

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

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Date: 8 April 2025

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 13 February 2025 – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 13 February 2025. My reply to motions 3.2, 3.5 and 3.6 is below.

Motion 3.2 – Damage from the Government’s Budget

I recognise that businesses are faced with a challenging environment, and I am under no illusion about the extent of the economic difficulties inherited by the new Government. Tough decisions have been taken to fix the foundations of the economy and provide desperately needed funding for public services, which the previous Government did massive damage to.

As Mayor of London, I will continue to work in partnership with Ministers to unlock the power and potential of our city and boost growth in the capital, supporting Londoners and businesses alike. My new London Growth Plan sets out a clear action plan to build a better and fairer London and help to create 150,000 jobs by 2028. If London achieves its growth target, not only will its economy grow by £107bn, but that will also represent an extra £11,000 in each Londoner’s pocket by 2035.

Motion 3.5 – Support for Commonhold

I welcome that the Assembly, the Government and I agree on supporting the introduction of commonhold and the ending of the feudal leasehold/freehold system.

I have supported increased rights for leaseholders and its replacement with commonhold for many years. I am pleased that the Government on 3 March 2025 published the Commonhold White Paper, which marks a significant first step in the Government’s plans to reinvigorate the commonhold tenure so that leasehold is no longer needed.

The introduction of commonhold for the new development of flats and the conversion from leasehold to commonhold where unit owners support this will help rectify many of the problems that the Assembly raises through this motion and confer the benefits of freehold ownership and common management of buildings.

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I will continue to campaign for an end to the feudal leasehold system and its replacement with commonhold. This should include the banning of new leasehold flats and the introduction of commonhold as the default tenure for flats so that Londoners benefit from the rights and protections of freehold tenure that commonhold confers. I will support the Government's commitment to implementing the vast majority of the outstanding recommendations of the Law Commission's 2020 report.

Given the scale of reforms that will be introduced by new draft legislation due to be published this year on commonhold and leasehold reform, any pilot project launched now would be a test within a legal system that will soon no longer exist. The Government intends to introduce a new legal framework to ensure the success of commonhold in a wide range of applications, from mixed-use development to conversions of existing leasehold buildings to new development of blocks of flats. I will focus my efforts on supporting the Government in getting this right so that Londoners are freed of the current feudal leasehold/freehold system.

Motion 3.6 – Impact of the Schools Bill

I am grateful to the Assembly for this motion and share its desire to maintain the high-quality education system we offer here in London.

I am immensely proud of our city's fantastic teachers and pupils, with young Londoners consistently ranked among the highest performers in the country. Despite having no statutory powers when it comes to London schools, I will continue to do everything I can to support them, including through my flagship Universal Free Schools Meals programme.

It is clear that tough financial decisions need to be made by the Government, in order to plug the inherited black hole in public finances.

This may mean changes to funded programmes in schools. However, I am confident in the Government's commitment to put education back at the forefront of national life. This includes its Plan for Change, which will ensure every child, regardless of background, gets a rich education that helps them achieve and thrive.

Adult learning and skills provision play a vital role in supporting London's economic growth and Londoners' social mobility, particularly in supporting the transition from school education into further learning and work. I have heard concerns from the Further Education sector regarding these cuts, which have been exacerbating an already difficult situation of increasing year-on-year pressures resulting from a static Adult Skills Fund (ASF) budget since 2019.

Please see my response below to the specific asks of me:

Oppose the cancellation of the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme and lobby the Government to reinstate funding to ensure London students have the best possible access to educational opportunities.

I appreciate the Assembly's concern regarding the Government's recent decision to reduce funding for the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP).

I understand the AMSP has played an important role in improving teaching and increasing the uptake of mathematics courses, including through special support to schools in disadvantaged

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areas. Clearly, this was a difficult decision, driven by the wider financial challenges facing the Government.

The Government has made clear, however, that while funding will be reduced for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years, AMSP remains a government-funded programme and continues to positively impact mathematics education across the country. I understand the Department for Education is working with the AMSP supplier, Mathematics Education Innovation, to ensure high-quality professional development and support remains available to schools and colleges, despite financial constraints.

The Government has also underlined its commitment to ensuring all children and young people, regardless of background, have a strong foundation in mathematics, enabling them to thrive in the modern economy.

I also thank the Assembly for the concern it has expressed surrounding the Government's decision to end funding of the Latin Excellence Programme (LEP).

The Government has highlighted that this was one of many tough decisions needed to help plug the £22 billion black hole in public finances inherited from the previous Government.

Despite these financial challenges, the Government has reiterated its intention to put education back at the forefront of national life, with key priorities protected in the budget and an additional £2.3 billion announced for schools. Its expert-led curriculum and assessment review (already underway) will ensure every young person leaves school ready for work, life and the future.

I will continue to advocate for London schools and do everything in my power to help them continue to succeed against this challenging financial backdrop.

Lobby the Government to reconsider its decision to make cuts to the Adult Skills Fund for the next academic year.

I am concerned about the impact this latest announcement will have on London. I recognise the vital role that Further Education (FE) providers play as anchor institutions in their communities, providing the skills needed by Londoners to thrive and for London's businesses to grow.

My priority is to work with the FE sector to protect learning opportunities for Londoners and ensure that adult education continues to deliver inclusive economic growth – meeting the skills needs of employers and enabling Londoners to access good jobs. The sector's role in achieving these priorities is critical.

I am actively working on options to mitigate these effects where possible. As part of our response, I am engaging directly with the Government, including HM Treasury, to make the case that investment in adult education and skills is crucial to London's economic recovery and long-term growth.

Consider how the Adult Skills Fund could be used to further the development of maths skills across London.

I recognise the importance of numeracy as a foundational skill, which enables Londoners to progress in work and in their everyday lives. Through the Adult Skills Fund, 18,960 learners participated in maths provision last year, supporting them to gain essential skills and access further

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opportunities. This includes fully funded courses for adults without a Level 2 qualification and targeted support for those who need to build confidence in numeracy and access entry-level courses.

My forthcoming Inclusive Talent Strategy will set out how maths and other essential skills will underpin progression into key sectors critical to London's economic growth. I will continue working closely with providers to ensure that adult maths provision meets the needs of learners and employers, aligning with the ambitions of the London Growth Plan. I remain committed to ensuring all Londoners, regardless of background, can develop the numeracy skills they need to thrive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London