

7th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 19 December 2024

This is my seventh report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 8 November - 5 December 2024.

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

Executive Summary

City Hall Remembrance Day Service

City Hall's annual Remembrance Day service is an important opportunity to reflect on the courage, dedication and bravery of our Armed Forces, and I was honoured to host this event alongside Chair of London Assembly, Andrew Boff AM, and members of the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The Rt Revd Lynne Cullens, Bishop of Barking, officiated the service and delivered the opening address. Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders also spoke to the congregation and gave a series of readings, prayers and hymns. Music was provided by the London International Gospel choir.

Senior representatives from the Greater London Lieutenancy, Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, British Red Cross, London Assembly, Royal British Legion, Armed Forces, St Johns Ambulance and others participated in the wreath laying ceremony.

This year the service marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day and to commemorate the anniversary, an exhibition of photographic portraits of 16 veterans who served in Normandy was on display in London's Living Room. The exhibition from Blind Veterans UK, previously seen in the National Army Museum, was in collaboration with award-winning photographer Richard Cannon. WWII artefacts from the London Docklands Museum were also on display.

First evaluation report published from Impact on Urban Health

I am delighted to see the results from a new independent report published on 19 November from Impact on Urban Health that has shown the positive impact of my universal free school meals programme in London's state primary schools. Delivering free school meals has been one of my proudest policies as Mayor, and it is hugely encouraging to hear how it is supporting families struggling with the cost of living, improving the health and wellbeing of children, and positively impacting school communities. That's why I have made the historic decision to provide free schools meals in London for as long as I am Mayor. I will continue to do all I can to support Londoners as we continue to build a fairer and healthier London for everyone.

New TfL data shows London cycling continues to rise, with cycle journeys up by 26 per cent compared to 2019 levels

TfL has published new data from its annual Travel in London report showing further increases in the levels of cycling in London. TfL continues to work closely with London's boroughs to invest in high-quality infrastructure that allows more people to walk and cycle more often, including via journeys that connect to public transport.

The new data shows that the number of daily cycle journeys increased in 2024 to an estimated 1.33 million journeys per day, up by five per cent from 1.26 million in 2023, and up by 26 per cent since 2019. The growth was strongest in central London, with an 11.6 per cent increase between 2023 and 2024. Inner London saw a 4.2 per cent increase and outer London saw a 3.8 per cent increase, as Londoners continue to make the most of cycling as a sustainable and affordable way of travelling around the capital.

It is tremendous that the number of Londoners cycling in the capital continues to grow year-on-year. I am extremely proud of our work to expand the protected cycleway network.

This data shows that if you build the right infrastructure, people will use it. We will now look to build on this progress, working closely with boroughs to increase the cycle network even further.

Enabling more people to make their journeys by walking, cycling and using public transport is key to building a safer and greener London for everyone.

Sustained and significant improvements in Met police call handling

On 13 November, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) announced that as a result of the Met's sustained and significant improvements in call handling performance, they had closed a cause of concern raised in their 2020/21 PEEL inspection.

These welcome changes have come about as a direct result of the New Met for London Plan and the hard work of Met officers, staff and volunteers who have been relentless in their efforts to improve the service they provide to Londoners. I am deeply grateful to them and am proud to have been able to support their improvement work with £2.5m funding from City Hall.

I will continue to support the Met in delivering the New Met for London Plan and providing the high quality service that Londoners deserve.

Expansion of mentors in pupil referral units across London

On 13 November, I visited Orchardside School in Enfield to announce that my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has invested a further £2.3 million to expand dedicated mentors in pupil referral units in every London borough.

Between September 2022 and July 2024, more than 1,500 young people had been supported by mentors in pupil referral units across 22 boroughs. During this time, 82 per cent of pupil referral units and alternative provision settings reported improved attendance of young people mentored, whilst 86 per cent reported reduced reports of behavioural incidents.

New funding in this VRU programme will support young people aged 11-18 who have been excluded from mainstream school or are at risk of exclusion from education. It's a critical element of my approach to tackling violence. The investment allows the VRU to expand its mentoring programme to cover all 32 boroughs for the next two years. It delivers on my manifesto commitment to invest in mentors in pupil referral units and means a further 2,200 young people will get mentoring support to boost engagement and attendance in school in order to be safe and away from violence.

Consultation on Key Worker Living Rent homes

On 25 November, I launched a [consultation on my proposals for delivering Key Worker Living Rent \(KWLR\) homes](#). These plans take forward my manifesto commitment to build Rent Control Homes, with rents linked to key workers' incomes and capped.

I'm proposing KWLR homes are a form of intermediate rent housing. Like other intermediate homes, they'll be built alongside social rented homes, for Londoners who're unlikely to secure social rented housing but struggle to pay high private sector rents. Rents would be set no higher than 40 per cent of key workers' average household incomes after tax. Forty per cent of net household income is a measure of affordability that's established in my London Plan.

I'm keen to hear from housing developers and providers, of key workers and organisations that represent them, and of local authorities, so that I can use their insights to hone my proposals. My consultation will run until 3 March 2025.

Official launch of the new London Overground line names and colours in historic change to the capital's transport network

On 28 November I visited Dalston Junction station to launch the six new line names and colours being used across the London Overground network. This significant change, which is a major update to London's world-famous Tube map, will make it easier for customers to navigate London's transport network, while also celebrating the city's diverse culture and history.

The event celebrated the near-completion of one of the largest customer-focused projects TfL has ever undertaken, helping to make the network easier to navigate for millions of customers every year.

An unprecedented mobilisation over the previous nine days saw TfL and its suppliers unveil 6,000 new station wayfinding signs, Tube maps, station digital screens and onboard train information, as well as audio and visual announcements on both London Overground trains and stations. Final touches to the TfL website, TfL Go app and audiovisual passenger information on newer London Overground trains will be completed over the next couple of months.

These distinct colours and identities will not only make our fantastic London Overground network easier for customers to navigate, they also celebrate the best of London, from the contribution of the Windrush generation to our inspiring England women's football team, as well as other untold elements of London's cultural history.

The London Overground is now a reminder that we wouldn't be the city we are today without the energy and diverse experiences of everyone who lives here.

Policing, Crime and Security

Working in partnership to keep our town centres safe

On 26 November I was pleased to visit a new mobile police station in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and join Met Police officers on patrol to learn more about how they are working to make the park and busy surrounding area even safer day and night as local businesses prepare for the busy period in the run-up to Christmas.

Officers working out of the mobile police station in Stratford have built excellent working relationships with business owners in shopping areas across the town centre and are running

regular operations to target repeat shoplifting offenders. Officers are working effectively with local businesses and organisations to prosecute offenders and obtain Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) to exclude criminals from returning. A new data sharing agreement has also led to the quick exchange of information and intelligence to prevent, deter and detect suspects of retail crime.

Since April, personal robbery offences across London are down by 5 per cent compared to the same period last year. But we know there is clearly more to do. As Mayor, I'll continue to invest in policing, so that local community-based police teams can be there when the public need them most. This is alongside our vital work investing in prevention and intervention at critical stages in the lives of young Londoners so that we can build a safer London for all.

Welcoming tough new restrictions on domestic abuse perpetrators

On 25 November we marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. On 27th November I was delighted to join Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, Jess Phillips MP to meet with Met Police officers in Croydon as the Government announced the launch of tough new restrictions on domestic abusers in Greater Manchester, with the British Transport Police – and in the London Boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton.

New Domestic Abuse Protection Notices can be issued by the police immediately following any incident of abuse, providing protection straight away and giving police time to apply for a Domestic Abuse Protection Order to secure longer term protection for the victim. Friends and family of victims will also be able to apply for the new Orders on behalf of the victim, as well as victims themselves and the police.

Unlike some existing protections, the new Protection Orders will have no time restrictions, meaning victims are protected for as long as needed to stay safe. Breaching the order will be a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison. As well as imposing exclusion zones, the Orders can mandate positive requirements such as attendance at a behaviour change programme. Family courts will also now be able to impose tagging in the most serious cases, a power previously reserved for the police and criminal courts only.

I welcome this strong action by the Government, in line with their mission to halve violence against women and girls nationally over the next decade. Preventing and reducing VAWG in London remains one of my key priorities, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Government as we strive together to make our capital and our country safe for every woman and girl.

Transport

TfL outlines package of charges, discounts and exemptions for Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels from Spring 2025

In November TfL set out its recommendation for the package of discounts, exemptions and charges for the Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels, ahead of the new Silvertown Tunnel opening in Spring 2025.

The tunnel charges, approved by the TfL Board on 4 December, are required as part of the development consent for the new tunnel and were first proposed in 2012. TfL proposed that a

user charge be introduced for those using the Silvertown and Blackwall tunnels between 06:00 and 22:00, seven days a week. The proximity of the two tunnels has meant that, ever since the plans were first conceived, both need to be charged to ensure that traffic levels do not increase as a result of drivers seeking to use the uncharged crossing.

Following public consultation this summer, TfL presented its recommendation for the package of discounts, exemptions and charges to the TfL Board. As set out in the consultation, an off-peak rate of £1.50 for cars, motorcycles and small vans would apply the majority of the time, for vehicles registered for TfL AutoPay. To manage traffic during the busiest times, peak charges would apply, set at £1 more than standard off-peak charges for motorcycles and an extra £2.50 for cars and small vans. These would apply for four hours northbound in the morning (from 06:00 to 10:00) and three hours southbound in the evening (from 16:00 to 19:00), Monday to Friday, or for anyone not using TfL Auto Pay.

To help residents and businesses, and to support people to use new public transport connections, a wide range of concessions and discounts has been proposed, including a 50 per cent discount, which would be available for low-income residents in 12 east and southeast London boroughs and the City of London.

As part of the Board submission for the final charges, TfL also published the report into the consultation on the discounts, exemptions and charges, which ran from 10 July to 3 September 2024, as well as its responses to issues raised. The consultation allowed Londoners to comment on the proposed charging levels, discounts and exemptions, ensuring it had been informed by feedback from the public before final approval.

Londoners face chronic traffic congestion on the approaches to the Blackwall Tunnel, which was never designed for the levels of traffic now crossing the river in east London. The new Silvertown tunnel will ease congestion for drivers, reduce journey times and help manage air pollution. It will also support economic growth and allow TfL to increase the number of buses able to cross the river in this area from six to 21 buses an hour in each direction during the busiest times - all of which will be zero emission at the tailpipe.

TfL's package of concessions, exemptions and discounts will support Londoners in a variety of ways, including those on the lowest incomes, and help local residents take full advantage of the new bus and cycle connections.

GTS Rail Operations Limited announced as new operator for the Elizabeth line

On 19 November TfL announced its intention to award the new Elizabeth line operator contract to GTS Rail Operations Limited, a joint venture between Go Ahead Group, Tokyo Metro and Sumitomo Corporation. The contract will cover seven years with an option to extend for up to two additional years.

GTS Rail Operations Limited will take over from the existing operator, MTR Corporation (Crossrail) Limited, in May 2025.

The Elizabeth line is the most significant addition to London's transport network in a generation and has quickly become one of the most popular railways in the country, carrying more than 700,000 people a day. It has transformed life and travel in London and the South East by reducing journey times, creating additional capacity, and improving accessibility across London's transport network.

The new contract with GTS Rail Operations Limited will enable TfL to build on the success of the Elizabeth line and ensure it continues to be a showcase for investment in public transport in London, across the country and around the world.

TfL and Met Police begin trial of CCTV at bus shelters to improve safety, especially for women and girls

On White Ribbon Day last month (25 November) TfL affirmed its stand against violence against women and girls by launching a 12-month trial of CCTV at 20 bus shelters across London, together with the Met Police.

The trial is designed to improve passenger safety, especially for women and girls, and ensure they can travel with confidence 24 hours a day. Tackling violence against women and girls remains a key priority for TfL and the police, and this trial is a step towards delivering my commitment to increase CCTV in bus shelters.

The technology was tested at five bus shelters in March, and now a further 15 bus shelter locations have been fitted with CCTV across Brent, Croydon, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Lambeth, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, and Westminster. These locations were selected to provide good coverage across London and to understand the effectiveness of CCTV in different areas. This includes busy locations with high footfall, quieter locations with less frequent bus services, higher crime areas, or locations where women and girls have reported feeling more unsafe.

The cameras will be available to the Met to help prevent and investigate crime and to improve incident response with live access. Footage, which only the Met will have access to, will be retained for 31 days to support police investigations. TfL will also gather feedback from customers and stakeholders throughout the trial to assess the feeling of safety and security for customers using the bus network.

Everyone deserves to feel safe and be safe at all times when travelling around London and it is my top priority to ensure the transport network is a safe and low-crime environment. That's why I welcome this trial of CCTV at bus shelters, which will improve safety for women and girls and ensure they can travel with confidence.

Increased CCTV will help to ensure the network is secure and welcoming round the clock, supporting my aim to continue building a safer London for everyone.

TfL sets out new approach to tackle problematic parking of dockless e-bikes

TfL has set out a new approach for dockless rental e-bike and e-scooter parking on its roads, London's network of red routes. The updated enforcement policy, alongside significant investment in new parking spaces, will help schemes continue to operate, while ensuring streets remain safe and accessible to everyone. The approach will predominantly focus on dockless e-bikes, as London's e-scooter trial already requires parking in bays, with controls in place to ensure compliance.

Dockless rental e-bikes and e-scooters are an important part of London's transport network, helping people get around sustainably and connecting them to other transport modes. However, problematic parking of the vehicles can cause significant safety issues for many Londoners, particularly disabled and older people, and these issues have been exacerbated by recent increases in fleet sizes.

On much of TfL's network of red routes – some the busiest roads in the capital – rental e-bikes are often being parked on the pavement in a way that negatively impacts pedestrian and wheelchair access. To ensure that these roads remain open and welcoming for everyone, TfL has written to operators to ask them to collaborate on its new enforcement policy for e-bikes. TfL will also be working closely with London's councils to improve parking compliance.

The new policy sets out that TfL will consider taking action against operators who allow their bikes to be parked outside of designated places on red routes and on TfL land, which includes areas such as station forecourts and bus garages. Rental e-scooters are already required to park in bays, and the new policy will bring e-bikes closer in line with this.

Dockless e-bikes play an important role in encouraging more people to choose sustainable modes of transport when travelling around the capital, but we know that poor e-bike parking can cause significant safety issues for some Londoners, particularly disabled and older people. In some instances they have become obstacles for pedestrians, particularly in busy parts of the capital.

My million-pound investment into additional parking spaces, in conjunction with this scheme to ensure that vehicles are parked responsibly, will make London safer and more accessible for everyone.

State-of-the-art Kingston bus station reopens after transformation

I am pleased to confirm the refurbished state-of-the-art Cromwell Road bus station in Kingston reopened on Saturday 16 November following a complete transformation, which includes the addition of a customer toilet, improved safety features such as CCTV and measures to improve the building's efficiency.

TfL started work to redevelop the bus station last summer and customers are now benefiting from improved real-time travel information screens and a fully accessible customer toilet. Safety improvements include enhanced LED lighting and CCTV in and around the station, a wider passenger island with more space for customers and a new PA system. There are also improved welfare facilities for bus drivers and staff, as well as a new retail unit. This brand-new bus station is making bus journeys in Kingston much more convenient, safe and attractive.

When I was elected for a third term he committed to strengthening public transport options in outer London to help build a better and fairer city for all Londoners. The new bus station has been designed with customers in mind and I hope customers will take advantage of the new and improved station and it encourage more people to use local bus services. I want to thank the local community for their patience during the works and hope they enjoy their new station.

High-speed charging technology powers safer new zero-emission buses on 358 route

New, stylish, tram-like buses powered by pantograph are being introduced in phases to one of London's longest bus routes, between Crystal Palace and Orpington. The forward-thinking pantograph technology on route 358 allows fast, high-power charging of the new buses at each end of the 15-mile journey, through an arm-like structure attached to the bus roof, in as little as six minutes. This means drivers do not return to garages to recharge.

This means fewer buses are required on the route, bringing savings that can be invested into other areas of TfL's network, in addition to the benefits of cleaner, greener travel.

As part of TfL's commitment to achieving my Vision Zero goal of eliminating all deaths and serious injuries on London's roads, the buses have a safer front-end design, and include the latest safety features, such as speed limiting technology, audible warnings to alert pedestrians and other road users to the bus, and improved direct and indirect vision for drivers through camera monitoring instead of mirrors. The striking new design of the tram-style buses has an interior that is designed to reduce customer injuries including improved seat design and slip protection for flooring. The buses benefit from enhanced customer features such as USB charging ports and palm-operated assistance buttons.

Buses are critical to meeting sustainable transport, safety and environmental targets. They have a huge role to play in reducing congestion, making sustainable travel more attractive to everyone, and, across TfL's zero-emission bus fleet more widely, supporting jobs across the UK.

London's iconic red bus fleet is one of the greenest in the world, with lower CO2 emissions per passenger kilometres compared to other global cities like New York, Paris and Vancouver.

Introducing new pantograph technology on the route 358 is part of TfL's plans to improve bus services across London by 2030.

Londoners deserve to breathe clean air, and it is vital that we continue to deliver solutions to address this. The move to increase the number of zero-emission buses on the capital's streets is a key part of my goal to make London a zero carbon city.

TfL joins forces with Barclays Women's Super League to celebrate the London Overground Lioness line during historic weekend for women's football

Last month TfL teamed up with the Barclays Women's Super League to celebrate the naming of the London Overground Lioness line and a historic weekend for women's football. Station announcements from star players at Fulham Broadway, Seven Sisters and White Hart Lane stations welcomed fans to two blockbuster matches in the capital on Saturday 16 November.

History was made across that weekend with all games in Barclays Women's Super League and Barclays Women's Championship played in main stadiums for the very first time. This included top of the table clashes between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal, and Chelsea and Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur and Stamford Bridge stadiums. To help celebrate this, fans travelling to these games were treated to special station announcements from England Women's footballers Alex Greenwood, Bethany England, Lotte Wubben-Moy and Lucy Bronze.

Alongside these messages from England's finest, whiteboard messages highlighted the games and the launch of the London Overground Lioness line. The line runs through Wembley and honours the historic achievements and lasting legacy of the England women's football team, which continues to inspire and empower the next generation of women and girls in sport.

I'm thrilled TfL partnered with Barclays Women's Super League to celebrate the historic weekend for women's football and mark the launch of the London Overground Lioness line. I hope fans enjoyed this special weekend and have had the chance to reflect on how women's football continues to thrive, inspire and unite communities.

Three inspirational people from Havering selected as winners of TfL's London Overground Liberty line competition

TfL has revealed the three winners of its community competition, celebrating the unsung heroes of Havering and marking the naming of the London Overground Liberty line later this year.

The three winners, Lauren Hayden, Rebecca Mazrreku and Weininger Irwin, were chosen by staff working on the London Overground line due to their outstanding contributions to the local community. They have been awarded special London Overground Liberty line prizes, including a trip in a driver's cab, a tour of a railway control centre in Romford and an invitation to see the first new London Overground Liberty line signs in place.

The name of the London Overground Liberty line is inspired by the unique history of Havering, which used to be a Royal Liberty between 1465 and 1982 and granted special freedoms to local residents. TfL encouraged Havering locals to nominate those who have gone above and beyond to support the local community to win special prizes.

The new name of the London Overground Liberty line reflects not only Havering's rich cultural heritage but also its vibrant community spirit. Lauren, Rebecca and Weininger embody the very best of this spirit and it has been great to hear of so many inspiring individuals through the community competition.

New pocket Tube map by leading artist Rita Keegan pays homage to Tube seat designs

An artwork by London-based artist Rita Keegan inspired by the fabrics of the seats on the London Underground adorns the cover of the 40th pocket Tube map, which launched on 26 November as part of TfL's Art on the Underground programme. The map is the first to feature the new names and colours for each of the London Overground lines.

'The Fabric of Time' draws on Keegan's photographs of London from the 1980s and the history of Tube seat fabrics. Combining copy art, hand cut and digital collage, the piece layers 10 seat designs with a photo of the artist in her 30s at Brixton station, where Keegan first lived when she moved to London.

It is fitting that this cover also highlights some of the history of TfL design. It's a celebration of the artist's personal story as well as our capital's rich and diverse history, as we continue to build a fairer London for everyone.

Visit one of London's most famous landmarks, HMS Belfast, for less thanks to TfL partnership

TfL is partnering with Imperial War Museums' HMS Belfast to offer customers 2-for-1 entry for simply travelling by public transport.*

Built in 1936, HMS Belfast is now an iconic London landmark, permanently moored on the River Thames. With nine decks to explore, visitors can hear stories of life onboard from the 900 crew who called it home, take a seat in the Captain's chair and delve into the armoured heart of the ship to see the machinery held within. HMS Belfast was the largest of the Royal Navy's Town-class light cruisers and had a rich and varied life having fired some of the opening shots on D-Day, protected Arctic convoys and supported Allied troops in the Korean War.

London is brimming with amazing historical and cultural attractions, and we hope that our partnership with HMS Belfast will encourage even more Londoners and visitors to discover this iconic warship. With many of us looking for new experiences, this offer is a great way of enjoying one of the city's cultural gems and unique attractions for less.

*The 2-for-1 offer for HMS Belfast is valid until March 2025 (excluding half-term: 17 to 23 February). This offer can only be redeemed in person. Terms and conditions apply.

TfL recommences processing photocard applications, with contactless journey history and refunds also restored

I am pleased to confirm applications for new 5-10, 11-15 and 16+ Zip Oyster photocard are now being accepted by TfL, after they were temporarily paused following a recent highly sophisticated cyber security incident. Also, customers using pay as you go with a contactless card or a mobile device can now see their full journey history online, after it was temporarily restricted. The reopening of contactless.tfl.gov.uk means that all TfL fares services impacted by the recent cyber incident are now reinstated.

TfL prioritises the security of its network and customer data, continually monitoring its systems to ensure only those authorised can gain access. On 1 September, TfL identified suspicious activity and took immediate action to secure its network, ensuring all safety critical systems and processes were maintained. TfL has worked closely with the National Crime Agency and the National Cyber Security Centre throughout this process and notified the Information Commissioner's Office.

As part of the measures implemented to deal with the incident, TfL took the difficult decision to temporarily pause new concession photocard applications while it undertook important security checks. With the concession photocard website now fully back online again, TfL is working to process all new photocard applications as quickly as possible.

TfL also temporarily restricted access to customers' contactless journey history while it undertook important security checks. With this reinstated, customers and TfL's customer services teams can now access both Oyster and contactless journey history, correct incomplete journeys and process service delay refunds if required.

As previously announced, TfL intends to refund customers who have paid more for their travel than they should have due to TfL not being able to accept new photocard applications.

Mosaics by artist duo Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings unveiled at London's only Grade I listed Underground station, St James's Park

TfL's Art on the Underground programme has unveiled a new permanent artwork by London-based duo Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings at London's only Grade I listed Underground station, St James's Park.

Angels of History is the first mosaic created by the artist duo, and is composed of six panels, each measuring 1.5 x 1 metres, prominently installed in the station's atrium. The artwork continues Quinlan and Hastings's exploration of the relationship between public space, architecture, state infrastructure, gender, and sexual identity.

The new mosaic draws from the rich history of St James's Park station, which for more than 80 years was home to London Underground's iconic Headquarters, 55 Broadway, situated directly above the station. It was the tallest building in London on its completion in 1929, and was

immediately considered radical, in part thanks to the sculptures carved into its stone façade by artists including Jacob Epstein and Henry Moore. The choice to realise their new work in mosaic – a material frequently employed in post-war civic spaces – is a new departure for the artists, who have drawn inspiration directly from the Roman mosaic tradition.

Art on the Underground has turned the Tube into London's largest gallery, and Angels of History by Quinlan and Hastings is a wonderful addition to the collection. It provides a new dimension to one of London's oldest and most historic stations, with the intricate tiles and colours brightening up journeys. I hope it will inspire commuters and visitors travelling in the capital as we build a better and fairer London for everyone.

Mobile coverage on the Elizabeth line complete ahead of festive season

Customers on the Elizabeth line can now stay connected throughout their journey, with high-speed 4G mobile coverage now available across the entire line. This is a key milestone in my commitment to bring mobile connectivity to the whole of London's transport network.

Following all Elizabeth line stations and the first tunnel sections between Paddington and Liverpool Street getting mobile coverage earlier this year, TfL and Boldyn Networks, have now completed work to bring coverage to the remaining tunnels. This means hundreds of thousands of customers travelling across central London to Whitechapel, Stratford, Canary Wharf, Custom House and Woolwich will enjoy seamless connectivity as they travel between stations.

Bringing high-speed mobile coverage to London's underground stations and tunnels means that customers can stay connected as they travel around the capital and share all the exciting things London has to offer. It is also a key component of my plan to help Londoners stay safe while using the network. All four mobile network operators; Three UK, EE, Vodafone, and Virgin Media O2 (VMO2), are taking part in the rollout.

Growing numbers of underground Tube stations now have 4G and 5G services, with many more to come as we continue to build a better London for everyone.

Powerful posters designed by London children encourage TfL customers to give up their seat for those who need it more

Since 3 December powerful posters by young Londoners, encouraging people to give up their seats for those who need them more, have been on display on the TfL network to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Priority seats are available and clearly marked on all buses, Tubes, trains and trams on the TfL network, for anyone who needs them, including those with non-visible disabilities. A competition launched by TfL in September, during Priority Seating Week, invited children aged 6-14 to design a poster that raises awareness of these seats and encourages people to look up and offer their seat to someone who may need it more.

The impressive entries were judged by five members of TfL's Independent Disability Advisory Group (IDAG), a panel of 13 professional experts that helps TfL better understand the impact of its policies, projects and programmes on disabled customers.

TfL also confirmed it will be extending Access DLR, a six-month trial launched earlier this year to make travel on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) more accessible, until April, to gather more feedback. The Access DLR trial has enabled customers who need it to book assistance for when they travel, either over the phone or online.

Making London's transport network as accessible as possible is a top priority for me. The artwork from these talented competition-winners will encourage Londoners to think of others and offer their seat to someone who may need it more than them. It's also great news that the Access DLR trial is being extended as we work to build a fairer and more accessible London for everyone.

Environment

Clarion Housing Group's Rewild London Fund project

On 8 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met Chief Executive of Clarion Housing Group, Clare Miller. Together they planted a tree. They visited the Rewild London Fund project at the Locton Estate in Tower Hamlets alongside Cllr Nathalie Bienfait (Bow West). Staff and residents were able to show their work on nature and greening projects and talk about their aspirations to link their estate with wider networks for nature, with benefits for people and wildlife.

Ripple Greenway

On 8 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met representatives from Sustrans, Barking and Dagenham Disability Access group, Barking and Dagenham borough leaders, Assembly Member Unmesh Desai and local MP Nesil Kaliskan for a walking tour of the Ripple Greenway project. The project was part funded by my Green Capital and Tree Planting grants and has supported improved access to nature, connectivity and active travel. It is a good example of participatory approaches to public space design, particularly in relation to inclusion and access for disadvantaged groups.

Decarbonising London

On 11 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke on a panel at the London Conference on the theme 'What is the London we want to see in 2030? He highlighted the importance of working with partners and across sectors to achieve London's ambitious targets to achieve net zero by 2030 and highlighted some of the programmes that we already delivering in pursuit of that goal. He also highlighted that tackling climate change was also a matter of social justice and highlighted the importance of realising the economic opportunities associated with a just and fair transition to net zero.

Redbridge Council's Youth Climate Forum

On 15 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban spoke at the London Borough of Redbridge's annual Youth Climate Forum. The Deputy Mayor used this event to highlight the importance of building a sustainable future together with young Londoners, and to inspire their efforts to continue being ambassadors in their schools and homes. During the visit the Deputy Mayor met with the Leader of the Redbridge Council and local councillors, and local pupils who were taking part in the summit.

Notpla with Deputy Mayor Howard Dawber

On 18 November my Deputy Mayors for Environment and Energy and Business and Growth, Mete Coban and Howard Dawber, visited Notpla, Earthshot Prize Winners, an innovative circular economy business using plant-based materials to create sustainable packaging. During the visit my Deputy Mayor's toured the facility, learnt about the products being manufactured and met

with the Co-Founder and Co-Ceo, Pierre-Yves Paslier, to discuss ways opportunities to collaborate on reducing plastic packaging in London.

City of London Corporation's ROMULUS Initiative

On 18 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the launch of the ROMULUS Initiative, a public-private partnership between City of London Corporation, Maconda Solutions and Upcyclea. The initiative supports the reuse and upcycling of materials from decommissioned buildings by creating an "urban mine" of reusable resources, which stakeholders can access. As part of the launch, my Deputy Mayor joined a panel discussion alongside industry to discuss the initiative and how it's supporting a circular built environment in London.

London Eco Champion Awards

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the London Eco Champion Awards, where he celebrated the environmental achievements of young Londoners, schools and community leaders.

Ashok Sinha meeting

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with the chair of the London Sustainable Development Commission, Dr Ashok Sinha. Their discussion covered how the LSDC can support sustainability and climate action

Jo Parker-Swift meeting

On 21 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with Jo Parker-Swift, CEO of Solivus - a lightweight Solar PV company. They discussed how solar PV can be accelerated across London and what lessons could be learnt from Solivus' experience.

Rafe Bertram (LAEP) meeting

On 21 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with Rafe Bertram, Built Environment Sustainability Lead at LB of Enfield, to talk about accelerating deployment of net zero technologies such as solar PV and heat networks, with a focus on social housing.

My Life My Say's Next Gen Conference

On 22 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, took part in My Life My Say's annual Next Gen Conference at the Barbican Centre. The Deputy Mayor spoke about the success of the Give An X campaign and hosted a Democracy Café session focused on climate change.

Phase 1 of the Westfield Avenue public realm improvement scheme

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Stratford for the opening of Phase 1 of the Westfield Avenue Public Realm Improvement project. He joined the Mayor of Newham and my Walking & Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman to celebrate this milestone. The project incorporates new trees and rain gardens, supported by my Green and Resilient Spaces fund, helping to strengthen London's climate resilience by providing shade and reducing flooding.

London EV show

On 26 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave the keynote address at the London EV Show. The Deputy Mayor spoke about the work I am doing to make London the world's first electric-vehicle ready global city, outpacing the rest of the UK and many other cities worldwide in supporting the transition to electric vehicles. The event was well attended by many professionals from the electric vehicle sector.

Planting Day event

On 27 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited the Sutherland Road Housing Zone planting event to mark the completion of the final Housing Zones intervention in the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF). This initiative represents a significant upgrade to the public realm, focusing on climate resilience and community engagement. Mete joined the local community and borough leaders to plant the smart rain garden designed to collect and utilise rainwater for irrigation, enhancing the area's ecological sustainability.

John Dickie meeting

On 27 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with John Dickie, CEO of Business London, to talk about opportunities to work more closely on tackling the climate emergency in areas of mutual interest to London and his business members.

Tideway Legacy Reception

On 27 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the Thames Tideway Legacy reception at the House of Lords. With the tunnel due to come online in the coming months, the event was an opportunity to reflect on the project's wider achievements. This reception brought together Parliamentarians, business and industry leaders and community representatives to celebrate the Tideway community investment programme and showcase the positive impacts of the work in corporate responsibility, social value, green finance and environmental sustainability.

Net Zero Neighbourhoods

On 28 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Mete Coban visited Hounslow with 3CI to understand the borough's environmental plans and investment opportunities, including their development of the Net Zero Neighbourhood approach, joined by Cllr Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Climate, Environment and Transport at LB Hounslow.

Greenpeace lunch series

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at a lunchtime learning series at Greenpeace in Islington. The Deputy Mayor shared his insights on the importance of social activism and drew from his own work with young people and as a Councillor in the London Borough of Hackney.

Mayor's Free Trees for Londoners launch

On 28 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, celebrated National Tree Week at Railway Fields in Haringey. Mete met with TCV volunteers and their CEO Rebecca Kennelly. Mete planted a tree at the site and announced the continuation of the

Mayor's partnership with TCV's I Dig Trees. The partnership has already provided more than 160,000 free trees for London communities, with 70,000 more available this year.

3Ci Advisory Board Meeting

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, joined 3Ci's quarterly board meeting to discuss 3Ci's transition plan. The plan seeks to transition some of 3Ci's work into the government ambit.

Hackney Light and Power Residential Solar PV Pilot

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited LB Hackney to attend the launch of the Hackney Light and Power Residential Solar PV Pilot. This project was supported through my Local Energy Accelerator.

LSDC Just Transition event

On 2 December my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave a keynote speech at an event held by the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) – 'Delivering a Just Transition in London's Retrofits'. The event was to launch the LSDC's report, presenting community research to help London's retrofit providers to design more inclusive retrofit programmes in future. The Deputy Mayor highlighted the need for climate policies to be accessible to all Londoners and tackle inequalities. Further details of the LSDC's work on London's just transition can be found [here](#).

Cllr Clyde Loakes meeting

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban met Cllr Loakes, who is current chair of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), the statutory waste disposal authority that arranges the disposal, recycling and composting of waste collected by seven London boroughs. The Deputy Mayor emphasised his enthusiasm for continuing the positive working relationship between the GLA, ReLondon and NLWA, particularly during this critical period of implementation of the national Collection and Packaging Reforms.

Breathe Cities workshop

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at a Breathe Cities workshop hosted by the city of Paris. The Deputy Mayor spoke about the success of the Breathe London network and London's ongoing support and commitment to the Breathe Cities Programme. The workshop was attended by Deputy Mayors from other cities involved in the [Breathe Cities Programme](#).

Fire

LFB Long Service Awards

On 11 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, attended a service to honour LFB operational staff who have provided long service to the Brigade.

Deputy Mayor's Fire Board

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired a regular meeting of his Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.

Deputy Mayor's Fire Board

On 26 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired a regular meeting of his Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.

Mayor & London Fire Commissioner

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, and I met with the London Fire Commissioner for our regular discussion on matters relating to London Fire Brigade.

Resilience

London Resilience Partnership Chairs Forum

The London Resilience Partnership Chairs Forum took place on 14 November. The Forum provides a conduit for information sharing between the London Resilience Forum (LRF), chaired by my Chief of Staff David Bellamy, and the chairs of LRF sector panels and Borough Resilience Forums. This event considered the LRF's approach to implementing the Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations, the threat presented by drones, cybersecurity preparedness, London's emergency response structures, collaboration between local and regional resilience forums, and the work of the UK Health Security Agency Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department.

Growth and Skills

Ministerial Roundtable on the Built Environment Workforce

On 18 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, attended a ministerial roundtable with Matthew Pennycook MP (Minister for Housing and Planning, MHCLG), the Right Hon Baroness Smith (Minister for Skills, DfE), Sarah Jones MP (Minister for Industry, DBT, DESNZ) and Alison McGovern MP (Minister for Employment) to discuss skills, training and the wider workforce in the housebuilding sector.

Building a more employer-led skills system

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, addressed employers at a workshop on digital skills that was convened by my officers and supported by Bloomberg Associates. The session aimed to develop insight into employers' skills and hiring requirements, skill gaps, and how London's skills programmes can better address these working more closely with employers. A second workshop brought together training providers to discuss opportunities for greater integration of employers into the skills system.

Jobs & Skills Business Partnership

On 20 November, My Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber chaired my Jobs and Skills Business Partnership meeting. The meeting discussed the London Growth Plan (LGP) and how Skills England, will work with the GLA and businesses in London and the London Union Learn Programme Mayor's Skills Academies.

Housing

Visit to Croydon town centre

On Tuesday 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development and my Deputy Mayor for Business visited Croydon town centre at the invitation of LB Croydon and Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield to hear more about their plans to revitalise the town centre, including building thousands of new homes.

There is significant opportunity to both regenerate the town centre and build more homes close to transport links, and my team will do what we can to work with central Government, the borough and Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield to ensure the development works for local people.

Topping out of Stroudley Walk

On Wednesday 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development visited Stroudley Walk in Bromley by Bow to mark the 'topping out' of 115 genuinely affordable homes funded by the Mayor of London, as well as a new cafe, park and shops. The development is being delivered by housing association, Poplar HARCA and Muse.

Launch of winter rough sleeping campaign

On Tuesday 3 December, I launched my annual winter rough sleeping campaign. With recent data from City Hall showing a rise in Londoners on the streets when compared to last year, I am calling on all Londoners to make a small donation to the campaign.

Londoners can donate to the campaign – which will be promoted on billboards across the capital in the coming weeks – at one of the TAP points across the capital or online. There are 35 TAP points, including at Waterloo, Victoria, London Bridge and Liverpool Street stations. Londoners can also use the StreetLink website to connect people they see sleeping rough with local support services.

Tackling rough sleeping in the capital has been a top priority for me, and since taking office I have quadrupled City Hall's annual rough sleeping budget from £8.45m to £36.3m. Over 17,600 people have been helped off the capital's streets to date through mayoral-backed frontline services, with over 75 per cent of Londoners staying off the streets for good.

I remain committed to his ambition of working with Government to set London on course to end rough sleeping in the capital by 2030, in full knowledge that regrettably the scale of the challenge and the legacy of underinvestment from the previous Government means things will get worse before they better.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

International promotion

My Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, continued to promote London as the best city to do business, and to support London companies to expand internationally. From 10 to 15 November, he led a delegation of high-growth creative and enterprise tech companies to Singapore and Malaysia to meet with government representatives and business leaders.

Business engagement and support

Throughout this period, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber continued to work with key stakeholders on the development of the London Growth Plan and supporting business, including:

- On 18 November: Met with the co-founder and Head of Sustainability of Notpla, alongside Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, to discuss how the GLA and Notpla can collaborate to reduce plastic packaging in London.
- On 19 November: Attended the Mayor of Lewisham's Business Awards to talk about the London Growth Plan and present the 'Best Visitor Attraction' award.
- On 19 November: Alongside Deputy Mayor Tom Copley, met with Mayor Jason Perry, the Mayor of Croydon Council and Sarah Jones, MP for a visit to the Whitgift Centre, Croydon and to learn more about Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield's plans for Croydon town centre.
- On 20 November: Attended the Virgin StartUp 'Empower100' event, giving opening remarks to the cohort of new businesses that were part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) accelerator programme.
- On 21 November: Attended the UKSPF-funded Catch22 'GoodTech Accelerator' event which has been supporting and developing 30 new enterprises to create tech solutions for social and public service delivery.
- On 21 November: Visited Heathrow Airport and met with Nigel Milton, Chief Communications and Sustainability Officer to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 22 November: Attended SME Day, delivering opening remarks highlighting the Mayoral priorities, specifically on the London Growth Plan and supporting SMEs.
- On 26 November: Delivered keynote address at the Develop Croydon Conference: Fresh Perspectives, focused on the London Growth Plan and what it means for Croydon.
- On 27 November: Delivered keynote address at the Business, Innovation and Growth (BIG) South London conference in Croydon, focused on the London Growth Plan and opportunities in skills, innovation, entrepreneurship, health and life sciences.
- On 28 November: Delivered opening remarks at London and Partners Annual Sustainability reception reaffirming London's commitment to sustainability.
- On 2 December: Attended the Film London 'Game Changer' event to give a keynote speech. The project is supporting diverse founders and SMEs in the video games sector to become investment ready.
- On 4 December: Attended BusinessLDN's board meeting and spoke about the London Growth Plan.
- On 4 December: Attended an online stakeholder briefing on the London Growth Plan, jointly led with Mayor Jason Perry, London Councils lead for London's Future: Business and Economy.

- On 7 December: Supported the campaign 'Small Business Saturday' to encourage Londoners to support small businesses.

Communities and Social Policy

Guru Nanak birthday Celebration

On 15 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Hounslow Sri Guru Singh Sabha to mark the birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, one of the most important Sikh holy days. Debbie met with other guests and community members and joined the congregation in the 'Nishan Sahib' sewa, which is the flag raising ceremony. The flag stands as a symbol of deep spiritual significance. This was followed by a meal for all congregation members.

Parliamentary Reception, Migration Museum

On 18 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended a Parliamentary Reception for the Migration Museum alongside parliamentarians. Debbie delivered a speech which celebrated the efforts of the Migration Museum as an important anchor point for telling the story of migration to London and reiterated the Mayor's commitment towards supporting vulnerable migrants.

Disability Power 100 awards

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the Shaw Trust's Disability Power 100 awards. This visit was to mark UK Disability History Month. The Disability Power 100 is nationally recognised and showcases the UK's most influential disabled people and organisations. Debbie presented the awards to the winners of the Politics, Law and Media category. She also met and listened to stories from changemakers within the disability justice space and welcomed opportunities to develop relationships and work collaboratively with new partners.

Meeting with Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Seema Malhotra MP

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with the Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Seema Malhotra MP. They discussed Windrush, e-visas, legal aid and race equality.

Traveller Movement Conference

On 22 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the Traveller Movement annual conference. The conference, 'An Era of Change' celebrated the beginning of a new chapter and explored innovative policies that can bring about substantial improvements in the lives of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) communities. Throughout the day there were multiple panels and workshops. Debbie spoke on the panel titled 'Charting the Way Forward: Empowering Romani (Gypsy), Roma and Irish Travellers under the New Labour Government' and she met with members of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community.

Meeting with Muslim Youth Helpline

On 26 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with the CEO of the Muslim Youth Helpline to discuss the impact of Islamophobia

on young people in London, what the solutions are to tackle this and to better understand the issues young Muslims are experiencing in London.

Chanukah Celebrations at JW3

On 1 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended a family-focused Chanukah celebration at JW3 (Jewish Community Centre London) in Finchley. The event was attended by Jewish families from across London.

Visit to Salusbury World Refugee Centre

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with local leaders and advice staff at Granville Family Wellbeing Centre in Brent to discuss the positive impact that the Advice in Community Settings funding is having for local residents, through the advice and support provided by Salusbury World.

Civil Society and Sport

Go! London Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Day

On 8 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the second of the Go! London Young Entrepreneurs Pitch Day. The Go! London partnership, a £19.5m fund that supports sport and physical activity initiatives for young Londoners is delivered by City Hall, the London Marathon Charitable Trust, and Sport England with strategic support from London Marathon Events and London Sport. The event, held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, saw 13 young Londoners pitch their social enterprises using sport to drive positive social outcomes in their local communities. A panel of judges selected 10 business ideas which will receive a £15,000 grant and join Go! London's 'Grow' programme, providing the entrepreneurs with mentorship and support to start their social businesses.

Youth Careers Progression Event

On 13 November, 32 young people and five employers came together at my Sport Team's Youth Careers Progression Event. This was a pilot employment event bringing high quality job opportunities to young people aged 18-21 who are not currently in education, training, or employment from backgrounds that are underrepresented in sport. Employers gained access to diverse young talent, and young people gained tailored CV support and interview skills, as well as, valuable insight into the diversity of roles available in the sport sector. By the end of the event 14 young people secured roles in the sport sector.

Equitable Volunteering Forum

On 14 November, I convened 30 organisations from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, at the London School of Economics (LSE) to discuss Equitable Volunteering. The event examined how to advance equality, diversity and inclusion in volunteering in London and remove barriers for diverse volunteers. The session featured three keynote speakers who shared their insights on the experiences of Black, Minority and Ethnic volunteers in four organisations, including the GLA, and creating an accessible volunteering programme for disabled students at LSE. To strengthen this community of practice, I introduced a new mentoring scheme with a shadowing component, designed to create cross-working across the sector. I also hosted speed networking, where attendees made valuable connections and expanded their network. The event concluded with an opportunity to reflect on the insights

shared and how to put them into practice in the attendees' organisations. Attendees reported that they enjoyed the speakers, found them insightful and they valued the chance to meet colleagues from across the sector including those from charities and volunteer centres.

Team London Ambassador Volunteer Celebration Event

On 15 November, I hosted 102 of my Team London Ambassadors at City Hall for the annual Team London Ambassador Celebration Event. This event is an opportunity to recognise the invaluable contribution of my Team London Ambassadors, who have been a welcoming face to London over this year's summer volunteering programme. My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the event and presented seven awards to Ambassadors who went above and beyond this summer, they had been nominated by fellow Ambassadors and Team London staff. All volunteers who took part this summer will receive a commemorative pin badge and a signed thank you certificate. It was a wonderful evening of music, food and festivity; it truly celebrated the positive impact these volunteers have had on London this year.

Go! London "Match. Trade. Grow." Programme

On 21 November, it was National Social Enterprise Day and my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, launched the innovative Go! London "Match. Trade. Grow." programme. This is a pilot that will engage social enterprises in the sport sector and test an alternative way of grant making, allowing recipients to develop sustainable sources of income. This programme will challenge 30 sports organisations and social enterprises in London to grow their trading income. This might be trading which is directly related to youth sports and physical activity, for example, contracts with schools or local authorities to deliver sports activity, or other trading activities such as catering, events, clothing, or merchandise.

Young Tree Champions

On 27 November, during National Tree Week, my Civil Society & Sport Youth Team and my Green Infrastructure Team launched London School Tree planting days in partnership with the Tree Council and Action for Conservation. Schools across the city are receiving trees and planting workshops to grow their connection to nature and pathways into green jobs. This collaboration will see over 4,000 trees planted and over 1,000 positive opportunities for young Londoners across 38 schools.

London Funders Annual Conference

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired a keynote panel at London Funders annual conference. The panel of international speakers discussed the opportunities for creating community led economic growth and how communities can lead decision making in their local areas.

Children and Young Londoners

Celebrating London's youth workers

This year's Youth Work Week took place from 4 to 10 November and it was an important opportunity to celebrate youth work and the pivotal role youth workers play in transforming the lives of young Londoners.

My Violence Reduction Unit launched a video to demonstrate the importance and impact youth work has on young people and published a collective statement from its Charities Network, reaffirming a commitment to champion and celebrate youth work across the capital.

It builds on the 500,000 positive opportunities I have delivered for young people since 2016. Through my VRU and across City Hall, I will ensure that young Londoners have access to over 250,000 positive opportunities this term.

I know first-hand the difference a trusted relationship can have. I am proud that through my record £34 million New Deal for Young People, over 90,000 disadvantaged young Londoners have had access to high quality mentoring. Thousands more will benefit from life-changing mentoring over the coming months.

Fair Change event in support of 'Bum Deal' campaign

On 5 November, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, helped celebrate Tottenham Hotspur Stadium becoming the first ever 'Fair Change' accredited venue, making baby changing accessible to all parents and caregivers.

Joanne was joined by officials from the football club and members of its Official Supporters' Trust and Women of the Lane Supporters' Association, alongside representatives from The British Toilet Association, and plenty of parents, caregivers and young children.

The event was organised by feminist organisation Love & Power, following the launch of its 'Bum Deal' campaign in June. It's all about promoting parenting as a shared responsibility and giving dads, uncles, grandfathers and other male caregivers the same access to essential baby changing facilities as their female counterparts.

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium has nine fully accessible baby changing bathrooms available to all fans attending events, and Love & Power hope other venues will follow suit.

Spotlight on Children – The Untold Impact of Domestic Violence

On 5 December, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended an event, supported by City Hall and Bassam Mahfouz AM, and hosted by Lasting Supper, which aimed to raise awareness of the profound and often hidden effects that domestic violence has on children. The conference explored practical, community-based support initiatives and essential policy improvements to support children and young people who are exposed to these challenges.

Following my re-election, tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a key priority as outlined in my election manifesto. My current VAWG Strategy for 2022–25 sets out my long-term ambition to eradicate VAWG, and for every woman and girl in London to be able to live their lives without experiencing or fearing harassment, abuse or violence from men and boys.

I am supportive of the new government's mission to halve VAWG within a decade. As part of my new term in office, I am committed to refreshing the existing VAWG Strategy for 2025–2029 alongside the new Police and Crime Plan, ensuring VAWG prevention remains a key area of focus.

Culture

Liberty Festival Advisory Group

On 11 November, I met with the Liberty Advisory Group, along with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE. Liberty is my flagship festival celebrating D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists, and the eleven members of the group will bring insights from their lived and professional experience to guide the festival vision. New members, Zita Holbourne, Zack Mennell (sic), Jamie Hale, Chas de Swiet, Naomi Westerman and Stephen Bailey join existing members Maria Oshodi, Eleanor Lisney, Lennie Varvarides, Paul Anderson Morrow and Simon McKeown. Liberty will be a highlight event at both Wandsworth's London Borough of Culture in 2025, and Haringey in 2027.

London Borough of Culture 2025 – Welcome to Wandsworth

On 14 November, Wandsworth Borough Council unveiled the name and website for their year as London Borough of Culture in 2025. People can now sign up to Welcome to Wandsworth's newsletter on their website and follow them on social media to keep up to date with news, events and opportunities to get involved.

Creative Enterprise Zones - Ealing Creative Sector Forum

On 29 November, Shonagh Manson, Assistant Director chaired a panel at the first Creative Sector Forum. The forum aims to support the Borough of Ealing's legacy as a top cultural production powerhouse. Ealing is home to around 3,000 creative businesses and has nine times more creative manufacturing spaces than the London average. Park Royal is a thriving cluster for creative industries, reinforced by its designation as a Creative Enterprise Zone.

Creative Enterprise Zones - London Made Me 2024 Pop-Up Launch

On 1 December, the London Made Me Pop Up shop opened in Battersea Power Station. The shop will trade throughout the festive period until Sunday 29 December 2024 and showcase a unique collection of limited-edition art, jewellery, homeware, clothing, ceramics, accessories and gifts from the Creative Enterprise Zone makers and artists. My Deputy Mayor for Culture for the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, officially opened the shop on Thursday 5 December. The London Made Me Retail Development programme is part of my Creative Enterprise Zone Programme and is delivered in partnership with Crafty Fox Market and Lone Design Club, with support from Battersea Power Station, Alice Mayor, Grow London Local and Visit London.

Health

Movember

I recently met with *Ted Lasso* and *Celebrity Race Across the World* actor Kola Bokinni, to talk about the work of Movember, a charity focused on highlighting the importance of men's physical and mental health. Movember, taking place every November, raises awareness of men's health issues including prostate cancer, testicular cancer and male suicide. Recently appointed Movember ambassador, Kola is a passionate advocate for the importance of men talking honestly about their mental health.

To mark Movember, I joined Kola on Movember's 'Problem Shared Bench', part of their nationwide campaign to encourage men to have open and honest conversations about their

health. The charity has been encouraging people to sit down, open up and share experiences, as "a problem shared is a problem halved".

With men three times more likely to die by suicide in England than women, breaking the stigma around mental health is vital. Kola and I talked on the bench about how important opening up to friends and family has been for us both when it comes to staying mentally well, particularly when dealing with life's challenges.

Movember's work reminds us all that small actions such as checking in with a friend or family member can make a big difference in addressing men's mental health issues.

London Health Board

On 27 November, I chaired an informal extraordinary meeting of the London Health Board, made up of elected leaders from London's local authorities and key London health leaders. This meeting was followed by an officer-led workshop that began to explore how London can support the national government's Health Mission.

The Board was an opportunity for partners to share their strategic health objectives. I outlined my ambitions on topics including mental health, heart health, and children and young people's health and wellbeing. These objectives will be underpinned by a new implementation plan for my Health Inequalities Strategy and my continued work to consider health and health equity outcomes across all of City Hall and the GLA Group's policies. Board members also heard from the London Regional Director for NHSE who set out the NHS London-wide strategy and the approach being taken to support the Government's developing 10-year health plan, and from London Councils about their health and care priorities.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Zero Carbon Accelerator project approval

On 5 November, applications made by OPDC for two projects to harness solar power and develop a Smart Local Energy System in Park Royal were both approved by Zero Carbon Accelerator.

Both projects will drive decarbonisation efforts in Park Royal. This includes training, knowledge sharing, and access to a network of industry specialists to help develop, fund, and roll out the projects that will be delivered in 2025 and 2026.

The Zero Carbon Accelerator programme is one of my initiatives that is seeking to deliver against the London net zero by 2030 target.

London Conference 2024: OPDC roundtable Mayoral Development Corporations

On 11 November, OPDC's Chief Executive and Director of Planning hosted a roundtable at Centre for London's, London Conference 2024 on OPDC's vision for Old Oak and the role of Mayoral Development Corporations in London building on the conference's central theme, London 2030.

Planning approvals

On 14 November, OPDC's Planning Committee resolved to grant a Section 73 application for a data centre at the site of the Renault Retail Group Ltd on Western Avenue in Park Royal.

2025/26 Budget Submission

On 22 November, OPDC submitted its capital and revenue budget to the GLA for approval.

OPDC's budget submission covers the revenue budget for financial years 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 and a capital strategy, ensuring its plans align with my priorities to strengthen local communities, help Londoners into good work, and create flourishing high streets for all. A climate budget is also included, prepared in line with my commitment to make London net zero by 2030.

Final approval of OPDC's budget submission is expected in February 2025.

RTPI Planning Awards

On 26 November, OPDC staff attended the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) National Awards ceremony. OPDC's Industrial Supplementary Planning Document received high praise and a commendation in the Excellence in Plan Making Practice award category.

Dame Karen Buck appointed as OPDC Chair

On 2 December, following the London Assembly's confirmation hearing and unanimous endorsement, I was pleased to confirm the [appointment of Dame Karen Buck as OPDC's new Chair](#).

A former Labour parliamentarian, Dame Karen represented Westminster North (formerly Regent's Park and Kensington North) for 27 years. As Chair of OPDC, she will be responsible for leading the board and spearheading the corporation's delivery of tens of thousands of affordable homes and supporting job creation on the capital's largest new brownfield development site.

Dame Karen will officially take up her post on 1 January 2025.

Chief Executive, David Lunts to step down

On 9 December, OPDC announced that David Lunts will step down as Chief Executive.

Under his leadership, OPDC has overseen the delivery of thousands of new affordable homes, established a 20-year Local Plan, secured £240m in public sector funding, acquired strategic sites across Old Oak and agreed a business case with central government to unlock 70 acres of brownfield development land.

Recruitment for a new Chief Executive is currently underway, and David will remain in post until his successor is appointed.

I would personally like to thank David for his hard work and dedication as Chief Executive for OPDC and before that Executive Director for Housing and Land at the GLA.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Events

On 22 November, the second act of next summer's London Stadium music events schedule was announced. Singer-songwriter Sam Fender will play the multi-use venue on 6 June. Fender follows the announcement that Iron Maiden will perform at the stadium on 28 June.

Between the period of 8 November and 5 December, West Ham United played two home Premier League matches at London Stadium.

Westfield Avenue

On 25 November, Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, and Dr Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, joined LLDC Chief Executive, Shazia Hussain, and Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, to mark the first major milestone of the Westfield Avenue Public Realm Improvement scheme. As a result of the work, Westfield Avenue now has 400 metres of dual cycle track and 40 metres of upgraded footpath.

Mobile police station

On 26 November, I joined LLDC Chief Executive, Shazia Hussain, in visiting one of the temporary mobile police stations the Metropolitan Police have set up as part of work to increase patrols and apprehend criminals during London's busiest shopping period.

LLDC Planning Powers

On 1 December, LLDC's planning powers returned to the boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. I would like to thank everyone who has made such significant contributions over the years to LLDC's work as a Local Planning Authority, including the in-house Planning Policy and Decisions and Design Advice teams, the independent Planning Decisions Committee, The Quality Review and Community Review Panels, and the Built Environment Access Panel.

Planning and Regeneration

Local Plans

On 27 November 2024, GLA officers responded on my behalf to London Borough of Southwark's draft Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and draft Affordable Housing SPD consultations. In those responses, I provided guidance to bring the emerging SPDs into closer alignment with the London Plan.

London Plan Guidance

On 20 November, I adopted the following London Plan Guidance documents:

- Purpose Built Student Accommodation and
- Digital Connectivity Infrastructure.

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

I have sent a letter in response to the following Statutory Stage 2 referrals. I have informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that I am content for them to determine the cases themselves.

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2022/0049	Land at Legacy Wharf Phase 2, 3	London Legacy Development Corporation	11/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0127	Former Gasworks Site	London Legacy Development Corporation	18/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0137	International Quarter London (IQL) North	London Legacy Development Corporation	18/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0328	Westfield Stratford City Car Park C	London Legacy Development Corporation	11/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0399	6-12 Verney Road	Southwark	25/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0269	2-4 Dean Street	Westminster	25/11/2024	Allow LPA to approve

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following Stage 1 referrals:

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2024/0591	47-50 Mark Lane	City of London	08/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0570	2 Bensham Lane	Croydon	25/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0528	13-19 The Green, Southall	Ealing	18/11/2024	No Stage 2 required	Stage 1
2024/0602	TfL Landholdings At Bollo Lane	Ealing	25/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0524	Penhall Road	Greenwich	14/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0557	Beresford Street Phase 2	Greenwich	18/11/2024	No Strategic Issues Complies with the	Stage 1

				London Plan	
2024/0534	Manor Warehouse	Hackney	18/11/2024	No Stage 2 required	Stage 1
2024/0483	White City Central	Hammersmith and Fulham	11/11/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0499	Earls Court LBHF Hybrid	Hammersmith and Fulham	11/11/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0513	Olympia Way	Hammersmith and Fulham	08/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0609	Homebase, Syon Lane	Hounslow	25/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0555	Finsbury Leisure Centre	Islington	25/11/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0500	Earl's Court RBKC Hybrid	Kensington and Chelsea	11/11/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0620	Chalk Gardens	Sutton	18/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0621	Croygas Sports Club	Sutton	19/11/2024	No Stage 2 required	No Strategic Issues
2024/0569	Paddington Green Police Station	Westminster	19/11/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

Stag Brewery Public Inquiry

I am participating in a Public Inquiry relating to two linked planning appeals in relation to the mixed-use redevelopment of the Stag Brewery site in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for a scheme including 1075 residential units and commercial uses. GLA Officers and Counsel are participating on my behalf in matters relating to design/townscape, heritage, affordable housing/viability and town planning. Specifically, I have objected to the proposals on the following basis:

- 1) failure of the appellant to demonstrate that they are providing the maximum viable amount of affordable housing;
- 2) the proposed development would cause direct and indirect harms to the significance of Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the site, and nearby to the site
- 3) the height, scale, bulk and massing of the proposal would be harmful to the townscape, character and appearance of the surrounding area;
- 4) by reason of the above impacts, a conflict arises with the Development Plan as a whole. This conflict is not outweighed by other material considerations so as to justify the grant of planning permission.

The public inquiry is scheduled to last for a total of 16 days, with eight days held in November, and a further eight days to take place in early December. A decision is not expected until February/March 2025.

Church Street Triangle, Good Growth Fund Round 2

Church Street Triangle (Triangle Studios) in Westminster, which received £977,000 from my Good Growth Fund, officially opened on 22 November 2024. The transformation of Church Street Triangle includes a parade of upgraded shopfronts and a flexible enterprise and community space, giving local entrepreneurs an opportunity to start up a business. The project also improved the public realm and repurposed a WC block into a community cafe with accessible toilets. All of which is helping to support social and cultural infrastructure, setting the tone for Westminster's wider Church Street regeneration project. My Deputy Mayor for Planning and Regeneration, Jules Pipe attended the opening.

Key engagements

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

- I attended the City Hall Remembrance Service on 8 November
- I attended the National Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on 10 November
- I spoke at the Centre for London annual conference on 11 November
- I held my regular planning meeting on 11 November
- I visited a Pupil Referral Unit supported by the VRU on 13 November
- I joined HM The King visiting the Felix Project for the first Anniversary of the Coronation Food Project on 14 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 14 November
- I attended the Chancellor's speech on Financial Services at Mansion House on 14 November
- I held my regular planning meeting on 18 November
- I met with Bloomberg Associates on 18 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 19 November
- I attended The Times annual Business Event on 20 November
- I attended Mayors Question Time on 21 November
- I met with the Prime Minister on 21 November
- I attended the UK Mayor's Meeting with Downing Street on 22 November
- I met with the General Secretary of the RMT on 25 November
- I visited a mobile Met Police station focussing on tackling robbery on 26 November
- I met with the Leader of the House of Lords on 26 November
- I met with Lord Falconer on 26 November
- I chaired the London Health Board on 27 November
- I joined the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls on a visit to Croydon Custody suite on 27 November
- I attended a meeting of UK Metro Mayors on 27 November
- I officially launched the new Overground line signage on 28 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 28 November
- I visited The Bike Project as one of Comic Relief's winter campaigns on 29 November
- I joined the London Fire Commissioner in meeting local firefighter crews on 29 November
- I attended the GUBA (Grow Unite Build Africa) 15th Anniversary Awards on 29 November
- I attended the Evening Standard Christmas Event on 2 December
- I attended the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 2 December
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 3 December
- I attended the New Statesman Winter reception on 3 December
- I chaired a meeting of the Transport for London Board on 4 December
- I attended a dinner for the Emir of Qatar on 4 December
- I officially launched the Greener Schools project on 5 December
- I visited the Christmas lights at Piccadilly Square on 5 December
- I joined the official switch on of the Oslo Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square on 5 December