

10th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 20 March 2025

This is my tenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 12 February – 6 March 2025.

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

Executive Summary

Record funding for the Met

Bearing down on crime and keeping Londoners safe is my top priority as Mayor and I'll always use all the levers at my disposal to fund the police, investing record sums from City Hall.

So I was pleased to be able to pledge an additional £83m – £10m from City Hall and £73million from central government – for policing in my final draft budget. This will bring total Mayoral investment in the Met to an historic £1.159 billion for the next year – an increase of nearly 105 per cent in annual funding compared to the previous Mayor's final budget.

This means there is an additional £320m funding for the Metropolitan Police compared to the current year's budget, an unprecedented increase. This additional investment will keep hundreds of Metropolitan Police officer posts and reduce expected cuts to key specialist police units.

Despite this record-breaking additional funding, the Met still faces a difficult financial situation due to over a decade of cuts by the previous government. As Mayor, I will continue to work with the new government and the Commissioner ahead of the forthcoming spending review on the funding the Met needs to ensure we can continue building a safer London for everyone.

Violence reduction

In February, I welcomed the announcement that my Violence Reduction Unit had secured £9.4 million investment from the Home Office to build on its youth work intervention programmes that are working to drive down violence in the capital.

The funding will enable London's VRU to deliver key violence prevention work, which includes embedding teams of skilled and experienced youth workers in hospitals and in police custody, to offer support, guidance and a route away from violence for young people.

Youth workers will continue delivering diversionary work from 12 hospitals. Since 2022, these interventions have supported more than 3,100 young people and contributed to significant reductions in young people deemed high risk to others or to further violence. After engaging with a youth worker, 77 per cent reduced their risk of harm from others and 73 per cent felt safer post intervention.

Investment will also mean the VRU will deliver its Divert and Engage programmes, which involves youth workers embedded in police custody. They are reaching 10,000 young people at a point of crisis and has led to positive outcomes in reintegration into education, training or employment.

For those up to 18, nearly 90 per cent arrested for violent offences did not reoffend over the next 12 months following engagement with a youth worker.

Launch of London Growth Plan

On 27 February I launched my new London Growth Plan in partnership with London Councils at Imperial College, in front of an audience of more than 700 businesses, trade unions, local council representatives, higher and further education, MPs and other stakeholders. The plan aims to turbocharge economic growth and increase prosperity across the city, and has been developed in close collaboration with boroughs, businesses, trade unions, skills providers, civil society and Londoners.

The publication of the strategy fulfils my manifesto commitment to create a new and exciting plan supporting 150,000 additional good jobs, and provides a blueprint for the future success of our city. I am particularly pleased that this ambitious and detailed plan has secured cross-party support from London Councils, as well as strong endorsements from many of the capital's major businesses, institutions, and organisations.

The London Growth Plan sets out a blueprint to kickstart the capital's productivity, restore productivity growth to an average of two per cent a year in the next decade, which would make London's economy £107bn larger by 2035 and put an extra £11,000 on average in the pockets of the near-nine million Londoners. It outlines huge opportunities for turbocharging the capital's economy and harnessing the growth potential of key sectors such as AI, life sciences, robotics, clean tech, quantum computing and the creative industries. Key drivers to deliver the Plan's growth ambitions for the capital include a renewed focus on nurturing world-class talent, helping Londoners get the skills they need for productive careers, backing business innovation with new investment and technology, taking a bolder approach to housing and infrastructure, and reinvigorating London's local high streets.

Delivering the London Growth Plan will be a genuine partnership between local government leaders, London government and central government, working in coalition with universities, incubators, accelerators, venture capitalists, innovation districts, corporate innovators, capital markets and international investors.

I look forward to continuing this spirit of partnership as we deliver the specific actions and targets in the plan.

Meeting with the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko

On 18 February, I met with Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, for a discussion on the current situation in Ukraine and past and future cooperation between London and Kyiv. This is a time of grave concern for many in Kyiv, and I reiterated that in London, we will continue to do everything we can to support a full and just end to this terrible chapter in Ukraine's story.

Meeting with the EU Ambassador and UK Ambassadors of 27 EU Member States

On 18 February, I hosted a roundtable with the EU Ambassador and the Heads of Mission of 27 EU Member States. At this meeting, I reaffirmed our capital's desire not just to maintain, but to build upon, our positive relationship with the European Union. I've been clear that the one million EU citizens who call our city home are Londoners and will always belong and be welcome in our city.

Mayor's International Diplomatic Reception

On 18 February, I hosted over 120 Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of London's diplomatic community at my International Diplomatic Reception. This reception was a great opportunity to showcase London as a global city and celebrate our cultural, economic, and social connections with countries around the world. I will continue to foster international connections and collaboration that support a more inclusive and connected London.

Oxford Street Transformation

On 28 February I launched the consultation on the proposed designation of Oxford Street as a Mayoral Development Area, as well as consulting on the principle of pedestrianisation.

These proposals will help to restore this famous part of the capital to its former glory, while creating new jobs and boosting growth – both in London and other parts of the country.

The consultation will run from 28 February to 2 May. More information can be found [here](#).

Get Online London device donation

On 18 February, I announced that I donated more than 700 devices from City Hall to my Get Online London programme following the GLA's IT refresh. Demand for devices still far outstrips supply, so I also called on businesses and public bodies to donate mobile phones, laptops and other IT kit to help us fix the digital divide and ensure access for all. The programme has been a great success with over 100,000 digitally excluded Londoners supported including the distribution of 88,500 data packages since launching in 2022.

Policing, Crime and Security

A new Stop and Search Charter for London

On 27 February I welcomed the publication of the Met's new Stop and Search Charter. This Charter fulfils a key recommendation from Baroness Casey's Independent Review and will help the Met develop a better consensus on the use of stop and search between the police and the communities they serve and make it more effective.

I have always been clear that stop and search is a vital operational policing tool and has an important role to play in keeping Londoners safe, ridding our street of weapons and tackling violence on our streets. It must be intelligence-led and carried out in a way that doesn't undermine the trust of London's communities, which is so vital for crime prevention.

This Charter was co-produced with communities and is part of the Met's ongoing work to build a Met that is anti-racist, inclusive and representative of the city it serves.

Improved training, community engagement, and enhanced oversight will improve the way this vital power is used in our community. Londoners will rightly judge this Charter by its results, and I will continue to monitor its delivery to ensure it is both effective and fair so that we can build a safer and fairer London for everyone.

Welcoming the new Crime and Policing Bill

The safety of Londoners is my first priority, and on 25 February I welcomed the Government's new Crime and Policing Bill, which will help the police and partners step up efforts to crack down on crime and antisocial behaviour in our communities. The Bill will include measures to address the highest-harm crimes impacting society, such as knife crime, phone theft, cybercrime, child sexual abuse, and terrorism. It will rightly treat violence against women and girls as the emergency it is, strengthening Stalking Protection Orders, introducing a new criminal offence covering spiking, and bar registered offenders from changing their name where they continue to pose a threat.

Moreover, there will also be increased powers in the Bill to crack down on repeat antisocial behaviour offenders, with new Respect Orders banning those prolific offenders from our town centres. At City Hall we will be in close contact with the Government as the Bill progresses, as we work together to make our capital and our country safer for all.

Transport

TfL trials mobile charging with electric construction vehicles for the first time to cut emissions

TfL is working with the construction industry on a pioneering new trial of zero emission construction vehicles, which involves a UK first method of mobile recharging. TfL and FM Conway (FMC) have partnered with Volvo Construction Equipment (Volvo CE) and SMT to deliver the trial, with an electric excavator and wheel loader replacing equipment traditionally powered by fossil fuels, a first for TfL. New advances in technology such as those being trialled at the site could play a vital role in reaching the Mayor of London's target for London to be net zero carbon by 2030.

The electric vehicles use a method of recharging provided by Charge Fairy, a British electric charging startup. They are able to provide real-time updates on the machines' charging levels when on-site, which feeds into a team who can then send a charging van to the site. This method of bringing the charger to the vehicle allows the construction machines to be recharged in an hour.

Developments in how vehicles on construction sites are powered and charged could revolutionise how the capital's transport network is built, ensuring London is greener and healthier for all.

Major improvements to improve accessibility at Surrey Quays station

Work to deliver step-free access to both platforms at Surrey Quays station is progressing well and remains on track for completion in summer 2026, improving accessibility and transforming journeys for thousands of customers.

In a major milestone last month, a prefabricated footbridge was safely lifted into position during a weekend closure of the Windrush line. When completed, this new footbridge with stairs leading to all platforms will provide relief to the existing narrow staircases, which can often suffer from congestion at peak times.

Work on the new second station entrance and ticket hall on platform 2 is also progressing well, with a timber roof and the external roof system now installed. Work continues on installing the two new lifts that will provide step-free access for the first-time to both platforms, helping those who have mobility impairments and parents with pushchairs.

Once the work is completed at Surrey Quays station, customers will have easier and more direct access to Canada Water, British Land and AustralianSuper's 53-acre masterplan that will see thousands of new homes, leisure and retail amenity and new workspaces being developed over the next decade.

TfL hosts live poetry readings from award-winning poets at Covent Garden station, as part of popular Poems on the Underground series

In February TfL brought live poetry readings to Covent Garden station to mark six new poems to be featured on London Underground, London Overground and Elizabeth line trains.

Featured poets, Niall Campbell, Imtiaz Dharker and Foyle Young Poet Lewis Corry, read their poems, as well as TfL staff who are budding poets. Scottish writer and poet, Niall Campbell recorded and performed his poem *February Morning*, plus some other poems from fellow

Scottish poets, and Lewis Corry recorded and performed his poem *2013, Daedalus never moved away for work*, at the station. In addition, Imtiaz Dharker, poet, artist and video film-maker and part of Poems on the Underground, participated in the poetry reading.

Campbell's and Corry's poems are two of six poems that have been selected for this spring's collection of Poems on the Underground.

Poems on the Underground has been inspiring and entertaining customers travelling for almost 40 years since the first posters appeared on the London Underground in 1986, and I hope TfL's customers enjoyed the latest set of poems launching on the network.

TfL, the Met Police and Enfield Council working together to reduce road danger and road-related anti-social behaviour on the A10

TfL, working alongside Enfield Council and the Met Police, is introducing a range of measures to reduce road danger and tackle road-related anti-social behaviour on the A10. This includes extending the existing average-speed camera system, new lane markings, and an injunction prohibiting 'car cruising'. TfL is determined to work in partnership with the Met and London boroughs to achieve my goal of eliminating deaths and serious injuries from London's roads. Tackling speeding is a key part of this. These measures are supported by local residents and politicians who have been raising concerns about speeding drivers and antisocial road use.

TfL will extend the existing average-speed safety camera system on the A10 to cover the southern section from Southbury Road to the A406, in response to sustained community concern and levels of extreme speeding, particularly overnight. This will replace the 'spot speed' cameras that are already in place on this stretch of road and ensure a more joined up enforcement approach along both sections of the road. Data shows that average speed cameras on the northern section of the A10 from the M25 to Southbury Road, and high levels of enforcement, have been successful in reducing the number of collisions involving death and serious injury. Since the average-speed safety camera system was introduced in 2020, collisions involving death and serious injury have reduced by over half from seven (2019) to three (2021 and 2022). In 2023 and 2024 there have been no collisions involving death and serious injury at this location.

TfL has also introduced new and enhanced lane markings, ensured all signals are clearly visible and that signal-controlled crossings on the corridor have functioning tactile cones, and cut back vegetation along the A10 to allow for clearer footways.

Breaking the speed limit is also illegal and dangerous and TfL is determined to ensure that roads are safe for everyone in Enfield.

6,000 lights at King's Cross St Pancras converted to LEDs, providing brighter and greener journeys for passengers

Transport for London's (TfL) work to decarbonise its operations continues at pace with the installation of 6,000 Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs at King's Cross St Pancras Tube station. This is the latest of the 120 stations across the Tube network to be upgraded, which means more than 40 per cent of the Tube network is now brighter and more efficiently lit, making journeys more comfortable and safer for customers.

Customers who use the busy interchange station are benefiting from a more brightly lit journey after the LED conversion, with the new bulbs consuming less power, halving carbon output and the cost of electricity compared to traditional lighting. It is expected to generate energy savings

of 1400 MWh per year, equivalent to powering 500 number of homes a year [1] or almost 300 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) and up to £455,000 in operational savings in the first year. LED lighting also lasts longer than traditional fluorescent lighting, reducing maintenance and replacement costs.

London is helping to lead the way towards achieving net zero and TfL is committed to doing what it can to ensure its services are the most sustainable way to move around the city

Remembering Moorgate 50 years on

28 February was the 50th anniversary of the Moorgate station train crash which claimed the lives of 43 people and injured 74 others.

On that day in 1975 a southbound Northern City line train failed to stop (at what was the terminus) and crashed into the tunnel end beyond the platform at Moorgate station.

It is considered the worst peacetime accident on the Underground.

A minute's silence was announced at Moorgate station at 08:46 – the time the accident occurred, followed by a ceremony later in the morning under the memorial plaque, alongside the London Fire Brigade. Chief Operating Officer Claire Mann laid a wreath on behalf of TfL.

Construction work to start on major project to refurbish Gallows Corner flyover

TfL set out plans to completely renew and strengthen the ageing Gallows Corner flyover, which will allow the major structure to continue serving Londoners reliably for decades to come.

Gallows Corner flyover was built in the 1970s as a temporary structure. It is now in a very poor condition and in urgent need of renewal. Speed and weight restrictions have been in place for a number of years to allow the structure to continue to operate safely and a major renewal project must now take place to avoid future disruption to the road network.

The project will involve the complete renewal and replacement of the entire structure, other than its foundations. This will allow for the removal of speed and weight restrictions, improving journey time reliability for thousands of people travelling through the area. New pedestrian and cycle crossings will also be installed to make it easier and safer for people walking and cycling, while improved road markings and resurfacing will improve journeys for people driving.

Plans revealed for the next proposed Superloop express bus route in the Thamesmead area as consultation launches

TfL is inviting Londoners to provide feedback on proposed plans for an express bus route running between Abbey Wood and North Greenwich, via Thamesmead and Woolwich. These plans will further develop the network of express bus routes to connect even more places in outer London. The bus route would support the early stages of regeneration plans in the Thamesmead area and proposals to extend the DLR.

As part of plans for SL11, it is proposed that the existing route 472 would be renumbered and would run as an express service between Abbey Wood and North Greenwich. This would improve journey times and provide quicker connections between the Elizabeth line, DLR, London Underground and National Rail. The proposed SL11 would also enable easy interchange with the existing Superloop network, with the SL11 connecting to the SL3 at Abbey Wood and

Thamesmead. Thanks to the Mayor's Hopper fare, customers can get unlimited journeys for £1.75, made within one hour of touching in on buses. The SL11 consultation runs until 13 April 2025.

The first phase of the game-changing Superloop, a 138km network of express bus services, was completed last year (with the exception of SL4 which will run through Silvertown Tunnel). It has transformed travel in outer London and added more than six million kilometres per year to the capital's network. Since the first Superloop route was launched in June 2023, figures show the average increase in passengers on all Superloop corridors (including parallel routes) is 11 per cent which is nine per cent higher than the network average. There are currently nine routes in operation. The next route, SL4 will run between Canary Wharf and Grove Park, and is launching on 7 April this year with the opening of the Silvertown Tunnel. Feedback is important to TfL, and everyone is urged to respond to the consultation.

Environment

World Energy Council Global Team Retreat event

On 12 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban met with the World Energy Council Global Team to discuss key energy priorities for London, and how to balance the competing priorities of energy security, equity, and sustainability at the city level.

Camden Bike Bus

On 13 February my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended a parent-run bike bus to support children to travel actively to school, where he met with parents and children and discussed the health and wellbeing benefits of travelling by bike or scooter to school.

Tottenham Parks Programme

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Bruce Grove Playground to join councillors from Haringey and representatives from Friends of Bruce Castle Park as they announced additional funding for eight parks across Haringey.

Ealing Beaver Project

On 15 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Paradise Fields, Ealing to officially name the beavers that were reintroduced there in October 2023. The project was led by the Ealing Beaver Project and supported by my Rewild London Fund. The beavers have created a new wetland habitat supporting a range of species and alleviating flood risk at Greenford Station. The arrival of two further kits (babies) last summer demonstrates that the beaver family is thriving. At the ceremony, Mete gave certificates to the local school children who had won the competition to name the beavers.

Quatro Roundtable

On 18 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban attended a roundtable organised by Quatro discuss my net zero and environment priorities, meeting with representatives across the development, planning and local government sectors.

ReLondon's Unlocking circular economy innovation in high street businesses event

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and chair of ReLondon, Mete Coban, spoke at ReLondon's Unlocking circular economy innovation in high street business event. The event highlighted and celebrated the successful initiatives supported through the High Streets Beyond Waste programme, which is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and implemented by ReLondon.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School visit

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited the Eco Council at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Havering. I recognise the vital role that schools, educators and young people have in addressing the climate and ecological crises, and his greener schools programme helps schools decarbonise whilst saving on energy bills and raising awareness with young people in the process. My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with school leaders and pupils who are helping to make the school more environmentally friendly, alongside stakeholders from the Borough.

Better Futures Programme

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave the keynote speech at the Better Futures event, which marked the successful completion of the current UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) phase. This event celebrated the longstanding dedication and impact of the Better Futures programme (running since 2017), and now in its fourth iteration, honoured the contributions of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), delivery partnership, and stakeholders in creating a more sustainable London through its contribution to climate innovations and decarbonisation solutions.

Young Tree Champion launch

On 3 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, and my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Harlington School and Pinkwell Primary School to launch The Tree Council's Young Tree Champions (YTC) programme. This project is supported by my Trees for London Fund and will deliver tree planting activities for around 1,200 young Londoners in 38 schools across 19 London Boroughs. At the event, Mete and Debbie planted trees with the students and spoke with them about their aspirations for their communities.

The Ella Roberta Foundation

On 5 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban and London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman visited Lewisham with Rosamund Adoo- Kissi-Debra from The Ella Roberta Foundation to look at some of the challenges around air pollution and active travel infrastructure in the borough. Details of The Ella Roberta Foundation can be found at: <https://www.ellaroberta.org/>

Warmer Homes London Joint Policy Board Meeting

On 5 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban attended the Warmer Homes London Joint Policy Board. This was the first meeting of the Policy Board since Warmer Homes London was launched on 7 February 2025. Warmer Homes London is a vital initiative to help those in need stay warm and save money by making their homes more energy efficient. Working in close collaboration with colleagues from London Councils, housing associations and

other stakeholders, Warmer Homes London will unlock more national funding from central government for homes in London.

Fire

Deputy Mayor's Fire Board

On 25 February, 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 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired an additional meeting of his Deputy Mayor's Fire Board to discuss LFB's response to HMICFRS' third inspection report. The report highlighted progress across ten of the eleven areas inspected. The deep dive allowed LFB to share their action plan to close the areas for improvements HMICFRS raised.

Growth and Skills

The Mayor Opens STUDIO at Barnet and Southgate College

On 12 February, I opened Barnet and Southgate College's new £2.2 million multimedia production facility, STUDIO. I met with students, staff and industry stakeholders to discuss opportunities in the creative sector. Photography and media students captured the event, producing a live podcast with guest speakers. These new facilities provide industry standard training to support students into careers in the creative industries.

Workforce Integration Network (WIN) Green Design Lab Symposium

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber gave a keynote speech to celebrate employers graduating from WIN's Green Design Lab cohort. These companies, whose collective workforces comprise of over 11,000 employees, have completed projects developed through the Design Lab to tackle labour market inequalities in the green sector. Graduating employers will join a growing community of workforce integration champions. Previous Design Lab cohorts have focused on the health, creative, construction, and the digital and technology sector.

CEO of Refugee Council

On 18 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, and my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with the CEO of the Refugee Council, Enver Solomon. They discussed how City Hall can further support the Refugee Council and work with London's businesses to develop employment pathways for refugees to ensure all Londoners can access opportunities and good work.

AoC Meeting

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, met with the Association of Colleges London regional leads to discuss the impact of the recent government announcement on reductions to the Adult Skills Fund. The meeting covered concerns from the Further Education (FE) sector about the financial pressures facing colleges and the implications

for learner enrolments and the FE workforce. My Deputy Mayor reiterated City Hall's commitment to working with the sector to protect learning opportunities and making the case to government for sustained investment in adult skills.

Housing

Crisis Homelessness Summit

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development, Tom Copley, spoke at Crisis's homelessness summit about my pledge to end rough sleeping by 2030. Tom told attendees about the work we are doing to prevent homelessness and help people into housing, including my recent £10 million investment to expand our network of Ending Homelessness Hubs, and our plans to expand London's Homes off the Streets initiative. He set out how my upcoming Plan of Action on rough sleeping will draw on the expertise of London's homelessness sector, the NHS, local government and former rough sleepers themselves to establish a shared mission for ending rough sleeping.

New London Architecture Housing Summit

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development, Tom Copley, opened this year's NLA Housing Summit. He set out how, through my work to boost the supply of housing and the changes set out in the London Growth Plan, we can build the new homes we need to solve the housing crisis and boost our economy. He explained my commitments to speed up developments, including by working to cut the time it takes to get planning permissions and by setting up a City Hall Development Investment Fund to unlock large, mixed-tenure sites.

Speaking at Wates on temporary accommodation

On 25, February, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development, Tom Copley, spoke alongside private sector and charity partners on the state of temporary accommodation in London and potential solutions to the crisis. Highlighting the shocking fact that 1 in 21 children in London now live in temporary accommodation, he discussed the urgent need for innovative solutions, including high quality, safe, warm, modular homes.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

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 support business, including:

- On 12 February: visited the London Zoo and met with the CEO Matthew Gould, to discuss their plans for development and improvements to their visitor experience.
- On 12 February: attended the City of London Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee Annual Dinner and discussed the opportunities for growth in the financial services sector.
- On 13 February: attended the Centre for London's London Network Roundtable to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 13 February: attended the Newport Beach Film Festival UK and Ireland to support London's growing Film and TV industry.

- On 18 February: met with the CEO of BusinessLDN John Dickie, to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 18 February: met with the CEO of Refugee Council Enver Solomon, along with my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, to discuss their programmes to provide good jobs and training for refugees in London.
- On 18 February: visited Bauer Media Group in Euston to learn more about Bauer Academy, a private provider of award-winning courses in journalism, technology and leadership.
- On 18 February: joined the roundtable I hosted with EU Heads of Missions and discussed the London Growth Plan.
- On 19 February: met with the CEO of Primera Ruth Duston to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 19 February: visited Paddington with Westminster City Council Leader Adam Hug and Rachel Blake MP and visited Imperial College Healthcare Trust and discussed the importance of Health and Life Sciences to London's Economy.
- On 20 February: visited the Snowfields Quarter to hear about a new development in SC1, a life sciences district near London Bridge, which is subject to planning approval, and met with partners leading the project.
- On 20 February: met with the Co-Founder of Instant Impact Felix Mitchell, an innovative business service company using AI to streamline and improve processes for their clients.
- On 24 February: met with the CEO of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karim Fatehi, to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 24 February: hosted a Black Equity Roundtable with leading black founders to discuss the London Growth Plan and barriers to growth.
- On 25 February: met with the Chair Paul Williams and CEO Dee Corsi from the New West End Company (NWECC) to discuss the London Growth Plan.
- On 25 February: met with the CEO of Quantexa Vishal Marria, to learn more about the fast growing London based AI business
- On 25 February: delivered a keynote speech at London & Partners' Chinese Investor Reception and met with CC Land and other Chinese investors.
- On 4 March: spoke at the HS2 'Trains to Cranes' event to celebrate job creation and economic growth in the area around Old Oak Common Station.
- On 4 March: spoke at the Opportunity London Pre-MIPIM Reception.
- On 5 March: spoke at London & Partners International Women's Day event with over 100 Female founders, corporates and investors present.
- On 5 March: visited Hackney Arches and met with the East End Trades Guild to discuss their work in the local area.
- On 6 March: attended and gave the opening address at the London UK Shared Prosperity Fund event bringing together stakeholders and beneficiaries from across the £144 million programme to celebrate achievements.

Culture

London Borough of Culture Wandsworth

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE joined Councillor Simon Hogg, Leader of Wandsworth Borough Council, at Battersea Arts Centre for the launch of 'Welcome to Wandsworth' - this year's London Borough of Culture programme. They revealed the first details for their programme of world class events,

experiences and performances that will take place in all 22 wards of the borough with a focus on the power of culture to improve health and wellbeing. My London Borough of Culture programme improves access to culture for all Londoners. It brings diverse communities together, gives grassroots creativity the chance to shine and shows how culture can inspire and unleash the potential of young Londoners.

Culture, Health and Wellbeing

On 4 March my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and my statutory health advisor, Professor Kevin Fenton chaired the first of three working group meetings. These bring together senior stakeholders from across the arts, health, public health and philanthropic sectors to explore sustainable funding models that can support the long-term viability, equity, and resilience of creative health in London.

Civil Society and Sport

Mayor's Community Weekend Announcement

On 14 February, I announced London's second Mayor's Community Weekend. This partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund will see £385,000 of lottery funding awarded to community groups to host events and activities that will celebrate London's vibrant and diverse communities. Grants of up to £2,000 will be available for events that will take place between the 12 and 14 September 2025. The programme will open for applications on 9 April and close on 30 April 2025.

People's Question Time

On Thursday 6 March, my Team London volunteers assisted with the hosting of People's Question Time Haringey at Tottenham Stadium. Volunteers undertook several roles as part of their support to GLA staff to ensure the event ran smoothly. These roles included checking audience members' tickets and IDs, ushering, providing audience members with information and assistance as required, and helping to clear the space after the event.

London Borough Sport and Leisure Team leads – Engagement Event

I hosted a second engagement event at City Hall with London Borough Sport and Leisure Team Managers. The event focused on key objectives including aligning London Borough efforts with the GLA's youth sports initiative, exploring funding opportunities for youth programs, and strengthening partnerships to enhance youth engagement across London. This event reinforced our commitment to investing in young people, with the ultimate goal of creating 250,000 positive opportunities for young Londoners.

Feedback from attendees indicated that presentations and updates were highly valuable. Participants expressed interest in future collaborations on shared priority areas. There was significant enthusiasm for ongoing programmes, particularly those focused on Women and Girls (Representation in Sport, Safer Environments), Access to Sport Facilities, and Youth Opportunity (Mental Health and Employment). A key takeaway was the need to collaborate with London Borough sport leads beyond grant funding. We aim to reconvene later this year to build on this momentum and maximise our collective impact.

MoL Sport Career Pathway

I am pleased to announce that my GLA Sport team, and Violence Reduction Unit have awarded nine outstanding organisations funding as part of my Mayor of London Sport Career Pathway Programme. These organisations will play a crucial role in providing tailored, holistic pre-employment support to a cohort of 10-12 young people each, equipping them with essential skills and mentoring.

These organisations demonstrated a strong understanding of the barriers faced by young Londoners affected by violence and a proven track record of successfully engaging and supporting this target group. Their programmes will include a mixture of one-on-one mentoring and employment skills sessions, designed to complement their delivery and respond to the needs of their cohort. The organisations will support young people with interview preparation and provide ongoing mentoring during their placements, fostering a holistic approach to empower the next generation of the sporting workforce. This initiative is a key step in addressing youth unemployment and building a more sustainable and representative sporting workforce in London.

Open Doors – Easter 2025

I am pleased to announce that I have selected seven organisations to receive funding to bring the Open Doors Fund for the Easter Holidays 2025 program to life. This initiative, a key part of the Mayor's Sport Unites program in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit, aims to provide safe and enriching spaces for young Londoners during the school holidays. Each selected organisation demonstrated a strong commitment to the fund's priorities.

They will deliver a week-long program of sports, physical activities, mentoring, and enrichment to underserved young Londoners. The organisations will offer at least 60 minutes of daily physical activity, along with a hot, healthy meal that meets school food standards. In addition to this, the organisations will provide mentoring sessions and enrichment activities such as cooking classes, DJ workshops, and mindfulness sessions. Each organisation will receive up to £6,000 to deliver their program.

These organisations demonstrated robust safeguarding measures, a clear understanding of the needs of at-risk youth, and commitment to the program's objectives. They also showed how they would positively impact at-risk youth through data capture, surveys, storytelling, and final reports. We are confident that these organisations will create positive experiences for young people, offering access to local role models and safe, familiar spaces.

Children and Young Londoners

Celebrating a Healthy Schools London Gold school in Tower Hamlets

On 26 February, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, had the pleasure of visiting Chisenhale Primary School in Tower Hamlets. She was joined by the borough's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maium Talukdar.

For many years now, Chisenhale has been involved in my Healthy Schools London (HSL) programme, which supports and recognises schools doing great work to improve child health and wellbeing. In fact, last year they achieved their most recent HSL gold award!

Joanne congratulated pupils and teachers on this fantastic achievement, which they had worked towards as part of a local pilot around 'active movement' - integrating moving more and

sitting less into the daily routine of the school. Joanne was able to observe an 'active movement assembly', as well as some standing and walking classroom activities.

Health

Thousands of refugees into NHS employment – a commitment for London

On 12 February, I was delighted to support NHS Employers' roundtable aimed at creating pathways to employment for thousands of refugees living in London over the next three years. I provided a video message to open discussions and the roundtable was chaired by my Mayoral Adviser, Dr. Tom Coffey, and NHS England Regional Director, Caroline Clarke.

London is home to many refugees with the skills, experience and dedication to strengthen our NHS. Among them are trained doctors, nurses, therapists and other health professionals who are willing and eager to contribute to the country that has welcomed them in. We all know our NHS is facing major workforce shortages so there is also a strong economic case for making it easier to employ these groups.

Partners from the NHS, DWP, the GLA and from refugee agencies committed to working together to create pathways for those seeking both non-clinical and clinical roles and to develop good practice resources. They will review progress in six months' time.

National HIV Testing Week

I was pleased to mark HIV Testing Week, which ran from 10 – 16 February, encouraging people across England to take a HIV test to know their status. Getting tested for HIV is the first step to accessing the best treatment and support.

To support the campaign, I used my channels to call on Londoners to come forward and get tested – whether through ordering a free test to take at home, or by speaking to their GP.

I am proud that London is leading the way to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 and was the first global city to surpass the UNAIDS targets with: 97% of people living with HIV diagnosed, 98% of those diagnosed receiving treatment, and 98% of those on treatment virally suppressed.

But if we are to end the HIV epidemic by 2030, Londoners need to know their HIV status, so that – if needed – they can get onto treatment to stay healthy and avoid passing the virus on. HIV Testing Week is a brilliant reminder to us all to play our part and get tested.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

NLA evening talk – Repower London Programme

On 13 February, Davena Wilson, Director of Projects at OPDC, spoke at built environment membership organisation NLA's *Infrastructure for Climate Resilience* evening talk.

The event was part of the NLA's 'RePower London' programme and explored the challenges of building urban infrastructure that is resilient to climate change, focusing on innovative flooding, greening, and heating systems.

Davena spoke on OPDC's innovative new heat network, a recipient of £36m of Government Green Heat Network Fund investment, which will provide low-cost, low-carbon energy to 10,000 homes, businesses, and a major hospital by re-using waste heat from local data centres.

Attendees also heard from representatives from the Thames Estuary Growth Board, LDA Design and built environment consultancy CIVIC.

You can read more about OPDC's new Heat Network [here](#).

Local Development Scheme update

OPDC, in its role as Local Planning Authority has published an [updated Local Development Scheme](#) (LDS). The publication is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government requirement for Local Planning Authorities to publish an updated LDS by 6 March 2025.

The LDS sets out the programme to produce OPDC's next Local Plan and other Development Plan Documents. The programme is interim reflecting potential changes resulting from the emerging national planning reforms.

Land referencing update

On 21 February, OPDC wrote to local residents and businesses to let them know it would shortly start a Land Referencing exercise as part of preparations for the comprehensive regeneration of Old Oak, described above.

To deliver its proposals for Old Oak, OPDC needs to gain a more detailed understanding about the land rights, ownership and occupiers in the area.

Working with land referencing consultants TerraQuest, OPDC will shortly contact residents and businesses within Old Oak to understand interests in their property.

Gathering this detailed information will enable OPDC to develop its plans for Old Oak and ensure OPDC is able to deliver on its regeneration proposals.

Trains to Cranes – HS2 research report

On 4 March, OPDC's Development Director Marianne Brook spoke at the launch of HS2's new research report, *From trains to cranes: HS2 and the West London development boom*.

The report highlights the economic impact that the construction of the HS2 station at Old Oak Common in West London is having on the local economy.

Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor of London for Business & Growth and HS2 CEO, Mark Wild, also spoke at the event, which brought together key partners from across West London to discuss the growth opportunities that are emerging across the area.

Marianne updated on progress at Old Oak, a £10bn regeneration project which is driving inward investment and growth and will see around 9,000 new homes delivered, half of these affordable, and tens of thousands of jobs created - alongside substantial investment in local leisure and community facilities, green space and public realm.

You can read a copy of the research on the HS2 website here: [HS2 in West London - HS2](#)

London Legacy Development Corporation

Reopening of ArcelorMittal Orbit

On 14 February the ArcelorMittal Orbit reopened to the public after a period of renovations under the new operator Zip World. The attraction is Zip World's ninth UK location and its first in the south-east of England.

Executive Director of Development Appointment

On 17 February London Legacy Development Corporation announced the appointment of Darren Parker as its new Executive Director of Development. Darren, who is currently Director of Regeneration and Development at L&Q Group, has 20 years of experience in urban development, investment and housing delivery and a track record of delivering award-winning schemes, recognised for their design quality and partnership working.

He will take up the post in early March.

HRH The Princess Royal visit

On 20 February, HRH The Princess Royal visited Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for her first formal visit since 2018.

Visiting in her capacity as Chancellor, University of London, HRH visited the new UCL East Marshgate building and People and Nature Laboratory at Pool Street where she witnessed groundbreaking UCL research in action in areas ranging from ecology and AI to robotics, healthcare, and hydrogen technology.

HRH has been a long-standing supporter of investment and opportunity for east London and this visit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase all that has been achieved since her last visit.

Planning and Regeneration

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
2021/0434	Beaverwood Lodge Sports and Leisure Club	Bromley	17/02/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0405	579-589 Kingston Road	Merton	24/02/2025	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
2025/0042	1 St Martin's-Le-Grand	City of London	20/02/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2025/0126	Crystal Palace Football Club	Croydon	20/02/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2025/0017	65 Stirling Road	Ealing	24/02/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0025	Mortgramit Square	Greenwich	24/02/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0002	Veolia ES Cleanaway (UK) Ltd,	Havering	16/02/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2025/0020	Central Park Estate	Hounslow	24/02/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0023	36-46 Albert Embankment	Lambeth	24/02/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0013	Skipton House	Southwark	24/02/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0035	West One Shopping Centre	Westminster	16/02/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

Local Plans

On 27 February, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Wandsworth Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation. In that response I made it clear that it is my opinion that the draft Local Plan is not in general conformity with the London Plan due to the proposed approach to affordable housing. I provided guidance to bring the emerging draft Plan into closer alignment with the London Plan.

Regeneration and Growth Strategies

As part of the launch of the London Growth Plan, I announced £21m of new investment for 2025/26 to support high street and town centre regeneration in every London borough, including potentially creating a publicly owned High Street Estate Agency to bring empty properties back into use. This investment be funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Key engagements

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

- I officially opened Barnet and Southgate College on 12 February
- I attended the British Asian Trust annual dinner on 12 February
- I met with the CEO of C40 Cities on 13 February
- I officially launched the Loved & Wanted Campaign on 14 February
- I met with the Mayor of Kyiv on 18 February
- I hosted EU Heads of Mission for a roundtable on 18 February
- I hosted the City Hall Diplomatic Reception on 18 February
- I attended the Assembly Budget and Performance Committee on 20 February
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 20 February
- I attended the Harris Reed Autumn and Winter Fashion show on 20 February
- I officially opened the London Fashion Week popup shop on 22 February
- I spoke to the Deputy Met Police Commissioner on 24 February
- I attended the Assembly Final Budget Plenary on 25 February
- I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 25 February
- I switched on the Ramadan Lights on 26 February
- I officially launched the London Growth Plan on 27 February
- I met the Exchequer Secretary and Financial Secretary on 27 February
- I met with the Leader of Redbridge Council on 03 March
- I held my regular meeting with the London Fire Commissioner on 3 March
- I chaired the C40 Steering Committee on 5 March
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 6 March
- I attended People's Question Time on 6 March