

19th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 23rd February 2023

This is my nineteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 6 January – 9 February 2023

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

Executive Summary

The transformational Elizabeth line clocks more than one hundred million passenger journeys

The Elizabeth line, which stretches from Reading and Heathrow in the west to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east, has now seen more than one hundred million journeys since opening in May 2022.

The latest data also reveals that ridership on the line is currently above expected levels with around 600,000 journeys made each day, meaning the railway is one of the busiest in the UK and is on track to break even by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The data clearly shows the popularity of the capital's newest transport option and the benefit of investing in transport in London.

Business groups and small businesses in and around the new stations across the Elizabeth line have hailed its transformative effect since its launch. For many businesses, the new railway has helped power growth and recovery by attracting new customers.

On 21 May, TfL will introduce the final version of the Elizabeth line timetable as planned, and the Elizabeth line will have increased the capacity of central London's rail network by around 10 per cent since opening. The service in the central section between Paddington and Whitechapel will increase to up to 24 trains per hour during the peak and initially 16 trains per hour off-peak. At this point, some direct services will be introduced from Shenfield to Heathrow Airport in the off-peak.

The Elizabeth line has transformed the way Londoners get around and continues to go from strength to strength. It is helping to build a better London - one which is a safer, fairer, greener, and more prosperous city for all.

Launch of the ULEZ scrappage scheme

To support the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone expansion, on 30 January applications opened for the £110million scrappage scheme and new grace periods for disabled people were confirmed.

To mark this and raise awareness of the support available for Londoners, I visited The Felix Project, a charity that saves surplus food from suppliers and redistributes it to charities. I met with organisations that have benefitted from my past scrappage schemes, organisations representing Londoners who will benefit from the new scrappage scheme and grace periods, and businesses offering deals to help Londoners move to more sustainable transport.

More information on the ULEZ expansion and the support available for Londoners is available here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion-2023>

Tackling county lines drugs gangs

Despite progress being made, with numbers of homicides, teenage homicides, knife crimes with injury, gun crimes and burglaries in London all lower in 2022 than in 2016, I am clear that violence is still much too high and the loss of one young life to violence is always one too many.

There is an undeniable link between county lines drug gangs and violence and that's why, on 15 January I announced my budget proposal for additional funding to enable the Met to accelerate its work targeting the most dangerous criminals while helping to break the cycle of reoffending and safeguarding our most vulnerable young Londoners from exploitation.

This is not just a London problem. Without in any way excusing criminality, the cost-of-living crisis is engulfing the entire country. Food and energy bills continue to soar. Too many young people are seeing their opportunities diminish. Without strong leadership, action and intervention I'm concerned that we are now at real risk of seeing the reductions of violent crime we've achieved in London being reversed and the menace of County Lines gangs growing nationally.

The Met and City Hall's work to tackle county lines drugs gangs has already resulted in dangerous offenders being arrested and hundreds more vulnerable young Londoners being safeguarded, but we must do more. Violence, like poverty, is not inevitable and this new proposed investment will work to tackle the underlying drivers behind serious violence. This in turn will help us break the cycle of reoffending and build a better, safer London for all.

Up to 800 more homes for rough sleepers in London

On 24 January, I visited a 'Crisis at Christmas' service in Newham. This was the second year City Hall has worked in partnership with Crisis and St Mungo's to coordinate a successful extension of Crisis at Christmas. Typically, Crisis at Christmas comes to an end shortly after the new year. The extension means guests have had somewhere safe and warm to stay until mid-January during some of the coldest weeks of the year, while receiving support from Crisis and St Mungo's to end their homelessness for good.

At the same time I announced funding for up to 800 new homes for rough sleepers with complex needs and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The funding will be made available through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and housing associations, local authorities, charities and others who have an ambition to develop SHAP homes will be able to bid for the funding later this financial year.

Lunar New Year 2023

I was delighted to support the London Chinatown Chinese Association (LCCA) in the return of London's full-scale spectacular Lunar New Year celebrations since the pandemic. Held on Sunday 22 January – the actual date of the Lunar New Year - Londoners and visitors to our capital were able to enjoy a day full of entertainment on Trafalgar Square and in Chinatown, including the return of the breath-taking lion's parade, as we welcomed the Year of the Rabbit.

This fantastic celebration is a powerful demonstration to the world of our city's incredible diversity, and highlights the immense contribution London's Chinese community make, enriching our society, economy and culture.

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony 2023

On 23 January, I was honoured to welcome community leaders and survivors to City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, for a joint ceremony with the London Assembly. The service, delivered in collaboration with the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, focussed on the theme 'Ordinary People' - reflecting on the fact that ordinary citizens were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Harrowing and heartfelt personal testimonies were given by Holocaust survivor Joan Salter MBE and Rwandan genocide survivor Antoinette Mutabazi, as well as reflections given by Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors, who also delivered the Holocaust Memorial Day Statement of Commitment. The El Male Rachamim memorial prayer was read by Rabbi Epstein and Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein of the Western Marble Arch Synagogue, and speeches from the Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE, and Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, Karen Pollock CBE. Violinist Francesca Ter-Berg and cellist Anna Lowenstein, courtesy of the Jewish Music Institute, opened and closed the service.

It is incredibly important to remember the Holocaust and other genocides to ensure that such atrocities are not repeated and serve as a reminder of the dangers of hatred and intolerance, and reinforces our resolve to never become complacent in the face of growing divisions in our society.

Mayor's Community Weekend

On 1 February, I launched my Mayor's Community Weekend in partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund. My Community Weekend will take place right across London from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2023, and aims to reconnect people through community-led events and activities. National Lottery Community Fund grants of up to £1,500 are available for local organisers to develop events that bring the community together.

Cost of living support event with Martin Lewis CBE

On 2 February, I held an event at City Hall with Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert, to ask him Londoners' most urgent questions on the cost of living crisis and share practical tips for helping to navigate it. Our discussion was followed by a Q&A from attendees, moderated by my Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard.

The talk was followed by in-person advice stalls hosted by organisations such as Citizens Advice, Thrive LDN, Energy Advice London and others who spoke to members of the public about how they could access their services to help with a range of issues related to the cost of living crisis. My Cost of Living Advice bus was also on site, providing in-person debt advice to members of the public. Team London volunteers supported the event and helped guests navigate the advice.

We sold out our free in-person tickets for the talk and had over 700 views of the livestream on the day, with more video content promotion to follow. The recording of the talk is published on the Cost of Living Hub.

Policing, Crime and Security

Former PC David Carrick sentenced

On 16 January, Met PC David Carrick pleaded guilty to 24 counts of rape and 25 other serious offences against 12 different women. He was dismissed from the Met at an accelerated misconduct hearing the following day. On 8th February, he was given 36 life sentences and will serve a minimum of 30 years in prison for his crimes.

Following the pleas, I gave the statement below.

“I am absolutely sickened and appalled by the truly abhorrent offences that David Carrick has committed.

“Londoners will be rightly shocked that this man was able to work for the Met for so long and serious questions must be answered about how he was able to abuse his position as an officer in this horrendous manner.

“I remain in close contact with the new Met Commissioner about this case and the work to reform the culture and standards of the Met has already started with Baroness Louise Casey’s interim review now complete and a new, anonymous police complaints hotline and anti-corruption team recently established by Sir Mark Rowley. But more can and must be done - including acting on the findings of the forthcoming Angiolini Inquiry - and I will continue to hold the Met to account as they work to implement the reforms needed.

“It’s vital that all victims of crime have confidence in our police, and we simply must do more to raise standards and empower police leaders to rid the Met and all other police services of those officers who are clearly unfit to serve.

“I fully support the Commissioner’s calls for the Home Secretary to urgently reform police regulations governing misconduct to help raise standards in the police. This is long overdue and I urge the Government to conclude their ongoing review of police dismissals quickly to ensure that the system is changed so it’s more effective in removing officers whose behaviour is demonstrably criminal or whose actions fall well short of the standards expected by policing and the public.”

New funding proposals to accelerate Met reform

On 26 January I announced funding proposals totalling £14.2million to raise standards, improve performance and rebuild the trust and confidence of all of London’s communities in the Met. The funding – part of my 2023/2024 budget proposals - aims to support the Commissioner’s Turnaround Plan, published on 20 January, which sets out how the Met will achieve its mission to rebuild trust, reduce crime and improve standards over the next two years.

Nearly £12million of the proposed investment would be used to support the Commissioner’s drive for higher standards in the Met, including the creation of a new Met Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy would provide enhanced training for Met

leaders and line managers, strengthening their capability to ensure the high standards expected by policing and the public are achieved.

The investment also supports an increase in the number HR staff within the Met to better support leaders and line managers to tackle performance and standards issues at source.

A further £2.5million would be used to improve the training and resilience of the Met's Command and Control Centre (MetCC), which handles more than six million emergency calls and online queries from the public each year. This action follows the findings of the HMICFRS PEEL inspection, which found that the Met needed to improve how it responds to calls from the public.

FGM Stops Here

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) violates the rights of women and girls and can have lasting consequences for their physical and mental health. I am clear that there cannot be any place whatsoever in London for FGM and have led work throughout my Mayoralty to bring an end to this practice in our city.

In early 2020 I was pleased to launch the FGM Stops Here campaign, developed in partnership with an Advisory Board of FGM experts including survivors, frontline professionals and activists and aiming to provide a platform to amplify the growing community movement against FGM. We have worked together to share the personal stories of Londoners on why they are looking to stop the practice, through films, posters and leaflets in the communities in London where FGM is most prevalent.

On 2 February I was delighted to welcome members of my FGM Advisory Board and community members to City Hall as we launch the next phase of the FGM Stops Here campaign. At the session I was able to meet with and thank some of those who have lent their personal stories to the campaign and discuss what more can be done to help tackle this issue and keep women and girls safe from harmful practices.

Over the coming months we will be promoting a series of new videos from FGM survivors, family members, medical professionals and campaigners from London's East African and South Asian communities, highlighting the breadth and commitment of the movement within the community to end the practice and demonstrate the devastating impact FGM has on the lives and wellbeing of survivors and their families. For more information on the campaign, please visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/fgm-stops-here>.

Transport

Happy birthday, London Underground! The Tube celebrates 160 years of serving the capital

On 10 January, TfL announced that a series of activities will be held throughout 2023 to mark the 160th anniversary of the Tube - the world's first and most famous underground railway.

The celebration took place at Baker Street station, one of the original stations that opened on 10 January 1863. I was proud to unveil a special 160th year roundel, *Love the Tube*, that customers will be able to spot at stations across the network including at Gloucester Road, Brixton, Oxford Circus and Covent Garden.

I also met with four London Underground staff members who have given a total of 160 years of service in a range of roles

The Tube has always played an important role in the success of London. The growth of the early network led to the expansion of the suburbs in the last century, while the extension of the Jubilee line led to the development of Canary Wharf's financial powerhouse in the 1980s. The Northern Line Extension's opening in 2021 has enabled the growth of the Nine Elms and Battersea areas, and today's system, which is once again moving millions of people around every day, helps London continue to recover from the pandemic.

New campaign encourages customers to look out for sexual harassment and support others on public transport

TfL, in partnership with the Rail Delivery Group (RDG), British Transport Police, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and City of London Police has launched a new campaign to encourage a culture of active bystanders on public transport.

The campaign sets out clear guidance for customers on how they can safely intervene if they witness sexual harassment or other hate crimes. The following actions are highlighted by the campaign as ways customers can help, if they feel safe to do so:

1. Make a distraction – try and defuse an incident of harassment by asking the person being targeted a simple question
2. Make a note - document and report the activity to help the police build a profile of offenders
3. Make sure they are okay – check in with the person targeted and ask "Are you OK?" to help build their confidence in reporting

The advertising campaign, which will appear on buses and trains and at stops and stations, encourages customers to report incidents on the bus network at met.police.uk or, for all other TfL services, to text British Transport Police on 61016 or via the free BTP Railway Guardian app.

Everyone should feel safe and be safe at all times when travelling around London. That is why I welcome TfL launching this new campaign which will help Londoners to look out for each other when travelling around the city and highlighting how to report any incidents on TfL's network.

London's iconic Santander Cycles hire scheme sees yet another record-breaking year in 2022

Latest data released by TfL has affirmed the success of the Santander Cycles hire scheme. During 2022, the scheme saw yet another record-breaking year, with 11,506,889 hires. This is 565,625 hires more than were made in 2021, which was also a record-breaking year for the scheme.

Santander Cycles plays a hugely important role in making cycling more accessible to Londoners, enabling people to choose a healthy and sustainable form of transport from £1.65 per ride, £20 per month or £120 for annual membership. Enabling more people to walk, cycle and use public transport is vital to improving the quality of life for millions of Londoners and supporting the capital's growth and continuing success.

The increased number of hires reflects wider increases in walking and cycling seen in London over recent years. The scheme also saw record breaking months between September 2021 and August 2022, with each month achieving the highest number of hires for that month since the scheme launched 12 years ago.

Last December, TfL and Southwark Council completed an expansion of the scheme in Southwark, with seven new docking stations serving people in Bermondsey and Walworth. The new docking stations build on other recent expansions of the scheme in the borough, including the five new docking stations added in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe in 2019.

Major improvements to Surrey Quays station move a step closer

Plans to transform Surrey Quays station to make it more accessible and help improve journeys for customers moved a step closer following the appointment by TfL of Morgan Sindall Infrastructure, which will be the main delivery partner of this major improvement.

The improvements will see a second station entrance built on the north side of Lower Road that will provide more direct access to a nearby new development and the existing shopping centre at Canada Water. This brand-new entrance will feature a new spacious ticket hall, along with a new gateline that is expected to welcome 60 per cent of the customers using the station.

A new customer bridge with stairs leading to platforms will provide relief to the existing narrow staircases, which suffer from congestion at peak times. Step-free access will for the first-time be provided to both platforms via two new lifts, helping those who are mobility impaired and parents with pushchairs.

All Londoners deserve to feel comfortable and confident when moving around our great city and improving accessibility on the transport system is a crucial part of my work to build a better London for everyone.

Environment

Deputy Mayor meeting with Dr Kush Kanodia

On 13 January, my Deputy Mayors for Environment and Energy and Communities and Social Justice, Shirley Rodrigues and Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with Dr Kush Kanodia, Disability Rights UK Ambassador, to discuss the upcoming Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion and the new support packages available for disabled people, including a new £110million scrappage scheme and new grace periods for Londoners on certain disability benefits and wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Publication of London's Food Footprint Progress Report

On 16 January, ReLondon published London's Food Footprint Progress Report, a report providing a summary of the key interventions currently being led by me and ReLondon to reduce food waste and encourage more sustainable diets in London.

Launch of the consultation on the Mayor's Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a keynote address at the launch of the consultation on the Wellbeing and Sustainability Measure. This will be a new measure of wellbeing in London, established as the core indicator of London's success as a place to work and live, and was one of my 2021 manifesto commitments. It was developed with input from experts, representatives of London organisations, and in-depth consultative research with Londoners. The measure will be published in Spring 2023 after the consultation phase is complete.

Meeting with iChoosr, delivery partner for Solar Together London

On the 24 January, my Deputy Mayor and Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, Executive Director of Good Growth and Assistant Director for Environment and Energy met with Cas Bijrholt, CEO of iChoosr, and the iChoosr Country Manager and Business Manager to discuss their performance in managing the scheme.

Milan meetings and C40 Roundtable

On 27 January, I hosted the Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala, to discuss cooperation between London and Milan on climate, air pollution, and transport and convened a roundtable of experts and campaigners to explore ways to implement sustainable measures, such as low emission zones, in cities to address toxic air pollution. At the event, I launched C40's Green and Healthy Streets Leadership Forum (GHS Forum), designed to bring together mayors to accelerate the implementation of policies that will lead to zero emission areas by 2030 and give them a platform to engage and raise collective ambitions.

Fuel Poverty Partnership

Deputy Mayor's Shirley Rodrigues and Debbie Weekes- Bernard chaired my Fuel Poverty Partnership on the 8 February. The partnership discussed progress since the last meeting and focused on the work being done on the Health workstream, including Warm Home prescriptions. The group also discussed the main policy risks on Fuel Poverty and what actions government should be taking.

Fire and Resilience

Fire Performance Oversight Group

On 25 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, the London Fire Commissioner and I attended His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Fire Performance Oversight Group as part of the HMICFRS' Engage process.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 1 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee on the response to the LFB's culture review.

LFB 30 & 40 year-long service award ceremony

On 3 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended and spoke at a ceremony to recognise and pay tribute to the long service of firefighters in London.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Skills for Londoners Board

My Skills for Londoners (SfL) Board met on 8 February 2023. As I am committed to ensuring that communities across London are able to fully benefit from the GLA's skills offer, the Mayor of Newham as co-Chair of the SfL Board led a discussion on how the GLA could enhance its outreach activities. The Board discussed supporting communities in accessing learning opportunities and effective cooperation with existing partner-led initiatives.

In line with my manifesto commitment to expand access to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision and following an increased level of demand, the Board heard a presentation on recent GLA activity in this area. Members subsequently considered how to improve ESOL coordination and support as well as adding additional value to existing schemes. Finally, the Board heard a research proposal on understanding the differences in adult education outcomes by ethnicity in London.

Housing

New homes analysis released and Royal Docks site visit

On 17 January, I visited the Royal Albert Wharf development in the Royal Albert Docks. Royal Albert Wharf will deliver more than 1,850 homes, of which over 40 per cent overall will be affordable, with the percentage of affordable housing increasing with each phase of development. The development hosting today's ceremony has 50 per cent affordable housing, and the next phase of the development will deliver 76 per cent affordable housing. This major development is part of the wider regeneration of the Royal Docks area which is forecast to see over 30,000 new homes and 42,500 jobs created over the next 20 years. To coincide with the visit, new City Hall analysis of official Government figures was released and revealed that more new homes have been delivered per year in London under my Mayoralty than any previous Mayor of London. An average of more than 36,000 homes per year have been delivered since I became Mayor in 2016. This is more than 10,000 more than my predecessor, who averaged 26,000 a year.

SWEP

I activated the pan-London Severe Weather Emergency protocol (SWEP) for a total of 12 nights in January on two separate occasions from 16 to 25 January and again from 27 to 30 January, and then for two further nights from 6 to 8 February. More than 350 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.

New figures show shameful scale of kids in non-decent homes

On Wednesday 1 February, I published new analysis showing the unacceptable national scale of sub-standard housing, including here in London, and called for emergency action from the Government to fix it. The analysis shows that nationally some 1.8m children live in homes officially classed as 'non decent', because of factors such as damp & mould, vermin and disrepair. Shockingly, there are 260,000 children living in non-decent homes in the capital, second only to the North West of England.

I have called on Ministers to set out emergency action to deliver higher housing standards, including in the private and social rented sector, with more resources for councils to go after rogue landlords and investment to bring social housing stock up to scratch.

International Relations

Meeting with International Colleagues

On 10 January, I met with H.E. Miguel Berger, the German Ambassador to the UK, at City Hall. We discussed the shared challenges faced by London and Germany, such as the cost of living crisis and the climate emergency, and the ongoing support that both London and Germany are providing to Ukraine.

On 27 January, I met with the Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala to share our experiences on affordable housing, air quality, tackling air pollution and congestion.

On 2 February, I met with the Governor of Tokyo, Koike Yuriko to discuss tourism, trade and investment ties between Tokyo and London and to address the key issues, such as climate change, that face all global cities.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

London Anchor Institutions Network – Annual Conference

On 31 January I spoke at the annual conference of the London Anchor Institutions Network, which we convene from City Hall. Through the Network some of London's largest employers from the public, private, education, cultural and faith-based sectors are working together to build a better London for everyone. Using their recruitment, procurement and estates management capacity, over the past year they have been making and delivering on commitments to:

- Support inclusive economic growth – pledging to spend up to 30 per cent of their annual procurement budgets on small and diverse businesses in London, with some on track to exceed their spend targets this year.
- Help Londoners from underrepresented backgrounds into good work – supporting more than 4,000 apprentices, uplifting Londoners' pay through new London Living Wage commitments and taking action to close gender, race and disability pay gaps.
- Help young Londoners to flourish – working with youth support organisations to support the New Deal for Young People mission to ensure 100,000 disadvantaged young Londoners have access to high quality mentoring by 2024.
- Create a cleaner, greener London – setting net zero targets, developing 71 estate decarbonisation projects, and training almost 1,000 members of staff in environmental sustainability or carbon literacy.

Annual London Government Dinner

On 12 January I gave the main speech at the annual London Government Dinner at Mansion House, which was hosted by Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons and attended by key figures from local government and public service in London. I spoke about how a stronger relationship with Europe can help boost the national economy, ease the cost-of-living crisis and increase investment in our public services.

Promoting International Business

On 26 January, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Lord Dominic Johnson CBE, Minister for Investment at the Department for International Trade (DIT), to discuss how DIT and City Hall, together with London & Partners, can continue to collaborate on promoting international trade with, and foreign direct investment into, London and the wider UK.

Business Engagement

On 2 February, I hosted the London Business Forum with business organisations and leaders across all sectors to discuss and identify key issues facing London's business community. At the meeting, we discussed the ULEZ expansion and the scrappage scheme and heard from L&P on the Let's Do London Campaign.

On 7 February, I met with Alessandra Galloni, Editor-in-Chief of Reuters, to discuss our respective priorities, including Brexit and London's economy, as well as other important London issues, such as policing and housing affordability.

Investing in London's connectivity

On 27 January, I announced that 50 per cent of homes and businesses in London can now access full fibre broadband, up from 4 per cent in 2017. This milestone celebrates over £1.5bn of investment from the private sector and recognises the key collaborative work that the GLA and London boroughs have achieved to driving investment into the capital.

On 25 January, my Chief Digital Officer and the London Office of Technology & Innovation (LOTI) hosted a show-and-tell with over 60 community organisations, councils and business representatives to outline progress with Good Things Foundation towards a new pan-London digital inclusion service.

On 24 January, my Chief Digital Officer visited BAI's Base Station Hotel in Farringdon to see first-hand the ongoing work that they're doing to bring 4G services to the Tube network by the end of 2024. The Base Station Hotel houses mobile network operator's telecoms equipment which BAI use to connect nearby tube stations with 4G mobile connectivity. This important work is transforming commuter journeys to provide connectivity to one of the biggest not spots in London.

Community and Social Policy

Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund applications

This month I launched a call for applications to the Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund, which will fund London Boroughs to build local capacity to support the welcome and integration of new arrivals from Hong Kong.

Asylum Welcome Design Lab programme launch

On 13 January, I launched my Asylum Welcome Design Lab programme with the first workshop at City Hall. The Design Lab brings together 11 London boroughs to support them as they develop solutions to barriers to services and social connection for people seeking asylum.

London Assembly Economy Committee- Barriers to employment for people seeking asylum and refugees

On 18 January, my Deputy Mayors Debbie Weekes-Bernard and Jules Pipe gave evidence to the London Assembly Economy Committee on overcoming the barriers to employment for people seeking asylum and refugees.

Tamil Heritage Month celebrations

On 21 January my Deputy Mayor, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended The Federation of Tamil Organisations Waltham Forest's Tamil Heritage Month celebrations. The event showcased Tamil arts, traditions and culture.

Children and Young Londoners

Response to parliamentary Education Committee inquiry into early years

In January, my Children and Young Londoners Team responded on behalf of the GLA to a parliamentary Education Committee inquiry into support for childcare and the early years.

I welcome this important inquiry, which was launched at the end of last year, and seeks to examine several important issues - chiefly, how easy to navigate the current childcare system is for parents and carers, and whether current childcare entitlements are providing families with affordable and flexible childcare.

We made clear that childcare is prohibitively expensive and complicated for many families in London, reiterating that more must be done by the Government to ensure its affordability and accessibility. This is especially important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those with special education needs and disabilities, for whom high-quality early education can have huge benefits. It's also essential to London's economic success as it ensures parents (especially mothers) aren't locked out of the workplace.

We also reiterated the key asks we made of the Government through its consultations in 2022 on childcare regulatory changes and early years funding formulae. It must urgently address years of chronic underfunding, as well as the ongoing workforce crisis within the early years sector, in order to ensure its viability. Vitaly, it must also carefully consider feedback to its proposals to reduce staff:child ratios. It is clear that these changes will not make childcare more affordable to parents but could detrimentally impact the quality of early years provision.

Response to letter from London Assembly Health Committee on early years development and support services in London

I have written to Krupesh Hirani AM, Chair of the London Assembly Health Committee, in response to a letter he sent me on 19 December. This letter follows the Health Committee's investigation last year into the impact of the pandemic on early years services and early childhood development and includes five key recommendations for me.

I am grateful to the Health Committee for this work and share its belief in the vital importance of London's early years sector, as well as its concerns about the challenges the sector is facing - from years of underfunding by central Government, to the pandemic, workforce crisis and now soaring cost of living. Although I have no statutory powers in this space, I will continue to do all that I can to support London's childcare providers, as part of my efforts to build a better, fairer and more prosperous city for everyone.

I particularly welcome the Committee's recommendations, which I have considered carefully and addressed in my response. Many of them closely align with work already underway by GLA officers. This includes ongoing efforts to support the early years workforce, and a review and refresh of my Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) programme, designed to better understand and maximise its impact.

Culture

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board Meeting and New Members

On 18 January, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and the Chair of my Cultural Leadership Board, Moira Sinclair OBE, welcomed five new members to the Board. Following a 3-week recruitment campaign, 122 applications were received of which 21 were invited to interview including nine candidates who qualified for interview under the GLA's Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS). The Board is now more representative of both the demographic make-up and lived experience of Londoners and the diversity of professions from across culture, the creative industries, and the creative and night time economies.

The new Vice Chair, Amanda Parker along with Amaarah Roze, Nigel Twumasi, Deborah Williams, Sade Banks and Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, from Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea joined existing members to identify areas of focus for the coming year which will include the impact of the climate crisis and of AI (Artificial Intelligence) on the sector.

London at Night Conference

On 19 January, Night Czar, Amy Lamé, hosted the first ever London at Night Conference, where she called for urgent support for the capital's high streets after 6pm in the face of falling workforce numbers and unrelenting pressures on businesses. The conference was attended by leaders and decision makers from across London. It set out to ensure that councils, businesses, communities and the Mayor were working together to make the most of opportunities and create a fair, diverse and sustainable 24-hour city.

Night Czar Visit to Belfast

On 26 January, Night Czar, Amy Lamé visited Belfast, hosted by Translink, to meet with representatives of the City Council and other stakeholders to share key learnings and insights on the 24 Hour London experience and discuss ideas of how to improve the Belfast economy after 6pm. My Night Czar engages regularly with representatives from cities around the world to share her work, learn from local best practice examples and ensure London remains the leading international example of urban planning for a 24 hour city.

London Screen Academy Tour

On 3 February, I and Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, joined founders Barbara Broccoli CBE and Eric Fellner CBE on a tour of the London Screen Academy (LSA). The LSA is a sixth form academy specialising in TV and film for 16 to 19 years old and the first free school of its kind to be directly supported by key film industry professionals. Film and TV production is back to 2019 levels, and it was great to see the work of the college and how it is skilling up young Londoners to fill the positions in this booming industry.

London Night Time Economy Summit

On 9 February, Night Czar, Amy Lamé welcomed delegates to the first London Night Time Economy Summit organised by the Night Time Industries Association at the E1 venue in Wapping. She joined representatives from the night time culture, leisure and hospitality industries from the UK and around the world to discuss best practice, current challenges and opportunities to support this vital sector.

Civil Society and Sport

Building Strong Communities Fund Round Two

In January, I awarded funding of £350,000 through round two of my Building Strong Communities fund. To date we have awarded 88 grants to London equity-led voluntary and community sector organisations to enable communities to shape their recovery from COVID-19, through community-led projects.

Building Strong Communities Fund Round Three

On 16 January, the final round of my Building Strong Communities Fund went live, closing on 13 March. £200,000 will be distributed as microgrants of up to £6,000 to equity-led, small community and voluntary organisations, to deliver community-led projects that will support those communities that have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. Projects will help to rebuild community strength, voice and/or connection. For this round, any project that is going to address issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis will be prioritised.

Youth Social Action Team

On 19 January, my Civil Society and Sport Team hosted the NCS Trust in partnership with the National Youth Agency and Street Games to deliver information about the Community Experience Grants for youth and civil society delivery organisations and strategic partners across London. Partnership for Young London and London Councils were invited to talk about the London Youth Offer and youth social action work across London.

The National Citizen Service (NCS), announced that it will transform the services it offers to young people. NCS will deliver a brand new suite of experiences for young people with a new network of local and youth sector partners to ensure that its services are even more relevant and accessible for young people, whilst delivering better value for money. More young people will be able to take part in NCS closer to home next year with regular or one-off activities where they can gain new skills, learn more about their local community, and how they can help to improve it. To support this, NCS will be awarding different types of grants to local organisations delivering community-based experiences at a grassroots level.

- **Open to All Grants:** These year-round grants are for regularly scheduled programmes that are embedded in young people's local communities, with structure and support from NCS Trust, but locally tailored. They will offer grants to deliver Open to All programmes across the regions.
- **Targeted Grants:** These grants may be given for scaling existing intervention, or trialling a new innovation, with targeted groups of young people. They will offer a variety of larger and smaller grants, creating opportunities for national or regional organisations, alongside small grassroots organisations.

Future Ready Fund -grants

On 20 January, in collaboration with my Violence Reduction Unit, the Future Ready Fund was opened as part of my continual commitment to providing young Londoners access to sport, physical activity and youth social action.

Underserved young Londoners considered at risk are negatively impacted as they transition into adulthood, which in turns affect their academic success, employability prospects, their future financial independence as well as their physical and mental health. A successful transition from primary to secondary education setting is impacted by factors such as social and institutional adjustments; curriculum interest and continuity.

The aim of the Future Ready Fund is to support young Londoners at risk of exclusion or those affected by youth violence through a targeted programme which aims to offer sport and mentoring to facilitate their successful transition from primary to secondary education, using a person-centred intervention approach to support young Londoners in reaching their potential.

Grants of up to £25,000 to community organisations will allow them to support young people to successfully transition between primary and secondary education..

I've also committed to building capacity in organisations that will be working on the Future Ready Fund by providing workforce support. This community sector support will be provided through access to Mentoring upskilling as the central focus of this project. Mental Health and Trauma Informed Practice training will also form part of this provision.

This year long person-centred intervention approach will address the levels of inactivity; incorporate emotional and social support; collaborate with schools and other agencies; and develop young Londoners essential skills for a brighter future.

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

London Legacy Development Corporation

Pudding Mill Lane

On 18 January, LLDC announced that it was seeking a joint venture development partner to deliver the last major development site at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The £675million project will deliver a new local centre at Pudding Mill Lane serving the proposed 948 homes, 45 per cent affordable, which is currently home to ABBA Voyage. The site is 5.1 hectares and is located on the southern edge of the Park. Pudding Mill Lane DLR station is at the heart of the development and Stratford Station is just a short walk away, providing access to 10 different rail lines, including the Elizabeth Line.

Teesside University

Teesside University became the latest university to make Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park its London home. Teesside will base itself at Here East with one of its aims being to provide the next generation with the skills necessary for the global digital economy. Here East is already home to Staffordshire University London, LMA, UCL and Loughborough University London.

Planning

Design Future London

On 26 January, the Mayor joined forces with the bestselling video game of all time to encourage more young people from across London's communities to pursue future careers in the built environment to help shape a better London for everyone.

The Mayor's 2023 Design Future London Schools Challenge is taking place in the new London Minecraft World, a partnership between City Hall, Microsoft's Minecraft Education and C40 Cities. Young Londoners will use their creative design skills to create sustainable changes in a Minecraft version of Croydon town centre. Students will produce a two minute video of their Minecraft creations and explain their vision for a future Croydon.

Free licences for Minecraft Education are available to all schools, colleges and universities in London. Faith groups and youth clubs are also invited to get involved.

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, launched the challenge at University of East London on 26 January, where more than 300 students took part in a three day design sprint based on the challenge.

The challenge builds on a pilot which took place last year and involves a series of partners including Croydon Council, Mayor's Fund for London and MOBIE founded by architect and TV presenter, George Clarke. A key aim is to help make the built environment sector more inclusive and reflective of London's diverse population.

London Plan Guidance

On 2 February, I published new Urban Greening Factor London Plan Guidance.

This will assist boroughs and developers to implement the requirement in the London Plan for major development to include greening as fundamental part of site and building design and to use an Urban Greening Factor to evaluate the quantity and quality of greening proposed.

On 8 February, I published two new items of London Plan guidance on Air Quality. Firstly the Air Quality Positive guidance which aims to maximise the benefits to local air quality in and around large-scale developments and masterplans, through the demonstration of measures taken at design stage to improve local air quality and minimise exposure to existing poor air quality. Secondly the Air Quality Neutral guidance which sets benchmarks for air quality for all development so that their transport and building emissions don't result in worsening of air quality. This includes a simplified approach for minor development.

Local Plans

On 8 February, GLA officers responded on my behalf to LB Ealing's Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation. In that response I raised issues in relation to the borough's proposed approaches to industrial land and tall buildings. In addition, I raised concerns regarding the borough's proposed intention to redesignate all of its Green Belt land to Metropolitan Open Land and its plans to release 2 parcels of Green Belt and 7 of Metropolitan Open Land.

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
2023/0040	St Augustine's Priory School	Ealing	30/01/2023	No Strategic Issues
2022/0859	Plumstead West Thamesmead	Greenwich	16/01/2023	No Strategic Issues
2022/0907	Rainham Marshes Silt	Havering	16/01/2023	No Strategic Issues
2021/0917	96-98 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1P	Croydon	23/01/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0745	The Steyne Estate	Ealing	23/01/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1179	Newnton Close Sheltered Housing	Hackney	30/01/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0426	Broadwater Farm Estate	Haringey	23/01/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0946	Royal Mint Court	Tower Hamlets	30/01/2023	Allow LPA to refuse
2021/1238	Mulberry Place Town Hall, 5 Clove Crescent, And Lighterman House, 3 Clove Crescent,	Tower Hamlets	23/01/2023	Allow LPA to refuse

	London, E14 2BG (Republic Masterplan Site)			
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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
2022/0840	245-249 and 253 Ealing Road	Brent	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0797	55 Bishopsgate	City of London	23/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0899	85 Gracechurch Street	City of London	30/01/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0848	41-49 Stirling Road	Ealing	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2023/0027	Former Greenwich Magistrates Court	Greenwich	30/01/2023	No Strategic Issues
2022/0902	Plot A, White City Campus North	Hammersmith and Fulham	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

2022/0870	Harefield Grove	Hillingdon	23/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0835	Cranford Community College	Hounslow	16/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0910	Tolworth Tower	Kingston upon Thames	23/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0785	Lambeth College Clapham	Lambeth	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0852	Vulcan Wharf	London Legacy Development Corporation	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0875	73 Stephenson Street and adjacent land	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0897	38-42 Southwark Bridge Road	Southwark	23/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0734	Uplands Business Park	Waltham Forest	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0746	Avenue Road Estate	Waltham Forest	16/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0909	5-7 Havelock Terrace	Wandsworth	23/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

2022/0888	Savile Row Police Station	Westminster	16/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0895	38-70 Baker Street	Westminster	30/01/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

Key Engagements

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

- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 9 January
- I joined an event at Baker Street Tube Station to mark 160 years for the Tube on 10 January
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 10 January
- I met with the German Ambassador to the UK on 10 January
- I attended a fundraising dinner for the Pakistan floods on 10 January
- I met with the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 11 January
- I met with GLA Unison on 12 January
- I attended the City of London Corporation's London Government Dinner on 12 January
- I chaired the regular meeting of the London Economic Action Partnership on 16 January
- I joined a 'Topping-out' ceremony for Phase 2 development at Royal Albert Wharf on 17 January
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board on 17 January
- I met with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 18 January
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 19 January
- I attended the plaque unveiling for Folajimi 'Jimi' Olubunmi-Adewole on 22 January
- I gave remarks at the City Hall Holocaust Memorial Ceremony on 23 January
- I visited a City Hall homelessness project on 24 January
- I attended the HMICFRS Fire Performance Oversight Group on 25 January
- I attended the National Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony on 25 January
- I attended the GLA Assembly Draft Budget Plenary on 26 January
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 26 January
- I had a phone call with the US Ambassador to the UK on 26 January
- I met with the Executive Director of C40 Cities on 27 January
- I met with the Mayor of Milan on 27 January
- I co-hosted a climate roundtable with the Mayor of Milan on 27 January
- I officially launched the London-wide ULEZ scrappage scheme on 30 January
- I gave evidence to the Parliamentary Committee for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 30 January
- I spoke at the London Anchor Institutions' Network Conference on 31 January
- I chaired a meeting of the Transport for London Board on 1 February
- I co-hosted a Cost of Living summit with Martin Lewis on 2 February
- I chaired a meeting of the London Business Forum on 2 February
- I chaired the regular GLA roundtable on FGM on 2 February
- I met with the Governor of Tokyo on 2 February
- I visited the London Screen Academy on 3 February
- I met with the Mayor of Warsaw on 3 February
- I met with Baroness Louise Casey on 6 February
- I joined and donated at the City Hall Blood Donor Drive on 7 February
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 7 February

- I visited the DLR Beckton Depot to see the new DLR Trains on 8 February
- I attended “Stand up Against Harassment” bystander training on 9 February