

12th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 19 June 2025

This is my twelfth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9 May– 5 June 2025.

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

Executive Summary

Rough Sleeping Plan of Action

On 20 May, I launched my new Rough Sleeping Plan of Action, which sets out how I will work with the Government to break the vicious cycle of street homelessness. The Plan has prevention at its heart and sets out how we will work in partnership to end rough sleeping in London for good by 2030.

As part of this, I committed to end the current requirement for Londoners to be seen bedded down on the streets before they can access support by 2028, building on the work we have done throughout many of our services.

To launch the Plan, I hosted an event with the sector and partners at St John's Church in Waterloo, alongside Minister for Homelessness and Democracy, Rushanara Ali, London Councils' Deputy Chair and Executive member for Housing and Regeneration, Cllr Grace Williams, and members of our Lived Experience Advisory Group, who were critical in shaping the Plan.

With rough sleeping on the rise due to the long-term effects of the housing crisis, we will transform our approach, focusing on prevention and increasing the availability of rapid, sustainable routes away from the streets – including specialist services that recognise the needs of those who face additional barriers to accessing services due to high support needs or uncertain immigration status.

I'm backing the plan with a new investment of £17 million secured from the Government, which will be used to refurbish up to 500 empty homes and to expand our network of Ending Homelessness Hubs to prevent more Londoners from sleeping rough. This comes on top of a record £10 million of new funding I announced earlier this year.

Opening SXSW London

On 2 June, I opened SXSW London, the inaugural European edition of the iconic festival which is the key meeting place for tech, media, and creative industries, bringing together future-thinking leaders and creatives from around the world.

At SXSW, I set out that there has never been a better time to invest in London and released new figures that showed that my growth agency London & Partners has secured more than £677m through trade and investment in last financial year alone.

June is set to be the biggest ever month for business and investment in London, with further prestigious events taking place, including 2025 Concordia Europe Summit; London Tech Week;

and London Climate Action Week; further cementing London's reputation as a global economic, cultural and technological powerhouse.

Towards a New London Plan

On Friday 9 May, I launched the *Towards a new London Plan* consultation document, to inform development of the next London Plan. It is open for consultation until Sunday 22 June 2025.

The current London Plan was published in 2021 and must be reviewed every five years. The new document sets out a range of options for how the next London Plan to deliver against my dual priorities of housing delivery and economic growth, including necessary improvements to public transport, and enhancing our environment and green spaces. Opportunities will also be taken to streamline my next Plan and speed up the planning process.

My Deputy Mayor for Planning and Regeneration, Jules Pipe, is engaging with the public and the development sector on the document. This includes civic sector partners in an event organised by the London Forum and London Society, and roundtables with development sector representatives.

Summer Streets Fund

On 13 May, I announced a new £300,000 Summer Streets Fund to boost al fresco dining and extend opening hours for pubs, restaurants and venues this summer, helping the capital's hospitality, culture and nightlife to grow. With more than five million tourists expected to visit this summer, I am encouraging London's councils to create more al fresco dining and extend opening hours in their areas.

The fund is an opportunity to work together to drive growth and prosperity by giving diners, pub goers and those on a night out more time and choice to enjoy what London hospitality has to offer. The action kickstarts changes proposed by the Government for proposed new licensing powers to boost hospitality, culture and nightlife.

Changes proposed to the Congestion Charge

TfL is seeking views on a number of changes to the Congestion Charge to help keep London moving, encourage the uptake of electric vehicles, and promote sustainable travel across the capital.

Every year, congestion costs London billions of pounds. In 2024 alone, vehicle congestion cost the capital £3.85 billion, averaging £942 per driver. This heavily impacts businesses, bus customers and other essential services. The charge is in place to manage traffic and congestion in the heart of London – the central one per cent of the city – at the busiest times of day where road space is most constrained. TfL is now consulting on changes to the Congestion Charging scheme to ensure that it remains efficient at reducing congestion for years to come.

These new proposals, launched in a public consultation open until 4 August 2025, will work to continue managing traffic effectively in central London, and contribute to my long-term vision for a cleaner, greener London, through increased uptake in electric vehicles and more journeys taken by public transport.

Achieving this long-term vision will require cutting congestion further and a greater shift away from petrol and diesel vehicles towards walking, cycling and public transport. It will also require, for those journeys that are taken by car or van, increased adoption of electric vehicles.

TfL has assessed the proposals in this consultation against a 'do nothing' scenario, which would include the end of the current version of the Cleaner Vehicle Discount (CVD) on 25 December 2025. Without TfL's proposals, it estimates next year alone around 2,200 more vehicles would use the Congestion Charging Zone on an average weekday during charging hours – leading to increased congestion and undermining the current scheme.

To provide further support for people and businesses who have invested in, or are considering switching to an electric vehicle, TfL is proposing a new CVD from January 2026 that has a higher discount for journeys that are harder to switch to walking, cycling and public transport, such as those made by vans for commercial purposes. The discount will change over the timeframe outlined in the consultation, to give support to those making the green transition, while also keeping London moving.

Keeping London moving by reducing congestion is vital for our city and for our economy.

The congestion charge has been a huge success since its introduction, but we must ensure it is fit for purpose. I encourage everyone to have their say and respond to the public consultation.

TfL research shows 20mph speed limits save lives on London's roads

Compelling new TfL research that the number of people killed and seriously injured on borough roads in London reduced by 34 per cent following the implementation of the 20mph speed limit between 1989 and 2013. The report, the first of its scale in London, analyses more than 150 20mph schemes between 1989 and 2013, examining the three-year periods surrounding the implementation of each 20mph scheme.

The evidence in this new report will be instrumental in TfL's work toward achieving my Vision Zero goal to eliminate death and serious injury from London's transport network and to enable more walking and cycling in the capital.

TfL carried out this new extensive analysis to fully understand the impact of road safety measures across the city over a longer time span. The report shows that, with the exception of motorcycle fatalities, which did not change, 20mph schemes led to fewer fatalities and less severe injuries across every mode of travel.

Since 2018, TfL has introduced more than 264km of 20mph speed limits, and over half of London's roads now have 20mph speed limits. Not only do 20mph schemes reduce the number of fatalities and casualties on the road, they also support more people to walk, wheel and cycle and reduce noise pollution, without impacting air quality or journey times.

I am proud that London is leading the way with bold, evidence-led action to reduce danger on our roads.

London Creates Grassroots Music Campaign

On 13 May, in partnership with Music Venues Trust, Featured Artist Coalition, Outernet, the Metro, Universal Music and TfL, I launched London Creates MUSIC to champion the city's grassroots music scene.

This collaboration also marked TfL's 25th anniversary year celebrations, with a bespoke designed Grassroots Music Tube map featuring the capital's music venues, nightclubs, and independent record labels, as well as artists, record shops and locations of music heritage.

The interactive version of the map will be screened for a month at Outernet and an enhanced digital version is also available on the TfL website, VisitLondon and other social media platforms.

London's grassroots music scene is one of the reasons why the capital is a world-leading music city and contributes £313m to the economy annually.

Policing, Crime and Security

Responding to the report of the London Drugs Commission

On 28 May, the independent London Drugs Commission, Chaired by Lord Falconer, published its findings.

I've long been clear that we need fresh thinking on how to reduce the substantial harms associated with drug-related crime in our communities. In 2022, I established the independent London Drugs Commission to consider the effectiveness of UK drugs laws relating to cannabis, focusing on reducing the harmful consequences associated with this drug.

The London Drugs Commission report makes a compelling, evidenced-based case for the decriminalisation of possession of small quantities of natural cannabis. It says that the current sentencing for those caught in possession of natural cannabis cannot be justified given its relative harm and people's experience of the justice system. It recognises that better education, improved healthcare and more effective, equitable policing of cannabis use are long overdue.

The comprehensive report makes a number of recommendations to City Hall, the Government and others. We will be studying these recommendations carefully and sharing the report's findings with all the relevant parties, including local authorities, the Met police, NHS London and other health and education partners.

I want to thank Lord Falconer and the independent London Drugs Commission team for this leading international study, which has looked at all the latest evidence from around the world.

Transport

Road casualties at their lowest levels outside of the pandemic

TfL has published the annual casualty statistics that show the number of people tragically killed or seriously injured on London's roads fell to 3,696 in 2024, the lowest level on record outside of the pandemic-affected years. Although London continues to make year-on-year improvements in overall safety performance, 110 people were tragically killed on London's roads in 2024. This number remains lower than every year pre-pandemic, but TfL remains committed to working closely with London's boroughs, the police and other partners to eliminate death and serious injury from London's streets by 2041.

There has also been a 12 per cent reduction in serious injuries to children, from 211 in 2023 to 185 in 2024, while pedestrian serious injuries have reduced by eight per cent, from 1,225 in 2023 to 1,131 in 2024.

Cars continued to be involved in most collisions that killed or seriously injured someone else in 2024. Excess speed remains one of the biggest risks to road users, with around half of the 2024 fatal collisions in London reporting speed as a contributory factor. TfL is committed to lowering speeds across London, with plans to continue to roll out 20mph speed limits on its road network next year.

People walking, cycling and motorcycling continue to be most at risk. Of all people killed or seriously injured in 2024, 81 per cent (2,988 people) were walking, cycling or motorcycling. However, cycling journeys have continued to increase to 1.33 million daily cycle journeys in 2024, up by 5 per cent since 2023 from 1.26 million, meaning that the risk to people cycling remains the same despite massive growth. TfL remains committed to improving cycle safety and ensuring cycling is sustainable, safe and accessible for all, and has quadrupled the cycle lane network since 2016. To continue to reduce risk and increase the number of people who choose to cycle, TfL and the boroughs will continue to expand the Cycleway network, tackle road danger hotspots, fund cycle training and improve cycle parking.

These figures show encouraging signs that our efforts to reduce road danger in London are making a difference, but every death or serious injury is one too many and I know there is much more work to do. I remain fully committed to my Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from London's roads by 204 and will continue working with TfL, boroughs and the police to reduce road danger and build a safer London for all.

TfL publishes new data on London's e-scooter rental trial as Wandsworth joins to cover even more of the capital

TfL, London Councils, and e-scooter operators Voi and Lime have released new data that shows the continued success of London's rental e-scooter trial. This comes as Wandsworth Council became the 11th borough to join the trial, unlocking more green and sustainable journey options for even more Londoners.

TfL has been working in partnership with London Councils, participating boroughs and the two e-scooter operators to deliver the new 24/7 transport service across London. The initial trial launched in June 2021 and the new report, which covers the first year of Phase 2 of the trial (September 2023 – September 2024), shows that demand for rental e-scooters as sustainable transport is increasing, with a 27 per cent rise in customers taking more than one ride thanks to significant service enhancements delivered in collaboration with operators and boroughs. Since launching, more than five million journeys have been made, with around seven per cent now replacing car journeys.

The scheme has expanded significantly over the last four years, and rental e-scooters are now more widely available than ever before.

The trial has used learnings to improve its safety record - there were 1.9 fewer operator-reported serious injuries per million km travelled in Phase 2, compared to Phase 1. New analysis has also been published to show that the injury risk rate for the trial decreased year on year over the first three years of operation. There have been no fatalities during the trial, and operators also reported that more than 94 per cent of trips complied with rules around parking.

The data clearly shows that the rental e-scooter trial has helped to boost sustainable and active travel transport in our city, and it has also laid bare the significant difference in safety between private and rental scooters.

TfL launches new walking maps during National Walking Month

TfL has launched a series of new downloadable street maps during National Walking Month which show the walking times and distances between stations, encouraging people to consider walking as part of their journey and reap the benefits of travelling on foot.

TfL is encouraging people to build walking into their journeys as it continues to work towards the ambitious target in my Transport Strategy of 80 per cent of all journeys being made on foot, by cycle or on public transport by 2041. This could involve swapping part of a longer journey on public transport for walking or replacing a car journey for improved health, as well as reduced congestion.

I encourage Londoners to swap part of their journeys for walking and use TfL's new walking maps to explore more of what our city has to offer on foot. Making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport is central to building a safer and greener London for everyone.

Transport for London and London Trams celebrate their 25th anniversary together

TfL is celebrating 25 years of modern London Trams. The network was closed in 1952 before modern trams were introduced in 2000 to transform and reconnect communities, re-establish vital transport links and reduce congestion. TfL has managed the services since 2007 and the network now carries more than 17 million customers every year.

The entire fleet is already fully electric, reducing emissions and supporting a cleaner, greener London, and step-free access is available throughout the network. TfL has plans to improve the network, including new vehicles - subject to funding, with multi-use areas, mobile charging points and real-time travel information. Any new trams will also feature the latest safety technologies, as part of TfL's Vision Zero strategy.

To mark the London Trams anniversary, TfL launched a competition on 23 May, with free tickets to local attractions including PLAYBOX London and Croydon restaurant Fern. A new eye-catching poster celebrating London Trams will launch later this month as part of a series of 25th anniversary posters for TfL, which shine a spotlight on the transformative improvements and innovations that have enhanced customers' lives over the past 25 years.

TfL celebrates London pupils championing active travel

TfL has accredited seven exemplary schools with gold ratings and school vouchers as part of its Travel for Life programme, which aims to improve congestion, road safety and air quality on the school run and encourage alternative transport modes.

Almost half of all schools in London engage with TfL's free Travel for Life accreditation programme, delivered in partnership with London Transport Museum and London Councils. When schools take part in the programme they can achieve bronze, silver, or gold accreditation based on their success in delivering educational activities, reducing car use and increasing sustainable travel to school.

TfL's Travel for Life schools programme is helping the next generation of Londoners understand the importance of safer, greener travel.

Further Appointments to the TfL Board

I announced three further appointments to the Transport for London (TfL) Board, which provides stewardship and oversight for TfL's delivery of my Transport Strategy and approves TfL's budget, business plan, annual report and other major and strategic issues and policies.

The new Members are Jim Kelly (from 2 June 2025), Carolyn Dwyer (from 22 July 2025), and Mike O'Donnell (from 22 July 2025). All three will serve up to September 2028.

Work on second section of Cycleway 34 to begin later this June

TfL and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham have confirmed that construction work will begin on the second section of Cycleway 34, between Wood Lane and Shepherd's Bush Green, adding another 1.7km to the cycling network. The new section will provide an important stretch of cycling infrastructure, including fully protected two-way cycle lanes, new or improved pedestrian crossings, and a new bus priority lane. The works deliver on plans to expand the Cycleway network, with connections to Cycleway 39 and Cycleway 34 Section 1 being created.

The development of Cycleway 34 is vital to making cycling safer in the capital and supporting my Vision Zero goal to eliminate death and serious injury from the London transport network by 2041. The new section will provide better connections for thousands of Londoners, both within Hammersmith and Fulham, and more widely across the capital. The cycleway will directly serve Wood Lane Tube station on the Hammersmith & City line, and White City station on the Central line, which serves thousands of Londoners every day.

Works will be carried out in phases from 23 June 2025 into late 2026 to minimise any potential impact on the road network. Customers and residents are advised to remain up to date by checking the TfL and Hammersmith & Fulham Council websites and to plan their journeys using TfL Go.

TfL relaunches popular Chatty Cabins initiative on the IFS Cloud Cable Car

At the beginning of June, TfL relaunched its Chatty Cabins initiative on the IFS Cloud Cable Car, in support of Marmalade Trust's Loneliness Awareness Week campaign (Monday 9 – Friday 13 June), helping to encourage Londoners to come together and spark new conversations.

The hugely popular initiative launched in February, with the aim to help tackle loneliness in the capital. It focuses on sparking conversation between Londoners and visitors to our city who haven't met before about their favourite London moments, from cherished experiences in the capital to their favourite way to travel.

TfL's initiative builds on my Strategy for Social Inclusion and the Reconceptualising Loneliness in London Report published in 2022, which estimates 700,000 Londoners feel lonely 'always' or 'most of the time'. Loneliness disproportionately affects young, low-income, LGBTQ+, single parents, deaf or disabled, or ethnic minority Londoners.

It has already proven to be a fantastic way for Londoners and visitors to our city to meet others and talk about what makes London so special.

Environment

Lifefterhummus' food waste café

On 10 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the launch of Lifefterhummus' new food waste café, which will deliver upskilling workshops on food waste prevention to residents in Camden. The Deputy Mayor spoke with residents and young people about how the cafe will allow them to access more sustainable and nutritious food, whilst also reducing their waste and saving them money.

Somers Town Future Neighbourhood, Camden

On 16 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Somers Town in Camden, meeting local leaders and members of the community involved in transforming the local area with support from my Future Neighbourhoods programme. He saw an example of a new Green Mobility Hub, met Power Up North London to see the new solar panels installed at Regent High School, and a Greening Estates project that is improving residents' climate resilience. The Deputy Mayor also visited Chalton Street low-waste circular market and met organisations working to create a cleaner, greener London.

ReLondon's London Policy Influence Working Group

On 19 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, chaired a meeting of ReLondon's London Policy Influence Group, which brought together political representatives from London's joint waste authorities to discuss issues affecting London's waste sector.

Fabian Society Mission Summit

On 19 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave a keynote speech at the Fabian Society Health and Care Mission Summit. The summit explored how we can build an NHS fit for the future and a National Care Service. The Deputy Mayor delivered a speech on the crucial issue of urban health, air quality, pollution, and its impact on public health, followed by a fireside chat and Q&A.

Waltham Forest SuDS Tour

On 20 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Waltham Forest for a tour of some sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS). Councillor Clyde Loakes hosted the visit and showed Mete several schemes which have reduced the risk of flooding to residents. Waltham Forest suffered badly during the 2021 flash floods and have since rolled out a number of SuDS projects across the borough.

Redbridge Youth Eco Skills Festival

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, hosted the winners of a London Borough of Redbridge schools essay competition at City Hall. The competition invited secondary school students in Redbridge to submit essays on reducing emissions in the borough, with 12 winning entries selected. The Deputy Mayor welcomed the winners and awarded them certificates, before discussing the topics of sustainability, tree planting, green construction and more with them.

BusinessLDN's 'Future London' Annual conference

On 3 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at 'Future London', BusinessLDN's annual conference, which brought together 200 leading companies to discuss how businesses can help to shape a brighter future for the capital. The Deputy Mayor spoke on a panel about how businesses can prepare for climate change impacts, such as extreme heat and flooding.

CBI London Council's Quarter Two meeting

On 4 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at CBI London Councils' Quarter Two meeting. The CBI London Council supports wider CBI initiatives and is a core part of the CBI's policy formulation and consultation process. The Deputy Mayor discussed opportunities and challenges for the business community in the capital.

London Earthfest 2025's School assembly

On 5 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the Schools' Day at Earthfest, a four-day festival of sustainability in London. He spoke to pupils at primary and secondary schools across London via a livestreamed assembly to open the event. He then delivered a keynote speech to the pupils attending the festival, outlining his role and the work I am doing to address the climate crisis, and championing the role and voices of young people in driving action.

Fire

Meeting with the Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth

On 15 May, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, and Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, met with the Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth, Alex Norris MP, to discuss matters relating to fire and resilience.

Deputy Mayor's Fire Board

On 2 June, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired a regular meeting of the Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.

Growth and Skills

New £30m employment investment to support young Londoners and people with health conditions into work

On 9 May, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, was joined by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Liz Kendall, and London Councils Executive Member for Planning and Skills, Cllr Peter Mason, for the launch of London's five Get Britain Working Trailblazer programmes. Over the next year, these one-year programmes, supported by £30 million investment from the Government, will help more than 5,000 unemployed Londoners.

Delivered in partnership with London boroughs, the Trailblazers will test innovative approaches - such as a new digital resource hub for real-time job and training opportunities, starter packs for care leavers entering independent living, and a Childcare Support Fund to remove barriers for parents and carers returning to work. The investment aligns with my ambition for inclusive

economic growth and supports the London Growth Plan and Inclusive Talent Strategy. By integrating employment, health, and skills services, the Trailblazers aim to transform local support and ensure more Londoners benefit from the capital's economy.

Jobs and Skills Business Partnership Meeting

On 4 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, chaired a meeting of my Jobs and Skills Business Partnership. The Partnership provided insights on the development of the new Inclusive Talent Strategy and on proposals for moving to an employer-led system skills system, focusing on how we can work closer with employers to create a more connected talent system and help more Londoners into good jobs. Members also heard from outside experts on careers advice and a case study on an embedded employment programme.

Additional Funding for Construction skills

As part of the construction skills package announced in the Spring Statement, the Department for Education has confirmed an additional £4.8m for London. My officers are developing proposals to deliver additional training from this September. This will provide support for Londoners to gain important construction skills and move into good jobs, ones that play a key role in meeting house building targets.

Institute of Hospitality

On 28 May, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, met with Robert Richardson, Chief Executive of the Institute of Hospitality to discuss the hospitality sector and the Institute's work in professional development of hospitality professionals.

Housing

Joint Remediation Partnership Board

On 6 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, co-chaired the first Joint Remediation Partnership Board with the Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth, Alex Norris MP. Everyone deserves the right to live in a safe home, and we will continue to work together with our partners to take swift action to remove dangerous cladding on buildings.

The Board is a new coalition of City Hall, Government, local councils, the London Fire Brigade and regulatory bodies, and it will lead vital work to end London's building cladding crisis. It was a significant step forward in speeding up the removal of dangerous cladding in London, which had been far too slow under the previous Government.

UKREiiF

In mid-May, Tom Copley, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, and Jules Pipe, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service, attended the property conference UKREiiF to bang the drum for London and seek new investment for the capital to help us accelerate the delivery of affordable homes and unlock new infrastructure and jobs in our city.

They met with numerous industry leaders and set out my plans for growth and my focus on immediately kickstarting housing delivery in the capital.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Making London a Living Wage City Steering Group

On 2 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, attended the Making London a Living Wage City Steering Group meeting to champion high-quality, well-paid jobs as part of our London Growth Plan. The number of accredited businesses has increased sixfold since I became Mayor, and there are now more than 4,000 Living Wage Employers in London.

Business engagement and support

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

- On 14 May: announced the launch of the London Quantum Technology Cluster during a fireside chat at the Economist's Commercialising Quantum Global 2025 event. Backed by £0.5m from my allocation of the 2025-26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the project will be delivered by a UCL-led consortium and will lay the foundations for a world-class cluster rooted in Camden and Euston. It will support quantum spinouts, attract investment, and help embed London's global leadership in quantum innovation. This initiative delivers on a key commitment in the London Growth Plan to grow frontier innovation sectors and unlock inclusive economic opportunities for Londoners.
- On 14 May: joined London & Partners' Grow London Global High-Growth event with a group of London's fastest growing high-growth scaleups to discuss the London Growth Plan. All the businesses are currently participants in London & Partners' Grow London Global programme which helps businesses to expand internationally.
- On 14 May: co-chaired a roundtable, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, with black entrepreneurs, finance, and business support providers to discuss ways to overcome challenges when starting and successfully growing a business in London.
- On 15 May: chaired a London Business Forum, made up of representatives of London's main business organisations and hosted by London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This is one of a series of regular meetings with business representatives and was a chance to discuss progress and partnership on the London Growth Plan and to hear from businesses about the current economic and geopolitical situation.
- On 15 May: attended and spoke at the launch of Venture Café UK – the first UK hub of the global innovation network founded at the Cambridge Innovation Center. The event brought together over 200 stakeholders from London's innovation ecosystem, including investors, startups, academics, and public sector partners. Howard spoke about London's leadership in frontier innovation and the importance of inclusive, connected communities like Venture Café in powering economic growth.
- On 19 May: opened the Small and Diverse Supplier Engagement Event we have delivered through the London Anchor Institutions' Network (LAIN) in partnership with MSDUK. This event was part of our commitment through the London Growth Plan to accelerate the work to make it easier for SMEs to win contracts from London's public sector organisations. More than 100 small and diverse-led businesses attended the

event to learn more about how to win contracts with major public sector organisations – from Transport for London to the Met Police and the NHS – and to access business support from partner organisations including Grow London Local.

- On 23 May: met with the East End Trade Guilds and the London Borough of Hackney to discuss EETG's proposed Community Land Trust.
- On 29 May: spoke at the opening of monday.com's largest European office in London and set out the importance of international tech companies investing in London to drive innovation and reinforce the city's position as a global tech hub.
- On 3 June: attended a site visit of Arda Biomaterials, a London-based company pioneering sustainable animal and plastic free leather alternatives, derived from brewery waste to see their new, expanded premises and hear about investment from the Clean Growth Fund is helping green entrepreneurs to scale.
- On 3 June: delivered the closing address of 'A celebration of 25 years of Mayoralty' at BusinessLDN's Future London conference and spoke about the London Growth Plan and London's achievements.
- On 3 June: attended lunch with the Knightsbridge Business Group to discuss the London Growth Plan and Knightsbridge's importance to London as a visitor destination.

International promotion

Throughout this period, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, continued to promote London as the best city to do business, and to support London companies to expand internationally, at the following events:

- On 8 May: gave the closing speech at Caixin Media's London Atlantic Dialogue event, highlighting London's strengths as an innovation and tech hub and leading destination for foreign-direct investment, the London Growth Plan, and the importance of our trade and investment relationship with China.
- On 13 May: joined an informal dinner with delegates from the Committee on Federal and European Affairs of the Berlin House of Representatives.
- On 20 and 21 May: joined London & Partners at IMEX Frankfurt, the major trade show for the global meetings & events industry, to promote London as a destination for events and to highlight the sector's role in London's economic growth. The Deputy Mayor joined James Rees, Excel's Executive Director, in showcasing Excel's new 25,000sqm International Convention Centre expansion and announcing that it will host 10 major international congresses in 2026 – a record for a single year and demonstrating the continued appeal of the UK capital as a global events destination.
- On 22 May: met with the Chairman of Sichuan Financial Holdings Group to learn more about their international expansion plans and encourage them to choose London as their first overseas office location.

Civil Society and Sport

London's Basketball Taskforce inaugural meeting

On 13 May, the first meeting of my Basketball Taskforce took place at the University of East London. The Taskforce brings together representatives from across the sport and event industries, including the NBA, Sport England, British Wheelchair Basketball, alongside community club, university, and youth organisations.

It was chaired by my Sports Advisor, Nadeem Javaid, with my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard also in attendance. I was pleased to welcome two outstanding athlete representatives to the group, current NBA player Jeremy Sochan, and former NBA All-Star, Luol Deng. Their insights and lived experience will be invaluable to the Taskforce's work.

The ambition of the Taskforce is to secure London's position as the basketball capital of Europe. It will focus on improving infrastructure, strengthening talent pathways, attracting major events, and using basketball to support wider goals around youth opportunity, safety, and wellbeing.

This was an important first step in our efforts to better support one of London's most popular and inclusive sports. Members considered the current state of basketball in London, priorities for action and shared strong alignment on the need to improve access to affordable facilities, create clearer development pathways, and raise the profile of basketball city-wide.

King's Garden Parties

On 7 May, 14 May, and 20 May, 44 of my Team London volunteers provided support to this year's King's Garden Parties. The King's Garden Parties are an important way for members of the Royal Family to speak to a broad range of people from all walks of life, all of whom have made a positive impact in their community.

My volunteers were deployed in 7 locations local to Buckingham Palace to help guests with wayfinding. They ensured guests had a positive journey to the event, providing support as required.

Culture

Winners of the Fourth Plinth Schools Award

On 9 May, I announced the winners of the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards 2025, with the winning artwork on display at an exhibition in City Hall until 20 June. This year's competition was judged by children's author Onjali Q. Raúf MBE.

Every year, schoolchildren across London are invited to create artwork inspired by past and present commissions for Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth. It is open to all primary and secondary schools in the capital, for schoolchildren between the ages of 5 and 15. A total of 49 prizes of art materials supplied by Cass Art have been awarded to the winning entries, including to the following age group winners:

- Age Group 5-7: Sylvi from Faraday School Tower, Hamlets
- Age Group 8-11: Lucas from Kings College School, Merton

- Age Group 12-15: Sadaf from Cumberland Community School, Newham

St Martin-In-the-Fields is Trafalgar Square is once again partnering with the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards to fabricate a Children's Plinth set within the historic building.

Creative Health Impact Framework Launched

On the 19 May, as part of Creativity and Wellbeing Week, the Health and Culture, Creative industries and 24-Hour London teams, together with London Plus, launched a new resource for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, 'Creative Health Impact Framework'. The toolkit was co-designed with the VCSE sector, NHS and council commissioners supporting improved evidence capture and presentation of data to commissioners.

V&A East Storehouse Opened

On 28 May, I visited the V&A East Storehouse at East Bank prior to the public opening on 31 May. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves amongst the half a million works spanning the creative industries from fashion to theatre, sculpture, design, music and more.

As a working museum store, visitors can now get up-close to the collections by booking through the V&A's free 'Order an Object' service available 7 days a week. The V&A East Store House is the latest building to open at East Bank the £1.1bn cultural and educational which will lead to more than 2,500 jobs and contribute an estimated £1.5bn for the local economy annually.

Fashion Residency at Studio Smithfield Open for Applications

On 28 May, applications for the second round of The Fashion Residency opened. Delivered in partnership between the GLA, Projekt, Paul Smith's Foundation, and British GQ, the programme offers free private studio space, as well as access to shared facilities to six creatives for 18 months at Studio Smithfield and more than 60 hours of personal and business skills mentoring.

The Fashion Residency was designed to support early career designers through addressing barriers such as lack of affordable workspace and expertise in manufacturing, licensing and HR that prevent them from a sustainable career. Applications are open until Sunday 20 July.

Wandsworth Arts Fringe launch

On 5 June, the annual Wandsworth Arts Fringe launched as part of my London Borough of Culture 2025. This year's edition is the most ambitious yet, supporting emerging and established artists alike.

As a highlight of Wandsworth's year as London Borough of Culture, the fringe will feature more than 180 events over 17 days (6-22 June) at 65 venues, including theatre, comedy, cabaret, live music, family events, workshops, podcasts and more. Over 60 events in the programme are free with discounted tickets (£3) for Wandsworth residents in receipt of benefits, asylum seekers and refugees, looked after children and care leavers, and children on free school meals.

Nightlife Taskforce Call for Evidence

On 14 May, the independent Nightlife Taskforce announced their call for evidence to inform their research. They would like to hear from businesses and Londoners alike on key areas of night-time governance in London, such as licensing, support for nightlife venues, and strategies for safety and wellbeing. The research is being conducted by Vibelab, with support from Autonomy and University College London, to ensure the findings and action plan are evidence based.

Nightlife Taskforce Town Hall

On 3 June, members of the Nightlife Taskforce attended a nightlife town hall aimed towards London's grassroots, DIY and community-led nightlife to hear about the opportunities and challenges facing this nightlife community. These engagement activities along with the commissioned research, will inform the Nightlife Taskforce's final report and recommendations which will be published in October 2025.

Communities and Social Policy

Disability Welfare Reform Roundtable

On 13 May, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes Bernard, chaired a roundtable at City Hall to discuss the impact of the proposed welfare reforms, and the support needed for disabled Londoners. The roundtable was attended by representatives of deaf and disabled people's organisations and advice sector organisations working across London. I greatly appreciate the expertise and insights shared during the discussion, and it is being used to inform my response to Government and wider approach to supporting disabled people in London.

Black Businesses Roundtable

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the Black Businesses Roundtable. The event, hosted at NatWest's accelerator events space, engaged Black entrepreneurs and relevant partners to discuss what can be done jointly to give Black founders the best chance to succeed in London. Debbie heard from finance providers and SME's about the barriers to accessing funding and the ways that organisations are addressing this gap through more flexible criteria. She also heard from businesses about the broader barriers they face, particularly in skills provision and financial support.

Brent Family Hub visit with Minister for Employment

On 20 May, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended a site visit to a Family Hub in Brent with the Minister for Employment, Alison McGovern MP. The visit was an opportunity to meet with parents, carers and partners, to see how the Family Hub model works for families, and to help support Government as it develops its Child Poverty Strategy.

Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations Forum

On 29 May, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the latest of the GLA's Deaf and disabled people's organisations (DDPO) forum. This forum brings together DDPOs to provide advocacy and advice on inclusive practices and

barriers faced by deaf and disabled Londoners. The meeting covered the London Plan consultation and barriers in the employment support system.

Windrush Lessons Learned consultation event

On 5 June, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard hosted a Windrush Lessons Learned event at City Hall. Key community stakeholders came together to discuss the way forward in implementing recommendations from the Independent Windrush Lessons Learned Review. Key speakers included the Minister for Equalities, Seema Malhotra MP, Baroness Lawrence, and Dr Zaza ElSheik.

Children and Young Londoners

Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service

On 12 May, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended the 60th Florence Nightingale Commemoration Service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the work of our nurses and midwives. The date is significant as it was both the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, and International Nurses' Day, a major annual event for the nursing and midwifery profession, celebrating the incredible skill, dedication, and impact of nursing. The event drew over 2,000 nurses and midwives in person and was also live streamed to a wider audience. The event provided the opportunity for London to show its gratitude to the nursing and midwifery community for the incredible job that they do every day supporting communities across London.

Universal Free School Meals

Providing families with an update on Universal Free School Meals

On 12 May, I wrote to families to give them an update on my Universal Free School Meals programme's impact and reaffirm my commitment to providing funding for as long as I am Mayor. Over the last two academic years, I have seen first-hand the transformative impact of this important intervention, ensuring that no child goes hungry and giving all children the best possible chance to succeed.

It is hugely encouraging to see research that shows that universal free school meals in London are improving nutrition, behaviour, concentration, energy levels and home-school relationships. My commitment to universal free school means that children in London's state primary schools will receive a free school meal every school day until at least the end of the academic year in 2028.

Good School Food Awards

On 20 May, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, joined experts from across the country to sit on the judging panel for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Jamie Oliver Good School Food Awards. The awards celebrate the catering teams, holiday programmes, campaigners and unsung heroes who go the extra mile every day to make sure our school children are well nourished.

Health

London Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan 2025-28

I have published a new Implementation Plan for my Health Inequalities Strategy – setting out the action I am taking this term to address health inequalities, and shape a healthier, fairer, and more prosperous London. The Plan brings together a range of programmes and policies that respond to the complex and evolving challenges our city faces – from child poverty and mental health to structural inequality and rough sleeping. Good health is not only vital for individuals, but also the key to a successful, thriving city. The full plan is available at: [Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan 2025–2028 | London City Hall](#).

London Legacy Development Corporation

London Legacy Development Corporation appoints three new board members

On 8 May, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) announced the appointment of three new Board members, as it accelerates investment and inclusive growth in and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The newly appointed members are Jude Kelly OBE CBE, a leading UK creative figure; Owen Purcell, a strategic finance and governance expert; and Jackie Sadek, an urban regeneration specialist. I am confident that these industry leaders will bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the Board and help shape LLDC's strategic direction and overall policy.

Biodiversity Action Plan

On 16 May, LLDC launched its new Biodiversity Action Plan, reinforcing its commitment to create an environmentally sustainable space. The latest findings show that despite ongoing developments to the built environment, such as new housing and the new cultural quarter, the Park is a haven for rare species, both flora and fauna. The latest species discoveries include three new bee species and a new species of hyper-parasitic wasp.

V&A East Storehouse Opening

On 28 May, I was delighted to visit the V&A East Storehouse, unveiling a plaque ahead of its official opening on 31 May. As part of East Bank, V&A East Storehouse will immerse visitors in over half a million works and give unprecedented access to the behind-the-scenes world of the V&A, including exploring the 'Order an Object' service, which lets visitors choose any object in the collection and book a personal viewing for free.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Planning approvals

On 15 May, planning permission was issued for the removal of a waste transfer site, the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of a 3 to 4 storey single warehouse unit supporting flexible industrial use with ancillary offices at Aggregate House, 100 Twyford Abbey Road.

On 15 May, OPDC's Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission for the Holiday Inn Express site, 152 Victoria Road, North Acton. Permission was granted for the demolition of the existing hotel and the redevelopment of the site through construction of a 31-storey building, comprising 609 student bed spaces, plus lower ground floor and basement; and construction of a 17-storey building, comprising 59 homes, plus lower ground floor and basement and ground floor commercial / retail units. The 17-storey residential block will provide 35% affordable homes.

On 15 May, OPDC's Planning Committee approved for public consultation amendments to the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and consultation on Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (Neighbourhood CIL) priorities. Public consultation will commence on 16 June and will close on 28 July 2025.

The Planning Obligations SPD amendments are focused on developer contributions being sought towards construction management, employment, and skills. The changes to construction management have been proposed to ensure the Planning Enforcement and Compliance Team can robustly manage the future impacts of construction to mitigate amenity concerns for OPDC residents as development activity in the area increases.

The Neighbourhood CIL consultation is seeking the community's views on priorities for CIL expenditure. The priorities identified through this consultation will be used to assess future Neighbourhood CIL project submissions.

Small Grants celebration event

On 12 May, OPDC held a celebration event for its Small Grants Scheme. The event brought together recipients of grants from last year and those who have been awarded grants for 2025/26, offering an opportunity for new recipients to network and share information with previous beneficiaries.

10 community-led projects have been awarded funding of up to £7,000 to deliver grass-roots initiatives in 2025/26. They include projects to support young people to develop new skills, to bring different generations together, and to improve spaces along the Grand Union Canal.

This is the fourth year OPDC has run its Small Grants Scheme. So far almost £270,000 has been awarded to 52 community-led initiatives including foodbanks, training centres, and arts and culture programmes supporting more than 60,000 residents.

UKREiiF

From 20th – 22nd May, OPDC representatives attended the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) conference in Leeds. Along with our partners Ealing Council and Imperial College London, OPDC had a stand in the main event hall, and used this opportunity to promote the Old Oak scheme and highlight the fantastic benefits it will bring.

Old Oak Illustrative Masterplan engagement

On 17 May, OPDC started the next phase of community engagement around an illustrative masterplan for the Old Oak scheme, holding a series of in-person and online drop-ins in the second half of May.

At the events, the OPDC team displayed the emerging vision for Old Oak, demonstrating where community feedback had already helped to shape the proposals, and explained the next steps towards delivering the regeneration of Old Oak.

Planning and Regeneration

High Street Network / Tomorrow's Market Good Practice Guide launch

On 22 May, the High Street Network partners visited Walthamstow Market to explore how local authorities and partners can overcome challenges and unlock the full potential of markets as inclusive and sustainable assets on London's high streets.

As part of the event, my Regeneration & Growth Strategies team launched the Tomorrow's Market Good Practice Guide, which sets out principles, good practice, and innovation examples across London to support the development of localised, targeted market strategies and action plans.

Planning Decisions (Stage 3 call-ins)

On Tuesday 13 May, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration, and the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, held a public representation hearing for the 7 Brannan Street planning application. Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Deputy Mayor resolved to grant planning permission subject to the conclusion of a s106 legal agreement.

The Final Decision Notice and s106 legal agreement was issued on 30 May 2025.

The scheme provides purpose-built student accommodation comprising 912 bedrooms with associated amenity space. The scheme also includes the provision of Affordable student accommodation in 320 rooms – secured at equal or to below 55% of the maximum Government maintenance loan for living costs. Other conditions secured in this scheme can be found online at: [7 Brannan Street](#).

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 of my decision.

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2024/0494	1 Knightsbridge Green	Westminster	27/05/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0720	4-8 Sedgemere Road	Bexley	02/06/2025	Call in application

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
2024/0358	The Glassmill, 1 Battersea Bridge Road	Wandsworth	21/05/2025	Allow LPA to refuse
2025/0389	Vine Cottage	Harrow	28/05/2025	No Stage 2 required

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
2025/0270	North Finchley Town Centre	Barnet	12/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0328	Flamingo Park Club	Bromley	19/05/2025	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0304	Camden Goods Yard	Camden	12/05/2025	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0221	International Trading Estate, Southall	Ealing	27/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0225	Meridian Grand	Enfield	12/05/2025	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0287	Former Lewisham College	Greenwich	27/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0321	Kingsland Shopping Centre Phase 1	Hackney	19/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0371	Berol Quarter	Haringey	19/05/2025	Does not comply with	Stage 1

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
				the London Plan	
2025/0349	79-87 Westminster Bridge Road	Lambeth	12/05/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2025/0259	164-196 Trundleys Road, 1-9 Sanford Street	Lewisham	23/05/2025	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2025/0341	Former Lewisham College	Lewisham	27/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0301	Snowsfields Quarter	Southwark	12/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0361	9-15 Elcho Street	Wandsworth	27/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2025/0336	291 Harrow Road	Westminster	27/05/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

Key engagements

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

- I launched our consultation to shape the next London Plan on 9 May
- I attended a London Lions basketball game on 9 May
- I held my regular planning meeting on 12 May
- I met with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 12 May
- I met with the Mayor of Milan on 13 May
- I met with Sarah Hope from the Hope Line on 14 May
- I met with the General Secretary of the Labour Party on 14 May
- I met with the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 14 May
- I joined the London Councils Executive Congress on 15 May
- I met with the Permanent Secretary to the Home Office on 15 May
- I attended an event at the Central Criminal Court on 15 May
- I held my regular meeting the Met Police Commissioner on 15 May
- I attended the UK premiere of Mission Impossible on 15 May
- I attended the launch of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on 19 May
- I attended a Downing Street event for the EU Summit on 19 May
- I launched the City Hall Rough Sleeping Plan of Action on 20 May
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 22 May
- I attended the Mayoral Council on 23 May
- I attended the Council of Nations and Regions on 23 May
- I met with the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union on 27 May
- I met with the Chief Executive of Heathrow on 27 May
- I met with the Chair of Imperial College on 28 May
- I met with the Leader of Enfield Council on 28 May
- I visited the new V&A Storehouse on 28 May
- I watched the Unity Cup Final on 28 May
- I joined London Ambassadors for lunch hosted by the Jordanian Ambassador on 29 May
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 29 May
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 29 May
- I spoke at the opening of SXSW London 2025 on 2 June
- I held my regular planning meeting on 2 June
- I met with the Prime Minister on 2 June
- I met with the Mayor of Barcelona on 3 June
- I met with the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister on 3 June
- I met with the Minister for Local Government and English Devolution on 4 June
- I joined His Majesty the King on a visit to SXSW London on 5 June
- I met with the General Secretary of the RMT on 5 June
- I met with the Chancellor on 5 June
- I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 5 June