner on 5 January