

8th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 16 January 2025

This is my eighth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 6 December 2024 – 2 January 2025.

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

Executive Summary

Christmas Carol Service

Nearly 600 guests and staff joined my annual Christmas Carol Service on 17 December at Southwark Cathedral, with a theme centred around hope.

The Dean of Southwark, The Very Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley, led the service, with The Rt Rev'd Alistair Cutting, Bishop of Woolwich, delivering the pledge and blessing. This year's Address was delivered by the Right Rev'd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, The Bishop of Edmonton.

I was delighted to be joined by Okela Douglas, Director and Founder of Sister System, Marisha Simpson, Teaching Assistant Trainee, and Len Duvall, Deputy Mayor of the London Assembly, who all delivered readings.

15-year-old Gabriella Sathiyathan, from Croydon – this year's London Borough of Culture, began the event by singing beautifully the opening verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. We also welcomed Vocal Shack choir whose voices resonated throughout the Cathedral as they gave us their unique renditions of 'Away in a Manger' and 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful.'

Tap London, a charity which provides shelter services for homeless people, was the beneficiary of donations received on the night.

Chanukah

The celebration of Chanukah with the lighting of the giant Menorah in Trafalgar Square brought together members of London's Jewish and wider community to celebrate the eight-day festival between 25 December and 2 January. Highlighting that London is for everyone, this important community event, delivered in partnership with the Jewish Leadership Council and London Jewish Forum, saw a new 'candle' lit on each night of Chanukah.

When I first became Mayor, I joined Mayors across the world in signing an Anti-Semitism Pledge – a pledge I still hold strong today, which is why tackling all forms of racism is still a priority for City Hall.

New Year's Eve

I was delighted to welcome in 2025 with our spectacular New Year's Eve celebration which once again saw around 100,000 people congregate along the banks of the River Thames to welcome in the New Year.

Featuring the world-first use of hologauze animation along with our unique combination of fireworks, lighting and music for the millions watching at home and around the globe, we sent a message of unity, hope and love to the world, showing that London is for everyone.

The display looked back at 2024, including the Olympics, Paralympics and 80th anniversary of D-Day, and even included a unique collaboration with Paddington Bear.

More than 12,000 fireworks and 420 lights lit up the sky as the eyes of the world watched London's unforgettable show, set to a brat soundtrack!

London Partnership Board

The London Partnership Board met for the 6th time on 17 December, chaired by my co chair, Cllr Claire Holland for London Councils. The meeting received an update on work to establish a missions-based approach in London, considering in depth the aims of each of the Housing, Growth and Health missions. The meeting demonstrates the strength on partnership working across London with contributions and offers of collaboration across a range of private, public and volunteer sectors organisations.

The meeting came just after the government has made clear its commitment in its White Paper on Devolution to work with me to agree a single financial settlement, giving London greater freedom and flexibility to drive growth and tackle some of our most pressing social issues. We all know London can be a testing ground for piloting innovative devolution policy and this White Paper provides us with a platform for economic growth not just here in the capital, but around the country.

People's Question Time – Wandsworth

Thursday 12 December saw my seventeenth People's Question Time, since becoming Mayor, and the first for some London Assembly Members who were elected in May 2024.

Chaired by Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, Léonie Cooper AM, members of the public joined both in-person and online and put their questions forward on various topics which included: Transport, Policing and Safety, Air quality and the environment, Housing and London's economy. This important event enables us, as elected politicians, to be held accountable for the work we do, and listen to the issues that matter to Londoners.

Policing, Crime and Security

New GPS tagging scheme for stalking offenders

On 10 December I was pleased to announce a new pilot scheme to tag individuals who have served custodial sentences for stalking offences with a tracking device under strict licence conditions. More than 200 offenders in London across varying sentence types are set to be tagged by March 2026.

The scheme will also include stalkers who receive community sentences, by working in partnership with the Ministry of Justice's GPS programme, meaning that for the first time all types of stalking behaviour will be eligible for GPS monitoring. This will ensure that stalking behaviour, including when the victims are strangers or acquaintances, can be better managed. It has been developed following close consultation with victims and survivor groups across the capital.

In addition, I announced an investment of an initial £50,000 to help ensure the management of stalking cases on the new pilot and greater information sharing with partners, including the Met police, London Probation, the NHS and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

I will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that ending violence against women and girls is treated with the utmost urgency – both by our police and society as a whole as we continue to build a safer London for everyone.

Scrutinising the Met's Children's Strategy

On 10 December I chaired the latest meeting of the London Policing Board, which focused on the Met's Children's Strategy.

As the Met paper set out, around two million children live in London and the policing challenges they present are wide ranging. In 2023, there were approximately 61,000 child victims of crime and 51,000 children who were suspected of committing a crime. Both Baroness Casey's Review and HMICFRS have raised concerns about the Met's response to missing and exploited children. It is vital that they address these concerns, and their Children's Strategy sets out the steps they are taking to do so. I am grateful to the Board Members for their thoughtful and incisive questioning about the progress of delivering the Strategy, and we will continue to oversee the Met to ensure that the changes we want to see are made and cemented. You can watch the session here: [London Policing Board | London City Hall](#).

Inviting Londoners to have their say on London's new Police and Crime Plan

On 18 December I published my Police and Crime Plan 2025-29, which sets out my high-level priorities for policing, crime and community safety in London for the next four years.

The draft Plan is focused on making London safer for everyone, reducing and preventing violence, rebuilding public confidence and trust in the Met and making sure victims of crime get the support they need.

My agenda is clear – to make London a safer city for all, by being tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime. The police alone cannot deliver this, and the Plan sets out how the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Met Police and partners – including local councils, health services, criminal justice and TfL/transport operators – will continue to work together to reduce and prevent crime.

The plan is structured around three key objectives:

- Reducing violence and criminal exploitation
- Increasing trust and confidence in the Met
- Improving the criminal justice system and supporting victims

I am inviting Londoners and stakeholders to share their views on the draft Plan over the next eight weeks to inform the final version which will be published by the end of March 2025. The consultation closes at 23:59 on 12 February 2025 - to read the draft Plan and find out how you can have your say, please visit www.london.gov.uk/policecrimeplan.

New programme provides support for fathers as part of approach to tackling violence

My Violence Reduction Unit has invested £350,000 to deliver targeted support to improve and enhance father-child relationships and promote co-parenting.

Studies show that fathers play a critical role in supporting children's development and their academic success, helping with problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

Absent fathers can also have a profound impact on the family with data showing that 60 per cent of boys with dads in custody are likely to go on to offend in later life.

Following work my VRU has done over the last four years through its Parent Carer Champion Network, it identified gaps in support and provision for fathers, as well as a lack of engagement with support services.

The VRU has now invested in two consortiums in eight London boroughs to deliver targeted therapeutic support and assistance in supporting fathers to gain access to their children, learn about healthy relationships and support around co-parenting.

These grassroots, community organisations, who work with fathers of all ages but with a particular emphasis on those 16-24, have developed more trusting relationships with dads and can be more effective in providing a single source of support through training, mediation, therapeutic support and advocacy.

The programme is part of my VRU's approach to providing support and intervening at all stages of a young person's life.

Transport

Kentish Town Tube re-opens with new escalators and refurbished ticket hall

Kentish Town Tube station re-opened to customers on Monday 23 December 2024 after the essential replacement of the station's 26-year-old escalators. The station's ticket hall, platforms and passageways have also been deep-cleaned and repainted, with new floor and wall tiles and improved signage installed.

The station had been closed since June 2023 to carry out the complex work required to replace the two escalators. Once this work was underway, issues were identified with materials used in the construction of the ceiling and ticket hall floor of the historic station, which first opened in 1907. Extensive work was carried out on these areas before the station could safely re-open to customers.

The old ticket office was also removed during the works and the ticket gates realigned to provide more space for customers, with seven new gates installed. Historic features of the station, such as the original clocks on the platforms and outside the station, have been preserved and care was taken to retain as many of the original tiles inside the building as possible.

Some hoardings are still in place while TfL finishes installing the ticket machines ready for use from early 2025.

I'd like to thank Londoners for their patience, particularly as the work took longer than originally planned. The new escalators will greatly improve journeys through the station and are expected to be in service for the next 40 years. In addition, the station is now more spacious, more welcoming and easier to navigate.

Colindale Tube station re-opens in temporary state following first phase of major upgrade

After a six-month closure, which enabled TfL to carry out heavy construction work as part of its major upgrade, Colindale Tube station on the Edgware branch of the Northern line has re-opened in a temporary state.

In June this year, TfL closed Colindale station to complete piling, crane operation and heavy demolition work that could not be done with the station open. The closure enabled the installation of steel beams and concrete foundations to provide the base for the new station building.

The re-opening of the Tube station, in line with the original construction timetable, sees customers using a one-way system through a temporary passageway to access the platforms, via the existing ticket hall and newly built staircases. This route has enabled the Tube station to re-open as quickly as possible, while work on the major upgrade of the station - which includes step-free access - continues ahead of a planned autumn 2025 completion date.

Without this upgrade, Colindale Tube station was expected to reach passenger capacity by 2026. As part of the upgrade, the 1960s-built entrance is being replaced with a new, landmark station building, which includes a spacious ticket hall and a lift giving step-free access from street to platform for the first time (with existing platform humps giving level access onto trains). Work started on the major upgrade at the beginning of this year, with funding from the Government and contributions from Barnet council, local developers and TfL.

I'd like to thank customers and the local community for their patience while Colindale station was temporarily closed and now again while it operates in a temporary state. This station upgrade is also key to supporting sustainable growth, helping to unlock the delivery of thousands of new homes and jobs. Work is progressing well and is on target to complete the major upgrade in autumn 2025.

Transport for London refreshes staff uniforms with a new, brighter look

TfL is refreshing the uniform that thousands of its staff wear across the network to help make staff more easily identifiable to customers, especially in busier stations.

The new look uniforms, that customers will now start to see some staff wearing, are a refresh of the uniform design first introduced in 2015 by HemingwayDesign. The refreshed design, supplied by uniform provider Cooneen, has brighter roundels representing each mode or team on the overcoat and fleecington jacket and on accessories such as hats, scarves and ties. The larger, brighter roundels will provide improved contrast and visibility – a key point in feedback on the current uniform design from visually impaired customers. Non-mode specific roundels will also be visible on other items, such as trousers and skirts.

To make the uniform as inclusive as possible, TfL used staff feedback on the current uniform to inform the changes, which include using softer yet durable fabrics.

This new uniform brings all TfL teams together, showing they are united in their work to help the millions of people who travel on its services to get across the city as quickly and smoothly as possible. The new look will make it easier for those looking for assistance to find staff at our stations, while still continuing to have the professional look we expect.

Introducing further diversity improvements through the uniforms, as well as ensuring they are designed to help staff at all phases of their life, is another way TfL is continuing to ensure its teams represent the city it serves while respecting its renowned heritage.

TfL sets out plans to improve road safety at key junctions in Hackney

TfL is inviting Londoners to have their say on new plans to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle in and around Shoreditch. In collaboration with Hackney Council, the plans would see the creation of new, high-quality crossings for both cyclists and pedestrians, alongside more footway space to help people travel sustainably and cut road danger.

TfL's latest data shows that in the three-year period up to 30 June 2024, there were 14 collisions at the junction of Great Eastern Street with Curtain Road. Tragically, this included a fatal collision involving a pedestrian in 2022. In addition, there were also six serious collisions at the junction, four involving a cyclist and two involving a pedestrian.

The proposed changes in the area include:

- New toucan crossing on Curtain Road to the north of New Inn Yard making it safer for people walking and cycling
- New pedestrian crossings at the junctions of Curtain Road with Scrutton Street and Holywell Lane, making it easier for people to cross the street
- A new signalised pedestrian crossing on Holywell Lane at the junction with Great Eastern Street, on the western side

- Widened footways in the area to increase space for people walking, as well as wider pedestrian crossings on Great Eastern Street
- Motorised vehicles would no longer be able to turn left from Curtain Road into Great Eastern Street, or left from Great Eastern Street into Curtain Road, reducing the collision risk for cyclists
- Advanced stop lines up to 7.5m deep to allow people cycling to get ahead of vehicles at the traffic lights

TfL is also inviting residents to give initial thoughts on improving road safety at the junction of Shoreditch High Street and Great Eastern Street. A significant number of people have been injured at the junction and TfL is designing proposals to improve safety in the area. TfL will use any feedback received to help develop a more specific set of proposals for improvements to the junction. A further consultation will be held in 2025 with more details on proposed improvements for the junction.

I am committed to investing in work to improve safety at some of London's most dangerous and intimidating junctions, and these proposals will make it safer and easier for Londoners to walk and cycle in the area.

TfL wants to hear what Londoners think of these proposals, so please do have your say before February 10th.

TfL funds 55 new community groups to unlock barriers to walking and cycling for Londoners

TfL and the London Marathon Foundation have awarded more than £580,000 of funding to 55 new projects run by community groups as part of the Walking and Cycling Grants (WCGL) programme.

WCGL aims to make walking and cycling more representative of London's diverse communities, with successful projects targeting a wide range of traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

Each investment will make a difference to communities across the capital, funding local organisations to deliver projects that get more Londoners walking and cycling, while enabling people to connect with their local communities, learn new skills, and improve their physical and mental health. More than £328,000 of the funding has been awarded to 134 existing projects, to continue their important work in the community.

I am committed to making walking and cycling accessible to all. That's why I'm delighted the Walking and Cycling Grants Programme continues to support these important projects that remove barriers to active travel for traditionally underrepresented groups.

We know what an impact these projects are having in their communities, enabling Londoners from all backgrounds to walk and cycle, and supporting my aim to build a fairer, greener, more accessible London for everyone.

Places for London highlights some of the many businesses across its citywide estate as it celebrates Small Business Saturday

Places for London, TfL's property company, joined small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the country in celebrating Small Business Saturday on 7 December 2024.

As a landlord to more than 1,500 businesses including hundreds of SMEs across London, Places for London prides itself on being a home where small businesses can thrive, and has been encouraging Londoners to discover the many small businesses providing great options for gifts, services and leisure over the festive season.

Places for London estate includes more than 800 railway arches. Many of these have been converted into modern spaces that house art studios, retailers and more, and the landlord is investing £300 million into its properties to make them thriving commercial and social destinations. This year, several small businesses joined the Places for London estate for the first time or expanded to new units, bringing vibrant new options to their communities.

Small Business Saturday has been instrumental for more than a decade in celebrating smaller local businesses and the essential role they play in our communities.

Small businesses are vital to London's economy, and it's brilliant that so many of them have made their home on TfL's Places for London estate.

TfL partners with the award-winning comedy The Play That Goes Wrong to launch discounted Theatre Tokens with Official London Theatre

For a third festive season, TfL has partnered with Official London Theatre to offer discounts on Theatre Tokens ahead of Christmas. This partnership allows customers to save 10 per cent on Theatre Tokens and make additional savings when used on Official London Theatre's See It Live in 2025 deals.

With no expiry date, Theatre Tokens can be redeemed at top shows across London and nationwide. When booking Theatre Tokens, customers should use the code 'TfL' to claim this offer - available only while stock lasts.

To celebrate the launch of the Theatre Tokens, TfL teamed up with the cast from The Play That Goes Wrong, who cause chaos as they try to navigate the TfL network. Luckily though, TfL staff will be on hand to support them on their journey to the West End.

As well as The Play That Goes Wrong, TfL also teamed up with Stranger Things: The First Shadow to create social media clips to encourage people to make the most of the offer to enjoy theatre shows for less.

Renowned as the heart of London's vibrant theatre scene, the West End boasts historic venues and world-class productions - attracting more than 17.1 billion people in 2023 alone. Located near iconic locations and stations in the city, like Piccadilly Circus and Covent Garden, the West End is easily accessible.

I encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of the Theatre Tokens offer and the New Year sale; See it Live 2025 deals to make the most of their discounts and enjoy all the amazing shows in the West End, and across the city.

Environment

ReLondon Confirmation Hearing with the London Assembly

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended a confirmation hearing with the London Assembly at City Hall. The Assembly requested the hearing after I informed them of my intention to appoint the Deputy Mayor as chair of ReLondon (officially the London Waste and Recycling Board). The Assembly asked the Deputy Mayor questions to determine his suitability and capacity for the role, and Mete was appointed following the hearing.

Professor Jane Harrington meeting

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with Professor Jane Harrington, Vice Chancellor of the University of Greenwich, to discuss the university's leadership in decarbonisation and future opportunities for collaboration.

Dr Sadiye Eylul Sadanoglu and Professor Jin Chan meeting

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment, Mete Coban, met with Dr Sadiye Eylul Sadanoglu and Professor Jin Chan to discuss the adoption of circular entrepreneurship in the tourism and leisure sector.

NRMM Construction Site in LB Newham

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Beckton DLR Depot which is currently being upgraded to support a new and expanded fleet of DLR trains. During the site visit he was joined by local leaders from Newham and Merton, TfL and Cleaner Construction for London Officers. He discussed their ongoing work to implement the Non-Road Mobile Machinery London Low Emission Zone (NRMM LEZ) and prepare for the tightening of standards from 1 January 2025.

Ruth Knight meeting

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with Ruth Knight, Head of Sustainability at the Royal Household. The meeting focused on sharing learning on the wider sustainability agenda for London, and discussing opportunities to collaborate, for example by building on successful previous work on decarbonising heat supply.

Community Energy Taskforce Phase 1

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, joined the official launch of the Community Energy Taskforce. The taskforce discussed ways in which the Mayor can support community energy groups to build their capacity and to integrate community energy into the Mayor's existing net-zero delivery programmes. The taskforce included Community Energy London members who are representatives from some of London's leading community energy groups alongside officers from the Greater London Authority.

ReLondon Board Meeting

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended ReLondon's (London Waste and Recycling Board) quarterly Board meeting. At the meeting the Deputy Mayor heard updates from the Chief Executive covering the organisation's programme

delivery, events, finances and risk areas; and participated in discussions on the organisation's strategic priorities and financial plan.

Hannah Mansour and Arsenal Football Club meeting

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with Hannah Mansour, Director of ESG at Arsenal Football Club to hear about the club's sustainability plans and discuss the London Stadium solar membrane project and the London Edge Fund.

John Dickie, CEO of Business LDN meeting

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, met with John Dickie of BusinessLDN to discuss how the GLA can continue to help London's businesses be able to access the opportunity of the green economy.

The Felix Project

On 18 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited the Felix Project to witness first hand their important work in reducing food waste and tackling the cost of living crisis.

UK100 Annual Parliamentary Reception

On 18 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended a parliamentary reception organised by UK100 and heard from innovative local authorities across the political spectrum on their climate successes and discussed the future of local climate action.

Fire

HMICFRS Report launch

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe and I attended Old Kent Road fire station to meet with the Commissioner and firefighters to mark the publication of HMICFRS report following its inspection of London Fire Brigade. The report acknowledged the significant improvements LFB has made since HMICFRS's last inspection, and rated LFB as outstanding in how it responds to major and multi-agency incidents.

Deputy Mayor's Fire Board

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired a regular meeting of his Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.

Growth and Skills

London Higher Enterprise Network

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth Howard Dawber attended the launch of the London Higher Enterprise Network at the London Institute for Healthcare Engineering (LIHE) which is driving innovation in MedTech,

Meeting with Social Care sector representatives

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth Howard Dawber met with representatives and stakeholders from the social care sector, including Care Providers Voice and Care City, to discuss workforce and skills challenges they are facing.

Adult Skills Fund Mayoral Board

On 10 December, I chaired the Adult Skills Fund (ASF) Mayoral Board to review the latest progress on ASF programme delivery. The board endorsed reconciling the Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs funding for 2023-24. This alignment ensures that these decisions support my broader goals for upskilling Londoners and fostering sustainable economic growth. The board also discussed the proposed approach for future grant allocations and delivery plans, ensuring they reflect the priorities set out in the London Growth plan.

Launch Reception of Skyline Skills Hub

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth Howard Dawber spoke at the launch of the Skyline Skills Hub. The Hub will support my ambition for London to be net zero by 2030 by delivering green skills best practice for the built environment. It will also encourage employers to invest in upskilling and expanding their workforce, highlight opportunities for Londoners to reskill and encourage new entrants into the sector.

Housing

Grenfell Silent Walk

On 14 December 2024, my Deputy Mayor for Housing attended the Grenfell Silent Walk to mark 90 months since the devastating fire. The walk ended with the reading of the names of the 72 lives lost that night, a poignant reminder of the importance of putting people before profit and ensuring safety is a priority.

I have committed to ensure that Grenfell will never be forgotten and that we will continue to embed learning from what happened across the GLA and GLA Groups. I stand in solidarity with the bereaved, survivors and local community as their fight for justice continues.

Repaying their loan

In August 2021, Tonic entered into a loan facility agreement with the Greater London Authority for £5.7M from the Community Housing Fund to purchase 19 apartments at Bankhouse to create the UK's first LGBTQ+ affirming retirement community. Following the sale of 17 apartments through the older persons shared ownership scheme, Tonic has now repaid the entire loan in full.

Congratulations to Tonic on reaching this milestone. I'm proud that I have been able to support the UK's first LGBTQ+ retirement community with a loan from my Community Housing Fund.

PRS property licensing devolved to London

On Monday 16 December, Government responded to my long-standing call for decision making on selective licensing schemes to be devolved to London in order to drive up standards in the private rented sector. The English Devolution White Paper, and associated guidance, confirms that councils will now be able to introduce larger selective licensing schemes without requiring

Secretary of State sign off. Boroughs will be expected to consult with me on their proposals, but I want boroughs to use their powers to help drive out rogue landlords.

Licensing is the best tool that boroughs have to improve conditions in the private rented sector, and I will be do everything I can to support London boroughs to use their new powers.

Crisis at Christmas appeal

On 17 December, alongside the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, I met volunteers and staff from the homelessness charity Crisis in their warehouse centre to help prepare their Crisis at Christmas appeal, which encourages people to help through fundraising, volunteering, and campaigning. At the warehouse, I helped Crisis volunteers to pack and organise food donations which will be delivered to the charity's day centres and hotels across London. I was pleased to announce I have provided Crisis and St Mungo's with £300,000 from the Ministry Housing, Communities and Local Government this winter, enabling them to extend one of their Christmas hotels to the end of January, providing over 170 people with further shelter and one-to-one support from Crisis and St Mungo's so they get the best possible chance to end their homelessness.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Small Business Saturday

To mark Small Business Saturday on 7 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth and I raised awareness of Small Business Saturday through social media channels. I also contributed to the press release that was circulated nationwide by the organisers of the campaign.

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 4 December: Attended BusinessLDN Board meeting and talked about the London Growth Plan and other mayoral priorities.
- On 6 December: Met Julia Lopez MP, Hornchurch and Upminster, the Harold Hill Trading Association and local business owners from the Hornchurch Town Team to discuss challenges faced by the local trading community and the London Growth Plan.
- On 10 December: With my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell, met Prof. Geraint Rees, Vice Provost for Research, Innovation and Global Engagement of UCL and the directors of London Centre for Nanotechnology, a joint institution led by University College London, Imperial College London, and Kings College London to discuss their plans to establish London's Quantum Technology cluster in Euston to unlock economic benefits for the UK.
- On 10 December: Met with the MedCity/London & Partners Life Sciences Advisory Group to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 10 December: Met with the British Business Bank to share priorities and explore collaboration, given the new political and national growth-focused landscape.
- On 10 December: Co-chaired Nightlife Industry Roundtable with Justine Simons, OBE - Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries to discuss Growth Plan

- On 11 December: Visited Guy's and St Thomas' to observe the delivery of biochemical samples through a drone delivery service managed by Apian, a London health tech start up, in collaboration with Wing and Synnovis Labs.
- On 12 December: Visited Kingston Upon Thames to discuss growth opportunities and challenges with the Leader of the Council, Andreas Kirsch, and local business representatives.
- On 12 December: Visited Kapdaa, a local business with a cutting-edge textile recycling system.
- On 12 December: Met Richard Deverell, Director of Kew Gardens, to discuss its role in London's visitor economy and plans for a new Science Quarter.
- On 12 December: Met with East End Trade Guilders
- On 16 December: Met with Nick Gliddon, Director of Vodafone UK, to discuss Vodafone's recent merger with Three, the London Growth Plan, and Vodafone's vision for London.
- On 16 December: Meeting with Dan Tomlinson MP, the Government's Growth Mission Champion to discuss London Growth Plan
- On 17 December: Met with Michael Geissler, Founder and Owner of Mo-Sys Engineering, manufacturer of advanced camera robotics and virtual technologies for the film and broadcast industry.
- On 17 December: Met with British Land
- On 18 December: Met with VisitBritain's Chair Nick de Bois CBE, and CEO Patricia Yates, to discuss VisitBritain's role in promoting London internationally and ways of working together to support sustainable tourism growth
- On 18 December: Chaired a London Business Forum meeting where key business groups and industry bodies attended.
- On 18 December: Visited Borough Market and met with Jane Swift, CEO, and a range of independently owned market traders and small food businesses to discuss opportunities and challenges and see first-hand the contribution of Borough Market to London's economy.

Communities and Social Policy

UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination

On 9 December my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, represented London at the UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination in Barcelona on Tuesday 9th December. The Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination has been hosted since 2020 and focuses on racial equity, gender equality, peace, justice, inclusive policymaking, and non-discrimination.

This international forum brought together leaders, activists, and experts from across the globe to address the critical challenges of racism and discrimination—issues that affect millions worldwide, including here in London.

Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke to an audience of over 800 at a leadership panel entitled, 'Cities as Catalysts: Strategies for Inclusive Urban Policies'. At this panel, city leaders from around the world came together to discuss their unique and innovative approaches to addressing racism and discrimination within urban environments.

Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke to the successful strategies and programs that have been deployed in London, emphasising the importance of local governance in creating equitable and

just societies, and shared her experiences in navigating challenges, building coalitions, and leveraging a cities' diversity as a strength.

During this event, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard also engaged in bilateral meetings with Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, Maria Eugènia Gay Rosell, who oversees Social Rights, Culture, Education, and Life Cycles.

UK Mission to the EU, Race Equality Policy Exchange

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, represented London at the UK Mission to the European Union's Race Equality Policy Exchange event, held in Brussels, Belgium this month. This event was a policy exchange between UK representatives, the EU institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders based in Brussels.

She delivered a keynote speech at a high-level panel alongside the UK Minister for Equalities and Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Seema Malhotra, and Nela Rhiel MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Culture and Education (CULT) Committee. Debbie discussed London's journey in tackling inequality and social justice – all of which is rooted in our belief that our city's diversity is our greatest strength.

This was followed by a policy panel between experts in race policy from the UK Office for Equality and Opportunity, representatives of DG Justice in the European Commission and NGOs.

Visit to The Feast, Kings Church

On 18 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, volunteered with Kings Church to serve The Feast, a free, three-course community meal that has been running each Wednesday for over 20 years in Catford. The meal is prepared and delivered by a cohort of volunteers, many of whom are former beneficiaries of the church's Jericho Road Project (JRP) services.

Like many faith institutions, Kings Church is heavily involved in social action work to help end financial hardship and homelessness in East London. In addition to The Feast, the JRP includes several other strands of work: In partnership with Christians Against Poverty, Kings Church run regular courses on budgeting and personal financial management. They also operate a Thursday Drop-in session at the Catford site to distribute non-perishable food and link individuals to advice and support agencies. In Lewisham and Greenwich, Kings provide low-support housing to 24 residents across 5 properties. As a Mayor for all Londoners, I am extremely proud of the outreach efforts of churches like Kings, which improve local conditions for everyone.

Church Leaders Thank-you Breakfast

On 20 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted dozens of church leaders for a thank-you breakfast at City Hall. This breakfast afforded an opportunity for those leading Christian faith communities to come together and reflect, but also to look ahead as we jointly make London fairer, safer, and more welcoming for all.

When I won my historic third term, I committed to use this opportunity to shape London's future. We know this can only be achieved by working with leaders of all faiths – and of no particular faith at all – to serve communities across the capital. Amidst political change, continued pressure on the cost of living, and global unrest, Christian faith leaders and places of

worship have supported Londoners and promoted fairness and unity. We were pleased to recognise them, in a small way, for this large effort.

Civil Society and Sport

International Volunteer's Day

On 5 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, joined the global celebrations for International Volunteers' Day. She visited 4U2's Nightcap Warm Welcome at the Chestnut Community Centre in Haringey and saw how important volunteers are to our communities. With over 30 local residents participating in dancing, wellbeing exercises and enjoying hot food, it was a great moment to witness the impact volunteers have in bringing communities together.

People's Question Time Volunteering

On 12 December, six of my Team London volunteers were deployed to assist with People's Question Time at Battersea Arts Centre. These volunteers supported the arrival of members of the public, checking their tickets and ushering them to their seats in the auditorium. Once the event began these volunteers were spread across the room to make sure that members of the public asking questions were given a microphone so that the panel and I were able to hear and respond to them accordingly.

Mayor's Carol Service

On 17 December, seven of my Team London volunteers assisted with the hosting of the annual Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral. Volunteers undertook a number of roles including supporting GLA staff setting up the event, ushering, assisting with collecting donations throughout the service, providing guests with information and support and helping to clear the space at the end of the service. Throughout the evening they provided support to the event as required by assisting GLA staff and engaging with guests.

Children and Young Londoners

Positive Opportunities for Young People

On 12 December, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, visited the youth charity Mums Aid in Greenwich. During her visit, Joanne attended a Stay & Play jewellery-making session and met with nine young mums and their children to learn how my New Deal for Young People programme is supporting young Londoners. She also met with Mums Aid's Fundraising Manager and Project Delivery team to discuss the project's delivery and the positive impact it has on young mums through key worker home visits, trauma-informed counselling, and peer support groups.

Joanne and I are thrilled to see the profound impact that Mums Aid is having on young mums in Greenwich, contributing directly to the success of my New Deal for Young People, which is on track to benefit 100,000 young Londoners by the end of 2024.

Supporting children's health

On 17 December, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families visited Brampton Manor Academy to congratulate them on their recent Gold award as part of my

Healthy Schools London programme. Joanne met with the Vice Principal, the Healthy Schools lead and the school council to discuss the impact of the school's healthy eating initiatives, including the success of their cooking club and school farm.

Brampton Manor Academy should be proud of their achievements in supporting children's health and wellbeing.

I extend my best wishes for their continued success in fostering a happy and healthy school environment.

Health

Meeting with Caroline Clarke

On 12 December, I met with the Regional Directors of NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). We discussed the emerging work on the health elements of our mission-based work and the health and care partnership's role in that. We talked about NHS London's strategic transformation priorities, which will start to deliver the three 'shifts' outlined by the government, from sickness to prevention, from hospital to community and from analogue to digital. I was briefed on winter resilience and the current operational pressures on the NHS and London's public health system.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Budget and Performance Committee

On 11 December, OPDC's Chief Executive David Lunts and OPDC's Planning Director Emma Williamson attended the London Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee at City Hall. The full public hearing can be viewed [here](#).

Planning update

On 16 December, planning permission was issued for an Application under Schedule 17 of the High-Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017 for works associated with the Victoria Road Crossover Box and Ancillary Shaft, comprising the construction of a Headhouse building and Plantroom building.

OPDC Community Christmas Party

On 19 December, OPDC hosted a Christmas party for all residents, community members and organisations from across the Old Oak and Park Royal area. The event offered an opportunity to say thank you to the community and was well attended with over 30 community members in attendance.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Pudding Mill Lane

In early December, LLDC announced it has formed a 50/50 joint venture partnership with Vistry Group, the UK's leading provider of affordable mixed-tenure homes, for the delivery of 948 new homes in Pudding Mill Lane in Stratford, alongside 30,000 sqm of high-quality commercial

space. A minimum of 45% of the new homes will be affordable and a high proportion of family housing will be included.

This contributes to LLDC's wider 50% Affordable Housing provision across its remaining Stratford Waterfront, Pudding Mill Lane, Rick Roberts Way and Bridgewater Triangle neighbourhoods.

Ultimate Tennis Showdown

Copper Box Arena hosted the Ultimate Tennis Showdown (UTS) Grand Final from 6-8 December. The high-octane event was the climax of a 2024 season of UTS events around the world. The event is a testament to Copper Box Arena's ability to attract and host world-class events, further cementing its reputation as a top London venue for large-scale, international competitions.

ABBA Voyage

A new impact report was released on 9 December, highlighting that ABBA Voyage has boosted the UK economy by more than £1 billion, with £1.4 billion in turnover and nearly £775 million in gross value added to the UK economy. This is a clear example of how my support for the culture and creativity sector continues to drive economic growth across London.

Budget & Performance Committee

On 11 December, LLDC Deputy Chief Executive Gerry Murphy and Executive Director of Development Rosanna Lawes joined panellists in front of the London Assembly Budget & Performance Committee to discuss affordable housing delivery in the context of LLDC's 2025/26 Budget Submission.

Planning and Regeneration

Local Plans

On the 17 December 2024, GLA officers responded on my behalf to London Borough of Harrow's draft Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation. In that response I made it clear that it is my opinion that the draft Local Plan is in general conformity with the London Plan. I provided guidance to bring the emerging draft Plan into closer alignment with the London Plan.

London Plan guidance

On 20 December I published the Accelerating Housing Delivery Planning and Housing Practice Note which sets out a range of measures to support housing delivery in the short term and the provision of affordable homes.

Planning for London programme

The following reports were published relating to the Planning for London programme:

Stakeholder event write-ups

- Affordable Housing
- Climate Change
- Infrastructure and Utilities

Co-Design Reports

- Young people's feedback through the co-design with Design Future London
- London Sustainable Development Commission report on social value
- NLA report summarising discussions from round tables with industry stakeholders on key theme such as housing, tall buildings and net zero.

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
2022/0358	Ailsa Wharf	Tower Hamlets	09/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & the Fire Service, under powers delegated to him, sent a letter in response to the following Statutory Stage 2 referrals. The Deputy Mayor informed the relevant Local Planning Authority that he was content for them to determine the case themselves.

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2021/0842	Olympic House and Novotel	Brent	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0176	Blenheim Shopping Centre	Bromley	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1023	93 Bollo Lane	Ealing	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0093	Kidbrooke Village	Greenwich	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0226	Berol Quarter	Haringey	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0057	Bell Green Works	Lewisham	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0195	Mitcham Gasworks Site	Merton	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0345	Land Surrounding Freemasons Road	Newham	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0125	Land At Former EMR Site	Newham	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0794	Friars Close	Southwark	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0249	Elm Grove Estate	Sutton	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve

2024/0113	Former Westferry Printworks	Tower Hamlets	16/12/2024	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0289	7 Brannan Street	Tower Hamlets	16/12/2024	Call in application
2023/0036	Savile Row Police Station	Westminster	16/12/2024	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
2024/0571	4-8 Sedgemere Road	Bexley	09/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0632	Park Parade, Edgware Road	Brent	16/12/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0614	Summit House	Ealing	16/12/2024	No Stage 2 required	Stage 1
2024/0705	Sherwood Close (Former Dean Gardens Estate)	Ealing	06/12/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0674	7 Morson Road	Enfield	17/12/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0558	Maryon Road & Maryon Grove Estate	Greenwich	06/12/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2024/0536	Rainham Lodge Farm	Havering	09/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0592	6-12 Kennington Lane	Lambeth	09/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0478	Thameside West	Newham	16/12/2024	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

2024/0586	Beckton Riverside, Phase 1	Newham	09/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0583	Southwark Underground Station	Southwark	09/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0584	Railway Rise	Southwark	16/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2024/0625	Clare House	Tower Hamlets	16/12/2024	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

Regeneration

High Streets Data Service ‘Data Day’

On 10 December, Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration, and the Fire Service, gave remarks at the second High Streets Data Service (HSDS) Data Day, which brought together data enthusiasts, policy professionals, and local partners at City Hall to explore how data is driving impact across London's high streets. ‘Data Day’ showcased projects powered by collectively purchased footfall and spend data from the HSDS, which are addressing key challenges across London – from London’s growing polycentricity to the impact of major cultural events, and from local tourism trends to waste management operations. Jules emphasised the importance of data in achieving my goals for inclusive growth and sustainable regeneration.

2024 HSDS Incubator Programme

The second HSDS Data Science Incubator Programme concluded in December 2024. During the programme, six teams from borough councils and business improvement districts (BIDs) spent ten weeks leveraging HSDS data to address key challenges and deliver transformative insights for their local areas under the guidance of data mentors from the City Intelligence Unit. Challenges explored ranged from investigating the rise of fast-food restaurants in Putney, to analysing international visitor trends in South Bank BID and understanding the impact of the Apollo on Hammersmith town centre. The Incubator Programme highlights the value of combining local knowledge with data to drive positive change in urban environments.

Key engagements

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

- I held my regular planning meeting on 9 December
- I met with the Mayor of the East Midlands on 9 December
- I attended an event hosted by Len Duvall AM on 9 December
- I chaired the London Policing Board on 10 December
- I chaired the Adult Skills Fund Board on 10 December
- I met with Unite the Union on 10 December
- I met with the Leader of Camden Council on 11 December
- I attended the Met Police Christmas Carol Service on 11 December
- I held my regular meeting with the NHS and OHID on 12 December
- I joined Metro Mayors for a meeting with the Chancellor on 12 December
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 12 December
- I attended People's Question Time on 12 December
- I joined Metro Mayors at the launch of the Government's English Devolution White Paper on 16 December
- I took part in a charity football match (London v Homelessness) on 16 December
- I spoke with the Home Secretary on 17 December
- I met with the Leader of London Councils on 17 December
- I chaired the London Partnership Board on 17 December
- I joined the Deputy Prime Minister at a visit to the Crisis homelessness charity on 18 December
- I hosted my annual Christmas Carol Service on 18 December
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 19 December
- I met with students from Kings College London on 19 December
- I attended the GLA Staff Christmas Reception on 19 December
- I attended the New Year's Eve fireworks on 31 December