

# **17th Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

## **Mayor's Question Time – 18 December 2025**

<p>This is my seventeenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 7 November - 4 December 2025.</p>
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Please note that the information in the Mayor's Report is accurate at the time of publishing.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Working with London Councils to make homelessness support quicker and easier to access**

On 4 December, alongside London Councils, I announced the launch of a new London Ending Homelessness Accelerator Programme – bringing together more services to better prevent homelessness and get people help when they need it the most.

This is backed with a new £3.5 million investment secured by City Hall and London Councils from Government, which will enable the testing of innovative approaches to preventing homelessness, as well as supporting a team to drive forward key reforms.

The Accelerator Programme will support London government to work together and improve services for Londoners at risk of all forms of homelessness, whether forced to sleep rough or living in temporary accommodation. Through a strong partnership between City Hall, London boroughs, and national government, the programme aims to ensure that public services and resources are joined-up and available to prevent homelessness early and sustainably, costs are reduced, and improvements are made to the supply and quality of temporary and supported housing.

An estimated 1 in 50 Londoners are homeless and living in temporary accommodation, with boroughs spending £5.5 million on homelessness services every day. City Hall and London boroughs now collectively spend over £1 billion annually on preventing and resolving all forms of homelessness. A historic lack of funding has forced a focus on crisis management, rather than preventing Londoners from becoming homeless in the first place – this innovative new approach will support prevention.

The new programme will drive forward city-wide Plans of Action to improve prevention, temporary accommodation, supported housing and rough sleeping respectively, which will be finalised in spring 2026.

### **C40 World Mayors Summit**

I co-hosted the C40 World Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro between 3-5 November – a gathering of over 300 global Mayors – leading critical discussions on the direct-action cities can take to help tackle the climate crisis while also creating millions of new green jobs. For London, that means not only cutting emissions, but ensuring that the transition delivers skilled, secure and well-paid green jobs for Londoners.

Taking place just days before COP30, this timely event came at a critical juncture for key climate negotiations, and I was proud that London's leadership was placed at the heart of the global climate movement - to help inspire and accelerate climate action.

I led discussions with Ana Toni, Brazil's Secretary for Climate Change and Executive Director of COP30; Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition; and with global Mayors, including Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown and C40 Co-Chair, and Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris - about the importance of the fight against climate change, and how disinformation fuels real-world harm from hateful online abuse to vandalism and threats of violence.

I also participated in the COP30 Local Leaders Forum, placing city leadership where it belongs - at the heart of climate action. Whilst at the C40 World Mayor's Summit, I attended the Earthshot Awards, which were founded by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2020 and has already awarded over £20 million in prize grants to fund solutions towards environmental challenges.

### **City Hall Remembrance Service**

On 10 November, I jointly hosted City Hall's annual Remembrance Service, alongside the London Assembly and City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The Right Reverend Lynne Cullens, The Bishop of Barking, led the service and gave an address, along with contributions from leaders representing Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Humanist communities.

During the event, I laid a wreath on behalf of Londoners, alongside the Chair of the London Assembly, the Greater London Lieutenancy, and representatives of The Royal British Legion. The service, which has historic links to London government organisations and agencies, also saw wreaths laid by senior representatives of the Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, The Environment Agency, and London Councils, along with a representative of the Armed Forces.

At the event, we acknowledged and marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, VE Day and VJ Day, as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GLA and the London Assembly.

### **100 million meals for London's primary school children**

I am proud to have funded 100 million meals for London's primary school children since 2023.

The impact of Universal Free School Meals is clear: improvements have been seen in family finances, parent and children's wellbeing, children's nutrition, and in strengthening school communities. On 25 November, to mark the occasion I visited Shoreditch Park Primary School with Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, where I served the 100 millionth meal of my programme.

100 million free school meals is a huge milestone, and I am committed to guaranteeing free nutritious school meals for all children in London's state primary schools for as long as I am Mayor, helping build a better and fairer London for everyone.

## **New £2.4m package of support for victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Any individuals, groups or grooming gangs exploiting children for sex are utterly abhorrent and I want justice for every single victim of these horrific crimes. These children have not only suffered terrible abuse at the hands of the perpetrators but have been woefully let down by the authorities meant to protect them from harm.

Since taking office, I have led efforts to strengthen the protection of children from exploitation and harm in all its forms in London, including grooming gangs. We have delivered vital investment in specialist services to support child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and driven forward long-overdue reforms in the way the Met protects children. This includes specifically commissioning HMICFRS to independently inspect the Met's child protection arrangements in 2023, which has led to lasting improvements.

I have asked the Met to leave no stone unturned to secure justice for the victims of these horrific crimes. As the Met carries out its vital work to re-examine cases over the past 15 years, on 19<sup>th</sup> November I announced a new £2.4m package of support for victims and survivors to ensure they have the care, attention and specialist support services they deserve.

This investment will boost provision across all the specialist support services commissioned by MOPAC for children and young people who have experienced any form of sexual abuse, including institutional abuse, intra-familial offending, peer-on-peer cases, online exploitation, and gang-related or group-based child sexual exploitation.

## **DLR Extension to Thamesmead**

On 26 November, I welcomed the announcement in the Budget that the Government will support me to extend the Docklands Light Railway to Thamesmead and Beckton, a much-needed new transport link to this underserved part of our city. This is a shared commitment to working together to unlock this huge opportunity – delivering 25,000 to 30,000 new homes and 10,000 jobs for Londoners – which I have had at the top of my priorities for infrastructure investment for many years.

The Housing Secretary and I are committed to bringing forward ambitious plans for housing delivery, making sure the unique opportunity at Thamesmead Waterfront and Beckton, as two of the largest remaining brownfield sites in London, are used to their full potential. As well as stimulating economic growth, this will help to address London's housing crisis and meet our joint housing ambitions.

The New Towns Taskforce recommended Thamesmead Waterfront as one of 12 potential locations for the next generation of new towns. The Taskforce found that Thamesmead Waterfront has the potential to bring forward exemplar development, delivering the best possible standards of quality and design. In line with the Taskforce's recommendations, placemaking should be a key focus for the design of Thamesmead Waterfront, with a focus on clear and strong sense of place, achieved by high quality buildings and urban realm, and commitment to long-term stewardship of communal assets.

The Government, the GLA, Peabody, Lendlease, the Crown Estate, and the Royal Boroughs of Greenwich and Newham are committed to working together to realise the area's clear long-term potential. A decision on new town locations is anticipated in a spring next year.

### **London Life Sciences Week**

On 17 November, I opened London Life Sciences Week, which brought together over 1,300 industry leaders, innovators, and investors and over 2,400 biotech companies to forge partnerships across the capital. My speech showcased London as Europe's powerhouse for life sciences and positioned our city as the front runner to become the new world capital of the sector.

London is home to over 2,700 life sciences companies, three of the world's top 15 universities for health and clinical science, and 19 of the top 20 global pharmaceutical companies – forming an ecosystem of innovation that drives commercial growth. Our city has cemented its position as Europe's powerhouse for life sciences, attracting over £1.6 billion in venture capital investment so far this year.

### **New TfL data shows the number of daily cycling journeys in London has risen by 43 per cent since 2019, as TfL's cycle network exceeds 431km**

London's cycling boom shows no sign of slowing, with new TfL data revealing a 43 per cent increase in cycling journeys since 2019. It comes as TfL's cycleway network surpasses more than 431km, up from 90km in 2016, meaning 29 per cent of Londoners now live within 400m of a high-quality route.

TfL continues to work closely with London's boroughs to invest in high-quality infrastructure that allows more people to walk and cycle more often, including via journeys that connect to public transport.

Published in TfL's annual Travel in London report, the new data shows that the number of daily cycle journeys increased in 2025 to an estimated 1.5 million journeys per day, up by 12.7 per cent from 1.33 million in 2024.

The growth demonstrates the impact of my and TfL's continued investment in high-quality infrastructure that enables more Londoners to make the most of cycling as a sustainable and affordable way of travelling around the capital.

Working with London boroughs, TfL has increased the length of the strategic cycle network from 90km in 2016, to over 431km in 2025, a seven per cent increase from 2024. In 2024/25 alone, TfL launched 17 new Cycleways routes, and since September 2025, 29 per cent of Londoners live within 400 metres of the cycle network, making strong progress towards my target of 40 per cent by 2030.

Alongside cycling, walking continues to play a vital role in sustainable travel, with pedestrian activity in central London rising by three per cent in 2024, and a further seven per cent in early 2025 compared to the same periods the year before.

Walking and cycling are at the heart of creating a healthier and greener London, so it's fantastic to see more people choosing these ways to travel. Every extra journey by bike or on foot helps reduce congestion, improve air quality and make our streets safer and more welcoming.

### **Pedestrian, cyclist and motorcyclist deaths, and serious injuries in collisions with HGVs fall 50 per cent under lorry safety scheme**

As TfL marked this year's Road Safety Week, it released new data showing that the world-leading Direct Vision Standard (DVS) is helping to save lives in London. Since the lorry safety scheme, which reduces lethal blind spots, was introduced in 2019, an average of 6 fewer people have been killed, and 21 fewer people seriously injured in collisions with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) every year. This totals 19 fewer deaths and 62 fewer serious injuries since the DVS was enforced (2022-2024).

The DVS and HGV Safety Permit Scheme, supported by enforcement and education interventions, is a key part of my Vision Zero plan to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on London's transport network, improving safety of people walking and cycling by improving driver visibility from HGVs. Last year, TfL strengthened DVS requirements even further, with all HGVs over 12 tonnes required to have a three-star rating or fit Progressive Safe System measures to operate in Greater London.

Despite this impressive and encouraging data, more work is needed to keep Londoners safe, and TfL will continue to monitor collision trends and data to understand the impact of the strengthened DVS requirements.

The DVS and HGV Safety Permit Scheme is complemented by extensive enforcement activity, working closely with the police and TfL's own enforcement teams to help organisations make deliveries safely in London. Enforcement teams monitor the road network to confirm that safety equipment required as part of the Progressive Safe System has been fitted and is working correctly.

### **Oxford Street Board Chair**

On 10 November, the London Assembly ratified my preferred candidate for Chair of the Oxford Street Development Corporation.

I look forward to welcoming Scott Parsons, a highly experienced leader in retail and development, as Board Chair of the Oxford Street Development Corporation (OSDC) and working with him to drive the regeneration of Oxford Street and unlock its true potential.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **GPS tagging cuts reoffending rates of high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators**

On 12 November, I was pleased to announce the findings of a new evaluation of a pilot project to electronically monitor high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators on release from prison. The scheme worked to change the behaviour of perpetrators - acting as a deterrent and ensuring enforcement action would be taken if offenders break the conditions of their release. Crucially, it put the onus of behaviour change on perpetrators, and not victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

The evaluation found that those released from prison and fitted with GPS tags were 45 per cent less likely to be charged with an offence in the 12 months after being fitted with a tag, compared to the 12 months before being tagged - a reduction which increased to 63 per cent for violent offences.

MOPAC has been at the forefront of the use of electronic monitoring and has invested £7.4 million in GPS innovation since 2017. Past successful schemes include targeting persistent and knife crime offenders, which led to a 5 per cent reduction in reoffending.

The GPS tagging knife crime programme was extended last year to also include stalking offenders. To date over 2,150 knife crime and stalking offenders have been tagged as they return to London from prison, continuing this work to protect victims and prevent reoffending.

### **Making London safe for every woman and girl**

November 25<sup>th</sup> marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and marked the start of 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence.

Since becoming Mayor, I've made it my mission to ensure that every woman, and every girl, feels safe – and is safe – in our city. I've invested a record-breaking £233 million into stamping out misogyny; stepping up support for survivors; and stopping perpetrators in their tracks. But there's still much more to do. Whether it's tackling the scourge of domestic violence, or vile 'grooming gangs', we know we have further to go.

I will soon publish my refreshed VAWG strategy, that will build on the progress we have made and intensify our efforts to take predators off our streets, change offender behaviour, boost specialist services for victims and challenge misogynistic beliefs.

## **Transport**

### **Setting out bold proposals to deliver pedestrianisation along Oxford Street**

On 21 November, TfL and I set out detailed proposals for transport and highway changes to deliver my bold ambitions around pedestrianising and revitalising the capital's most famous high street.

Earlier this year, more than 6,000 people responded to the consultation on the idea of pedestrianising Oxford Street and proposals to establish a new Mayoral Development Corporation for the area. When asked specifically about the principle of pedestrianisation, around two thirds were supportive.

The new consultation - which is running for eight weeks from 21 November 2025 until 16 January 2026 - proposes that the section of Oxford Street between Orchard Street and Great Portland Street is closed to private motorised vehicles, buses, taxis and private hire vehicles, cycles, scooters and pedicabs. However, the proposed scheme has been specifically designed to ensure that emergency services would have access to the street at any time, and that servicing vehicles could access the traffic-free area from midnight to 07:00 to support local businesses and retailers.

The proposals being consulted on would maintain several routes for traffic crossing the pedestrianised section. New and wider pedestrian crossings would ensure public safety at these

junctions. There are also wider traffic management changes proposed as part of the scheme to ensure effective local access and servicing to the areas surrounding Oxford Street.

Under the proposals, buses that currently serve Oxford Street would be rerouted along Wigmore Street and Henrietta Place. Two new pairs of bus stops with shelters and countdown would be installed along this route.

While buses and taxis would no longer be able to directly access Oxford Street between Orchard Street and Great Portland Street, the proposals seek to provide bus stops, taxi ranks and drop-off locations as close to the pedestrianised area as possible. TfL has also worked to maintain the number of blue badge parking bays in the area and is discussing with Westminster City Council whether additional ranking space could be found on surrounding roads to further support taxi provision.

Although cycling would not be allowed on this section of Oxford Street as part of this proposed scheme, both TfL and I recognise the need to provide high-quality alternative routes through the area and will work closely with Westminster City Council as the highway authority for surrounding roads to support development of further proposals for improved cycling infrastructure.

These new proposals map out the potential next steps with TfL to make our vision of a thriving, greener Oxford Street a reality. I encourage everyone to have their say on the proposals, which would transform Oxford Street into a place Londoners and the whole country can be proud of.

### **Changes confirmed to the Congestion Charge to keep London moving sustainably**

After feedback from Londoners, TfL have confirmed new measures to ensure the Congestion Charging scheme continues to accelerate the capital's green transition, while supporting businesses and residents.

The new system, with tiered discounts available via Auto Pay, means that:

- The daily Congestion Charge will increase from £15 to £18 from 2 January 2026 – a lower than inflation increase and the first increase since 2020
- As part of the first phase from 2 January 2026, there will be a 50 per cent discount for electric vans, HGVs and quadricycles registered for Auto Pay, as well as a 25 per cent discount for electric cars, including Private Hire Vehicles, registered for Auto Pay
- As part of the second phase from 4 March 2030, there will be a 25 per cent discount for electric vans, HGVs and quadricycles registered for Auto Pay, and a 12.5 per cent discount for electric cars, including Private Hire Vehicles, registered for Auto Pay.

The combination of these changes enables a careful balance between continuing to support the important transition to EVs and ensuring that the Congestion Charge remains effective at managing traffic and congestion within central London.

Alongside the new tiered system, the Residents' Discount will change to incentivise longer term take-up of EVs, with those currently living in the area remaining unaffected. Those who are in receipt of the Residents' Discount prior to 1 March 2027 will retain their 90 per cent discount,

regardless of vehicle fuel type. For those newly applying for the Residents' Discount after 1 March 2027, the 90 per cent discount will only apply to EVs.

Having listened to feedback from the public consultation, there will be further support for low-income and disabled residents receiving certain benefits, so that they can continue to apply for the Residents' Discount until March 2030 without their vehicle needing to be electric.

Changes to my road user charging guidance are also being taken forward, which would allow the Congestion Charge to be increased in line with Tube fares (or inflation plus one per cent or a lower amount) without consultation. This new procedure will ensure consistency with the approach that applies when public passenger transport fares are set, meaning I can ensure that public transport does not become proportionately more expensive than driving in central London. The wider changes now mean that procedural and administrative changes to the scheme may also be made without consultation, and the minimum consultation periods that apply when making other types of changes, have been reduced.

Keeping London moving by reducing congestion is vital for our city and for our economy. While the congestion charge has been a huge success since its introduction, we must ensure it stays fit for purpose, and sticking to the status quo would see around 2,200 more vehicles using the congestion charging zone on an average weekday next year. We must support Londoners and businesses to use more sustainable travel, so I'm pleased that substantial incentives will remain in place for Londoners who switch to cleaner vehicles, as we work to build a greener and better London for everyone.

### **TfL Go app gets another update with more new features to make journeys even smoother**

TfL has introduced more new features to its free TfL Go app, designed to keep customers informed about their journeys and travel with confidence on the network.

The latest updates to the app include the introduction of real-time line status notifications, allowing customers to receive alerts on their phone when their chosen Tube, Elizabeth line, DLR, London Overground or Tram lines are disrupted. Customers can personalise notifications by line and time of day, as well as pause alerts when on holiday or outside London, via the account menu or status board.

TfL has also redesigned the information about next train arrivals for Tube, DLR, and Tram services. The new layout, which can be accessed by tapping on an individual station, groups 'next train' information by direction of travel and destination, helping customers quickly understand where each service is heading.

I know how important it is for our customers to feel in control of their journeys, and these new TfL Go features are all about making that easier. Whether it's getting real-time notifications on your line or checking which bus stop to head to next while on the Tube, these updates give customers the information they need, right when they need and want it most.



### **Three London boroughs win TfL funding to transform local bus networks**

TfL has confirmed the next major step in improving bus performance across the capital, with the announcement of funding for Haringey, Lewisham and Southwark, as part of the Better Bus Partnerships programme. The aim of the programme is for TfL to work in partnership with London's boroughs to transform the bus network by investing in a range of infrastructure and operational interventions that will improve journey times, reliability and customer experience.

Haringey, Lewisham and Southwark have been chosen following a competitive bidding process, which was open to all boroughs. The successful boroughs will each receive up to £10million over an expected four-year period, with funding released in stages based on the progress of each programme.

The selected schemes aim to cut bus journey times by up to 30 per cent – which will make bus travel more attractive, increase overall bus ridership, and offer the bus as a preferred alternative to travel by private car.

TfL will now work closely with the successful boroughs throughout 2026 on design and planning, with delivery expected to commence in 2027. Full details of the schemes will be shared by the boroughs in the coming months, subject to consultation and engagement.

### **New London Overground Weaver line timetable**

On 14 December, a new timetable will come into effect on the London Overground Weaver line. While the number of trains to each destination remain the same, all train times have changed, so customers are strongly advised to check the updated timetable before travelling.

These changes are designed to reduce crowding and improve punctuality on services to and from Enfield Town and Cheshunt during peak times. By better aligning capacity with demand at Seven Sisters, the busiest station on the route, it will ease congestion on peak trains and lower the risk of delays.

### **TfL launches mural at Brixton Underground station**

TfL has launched a new mural artwork by London-based artist Rudy Loewe at Brixton Underground station.

A celebration of the local area and its people, the mural is on display for a year and the ninth in a series of commissions at the station by artists including Claudette Johnson, Denzil Forrester, Joy Labinjo and Njideka Akunyili Crosby.

The series of commissions at Brixton Tube station was initiated in 2018 and invites artists to respond to the diverse narratives of the area, in recognition of the local murals painted in Brixton in the 1980s.

*The Congregation*, which spans the entrance of Brixton Underground station, channels the narrative energy of comics, combining text and image with vivid colour to honour Brixton's history as a place of resistance and community gathering, particularly for London's Black communities. It

features 20 scenes celebrating the figures and history of Brixton, weaving in stories from archival research and interviews, visualising the rich, sensorial experience of the area.

### **TfL introduces new fault-reporting technology in Tube station lifts to improve journey planning for people with access needs**

A third of lifts on TfL's transport network now automatically report when they are out-of-service, with real-time updates sent to journey planning tools. This allows people with step-free access needs to plan their journeys with more certainty and confidence.

Step-free access is crucial for many TfL customers, including some disabled people, people with prams and pushchairs and those carrying luggage. A lift going out-of-service can force someone to abandon their journey or make alternative arrangements, which can lengthen or disrupt their journey.

Currently, 93 lifts at 28 Tube stations now self-report as out of service without the need to be reported by station staff. This new technology means journey planning tools, including the free TfL Go app and Journey Planner, are updated more quickly, and enables staff to seek assistance and get the lifts back into operation sooner.

The project is ongoing, with the first phase focussing on busy central London interchange Tube stations, including Bond Street, London Bridge and Tottenham Court Road, and end of the line stations such as Cockfosters and Morden. TfL will look to implement more than 20 further lift upgrades by the end of March 2026 as part of the first phase.

The second phase, beginning in 2026, will upgrade the remaining lifts on the Tube network, in addition to those across the TfL network on the Elizabeth line, London Overground, the IFS Cloud Cable Car and at Hammersmith Bus Station.

### **TfL names Patrick Doig new Chief Finance Officer to succeed retiring Rachel McLean**

TfL has announced that, following an extensive internal and external recruitment process, Patrick Doig will replace Rachel McLean as managing Chief Finance Officer (CFO) when she retires on 14 February 2026.

Patrick joined TfL in 2007 as a financial analyst before becoming a key part of the TfL leadership team. Most recently Patrick has served as Statutory CFO and Group Procurement and Commercial Director, where he has delivered significant improvements in commercial strategy and supplier partnerships. Before that, Patrick held the role of Group Finance Director - playing a pivotal role in shaping TfL's financial strategy.

Patrick helped steer TfL through the pandemic, ensuing financial resilience and operational stability and securing the Government funding agreements needed to begin TfL's recovery. He will continue to be TfL's statutory CFO, a role he has held since 2021.

I would like to thank Rachel McLean for everything she has done for TfL and for London during her tenure and to congratulate Patrick on this well-deserved achievement.

## Fire

### **Long Service Award Ceremony**

On 10 and 17 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, attended services to honour London Fire Brigade staff who have given 20, 30 and 40 years of service to the Brigade.

### **Deputy Mayor's Fire Board**

On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, chaired a regular meeting of his Deputy Mayor's Fire Board.

### **Asian Fire Service Association**

On 26 November, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, delivered the Mayoral Address, titled 'Belonging in a Diverse City: Leadership, Safety & Trust', at the Asian Fire Service Association's National Winter Conference.

## Environment

### **London Climate and Sustainability Commission welcomes new Commissioners**

The London Climate and Sustainability Commission (LCSC), formerly known as the London Sustainable Development Commission, has announced their new cohort of commissioners working to independently advise me on making London a world-leading sustainable city.

The LCSC have appointed a new commission consisting of 18 people with new expertise and innovative ideas to lead on making London a resilient, fair and sustainable city.

All the appointees have made significant contributions to sustainability within their respective roles, with representation spanning across different ages, backgrounds and experiences. They will sit on the board until November 2028, shaping London's social, environmental and economic vision.

The new commission is set to work on a range of priorities for London, relating to the net zero 2030 target and beyond. Their work will focus on environmental, social and economic impacts of the transition to a greener London, ensuring no Londoner is left behind.

### **EcoJudaism COP30 Vigil**

On 12 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended EcoJudaism's COP30 vigil at Parliament Square. During the event, my Deputy Mayor spoke about the importance of cities leading the way on addressing the climate crisis and how we need to engage communities at all levels of this work.

### **Ecosia tree planting**

On 12 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended a tree planting event hosted by Ecosia and Trees for Cities at the Glamis Estate in Tower Hamlets. He met

with the corporate volunteers taking part in this event and emphasised the importance of partnership-led approaches to bring tree benefits to neighbourhoods that need them most and help reach the London Environment Strategy target to increase canopy cover by 10 per cent by 2050.

### **B Corp - The British Academy**

On 13 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at the B Corporation's Take 10: The Future of Better Business event. B-Corps are companies that meet high standards of social and environmental performance and accountability, and this event celebrated 10-years of B Corps in the UK. It was opportunity to demonstrate how London is the B Corp capital of the world. Mete encouraged London businesses to improve their sustainability and highlighted the multiple programmes we have on offer to them.

### **Kew Gardens, COP30 Event**

On 19 November, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, co-hosted a day-long event, 'Futureproofing: Youth, Education and Climate Action', at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on the role of young people and education in climate action.

Timed to sit alongside COP30, the event spotlighted how the international challenges tackled at COP30 can be translated to the local London level, and how young Londoners can be supported to take action. Mete hosted a panel on the role of activism in addressing the climate crisis, spotlighting youth leadership in London, and hosted a conversation with a representative from UK Youth for Nature.

Over 160 people attended the event, with broad representation from youth and climate-focused organisations in London, as well as from COP30, with a visit from the Brazilian ambassador and video message from the Defra representatives who participated in the negotiations.

### **New Statesman Politics Live2025**

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended New Statesman's Politics Live 2025 event and took part in a panel discussion on 'Decarbonising industry: How can businesses help us lead the world on net zero?'. In this panel discussion, Mete recognised the vital role businesses play in decarbonisation and highlighted the importance of London's green economy.

### **Green Roots Fund Launch**

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave the welcoming address at a networking event for the first grant recipients of my new Green Roots Fund. He met with grantees, congratulated them on their successful proposals, emphasised the importance of involving Londoners in project delivery and encouraged grant recipients to share their learning across the green infrastructure sector. The Green Roots Fund will award over £12m across five rounds to projects that make London's neighbourhoods more nature-rich, climate resilient and healthy.

## **Greener Schools project at Durants Pitfield School**

On 21 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Durants Pitfield School in Enfield. The school hosted a presentation with their solar PV contractors, organised by Enfield Council, which was also attended by some of the schools' students. The Greener Schools Pilot provided capital funding for the installation of a 26.4 kWp solar PV system on the school's rooftop, which will help the school save over £6,000 per year on energy bills. Durants Pitfield has also received support from the Zero Carbon Accelerator, which helped Enfield Council secure Greener Schools Pilot funding, in addition to developing a feasibility study of the school's routes to net zero.

## **Climate Finance Taskforce meeting**

On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the first meeting of the Climate Finance Taskforce. Mete welcomed Taskforce members, setting out the progress London has made so far in delivering investment into climate projects in the capital, while emphasising the Taskforce's mission to co-develop solutions to unlock investment at the scale required to meet London's net zero ambitions. He also took part in the discussion with Taskforce members, which includes representatives from the financial sector as well as London organisations.

## **The Orchard Project site visit**

On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Grayham Park in Islington to meet representatives from The Orchard Project and Earthwatch Europe, following their successful application to the first round of my Green Roots grant programme. During the visit he met local volunteers and participants in The Orchard Project's training programme, celebrated National Tree Week, and encouraged applications for the second round of my Green Roots Grant Programme which is open until 22 January 2026. He highlighted that through projects like this, Green Roots is helping London communities transform local spaces—tackling inequality, boosting biodiversity, and building climate resilience—so nature can thrive in the city for everyone.

## **Energyyear Investment Solar & Storage**

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave the keynote speech at the Energyyear Investment Solar and Storage event in London. He spoke about the key role that solar has to play in providing cheaper and cleaner energy for Londoners and the importance of collaboration between industry, policy and community leaders for success.

## **Clean Air & Health Summit**

On 27 November, I hosted my second Clean Air and Health Summit, building on the inaugural event in 2022. The summit brought together leading voices in health and policy to review progress and set future priorities. It reinforced the importance of continued collaboration with the health system and professional bodies to highlight the impacts of air pollution. The event strengthened collaboration, celebrated achievements such as ULEZ, and underlined the importance of sustained action to protect Londoners' health.

## **Greener Schools Assembly**

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, welcomed students from the Greener Schools Pilot's schools to City Hall to celebrate and share their experiences. Since the inception of their pilot projects, some students have taken on the role of 'Greener Schools reporters' to document their own school's project. This has included interviewing staff and contractors about the installation works. During the event, students shared their experiences and thoughts through informal conversations and hands-on activities. Students contributed drawings and written thoughts to a paper mural. Each student received a participation certificate to recognise their contributions to both the event and the pilot overall.

## **Co-chaired London Energy Mission roundtable**

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, co-chaired a roundtable of senior stakeholders to discuss the London Energy Mission. The GLA, London Councils and partners are developing a London Energy Mission to deliver transformative improvements in London's energy systems, addressing net zero, growth and fuel poverty. It will complement the government's mission to 'Make Britain a clean energy superpower', while focusing on London's unique needs. The roundtable gathered input from senior leaders from a range of sectors, to help shape the Mission before it is agreed by a new Mission Board and the London Partnership Board.

## **Lauriston Primary School**

On 4 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Lauriston Primary School in Hackney, which hosted an unveiling of their new solar PV system. The event was also attended by students from the school's Eco Council. The installation was made possible by capital funding from the Greener Schools Pilot and is predicted to save the school £14,200 per year on energy bills.

## **Growth and Skills**

### **Meeting with Roehampton University Vice-Chancellor and Senior Team**

On 7 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, met with the Vice-Chancellor and senior team at Roehampton University. This was an opportunity to discuss how London's higher education institutions can align with local growth initiatives and work with employers to support skills development.

There was a particular focus on the role of the sector in supporting the ambitions of the Inclusive Talent Strategy, as well as the launch of Roehampton's Sustainable Engineering and Technology Education Centre, which will offer industry-led programmes, so students are ready for work. It was also noted that Roehampton will be working alongside South London Partnership and South Thames College Group on pilot activities as part of the Pan-London Youth Guarantee Trailblazer.

### **Meeting with LSBU Vice-Chancellor and Group Chair**

On 10 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, met with London South Bank University's new Vice Chancellor and Group CEO Paul Kett. This meeting

focused on how LSBU can be an active partner in enabling the ambitions of the London Growth Plan.

The strong relationship between the GLA and LSBU was noted, and the university's unique model and role across further and higher education was also highlighted as an example of the work we want to do to encourage learner progression. As the lead provider of London Uni Connect, LSBU's work to widen access to higher education is key to the delivery of the Inclusive Talent Strategy.

### **Skills & Employment Summit co-hosted by the GLA and Local London**

On 12 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, attended the Local London Skills and Employment Summit co-hosted by the Local London Sub-Regional Partnership, BusinessLDN and the GLA at City Hall. The summit brought together skills and employment leaders from across the Local London sub-region and focused on how we strengthen collaboration and drive inclusive growth in East London, an area with enormous potential but also some of the most entrenched inequalities in skills and employment outcomes.

Stakeholders from local authorities, further education, business, employment support and community organisations came together to explore what greater stability, long-term planning and genuine cross-party consensus could look like in practice to ensure that strong outcomes can continue to be delivered for Londoners through successive governments. The discussions echoed the joined-up ecosystem laid out in my Inclusive Talent Strategy, giving Londoners the skills and employers the access to the talent needed to thrive.

### **Adult Learning Awards**

On 13 November, my fourth Adult Learning Awards was hosted in City Hall celebrating the individuals and organisations who are helping Londoners to gain new skills, progress in their careers and contribute to inclusive growth across the capital.

The ceremony brought together 150 representatives from business, community organisations, Londoners and Further Education professionals. The event was hosted by Jimmy McLoughlin OBE, with contributions from playwright and broadcaster Bonnie Greer OBE and my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber.

The event highlighted the inspirational stories of adult learning. Their achievements reflected the ambitions of my recently launched Inclusive Talent Strategy, showcasing how London's skills system is supporting Londoners to fulfil their potential while giving businesses access to the skilled workforce they need to grow. For more information about the winners and highly commended nominees please visit: [www.london.gov.uk/london-adult-learning-awards](http://www.london.gov.uk/london-adult-learning-awards).

### **London Higher International Education Conference**

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, spoke at London Higher's International Higher Education Conference. This was an opportunity to emphasise the strengths of London's higher education sector, its global reputation and the talent it attracts.

Howard noted that London has always been a city that looks outwards, building its reputation through decades of leadership in research and innovation. He emphasised the importance of not

putting up further barriers to international students studying in London, highlighting the risk this poses to London's talent pipelines and the city's global reputation as a world class destination for students.

The session concluded by reiterating our desire to collaborate with the sector on delivering the Inclusive Talent Strategy, widening opportunities for learners and strengthening London's global reputation as a hub for higher education.

### **Meeting with Mark Reynolds, Group Executive Chairman, Mace**

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, met with Mark Reynolds, in his capacity as co-chair of the Construction Skills Mission Board (CSMB). They discussed skills priorities for the Construction and Built Environment sector, the work of the CSMB and how this aligns with my ambitions for an employer-led skills system in London, including through the new Sector Talent Boards.

### **Inaugural meetings of the GLA's interim Sector Talent Boards x 3: Creative, Life Science and Construction Sectors**

The inaugural meetings of the Interim Sector Talent Boards were held across the 24, 25 November and 4 December. The boards will form part of the new infrastructure announced in the Inclusive Talent Strategy to put employers at the heart of London's Skills system.

My Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, spoke to industry stakeholders at the meetings to outline the importance of work being undertaken by members and to thank them for volunteering their time and expertise to help ensure the interim boards can deliver the priorities outlined in the Inclusive Talent Strategy.

### **Key speaker in the official launch of Westminster Adult Education Service's (WAES) Green Skills Innovation Centre**

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE spoke at the official launch of Westminster Adult Education Service's (WAES) Green Skills Innovation Centre. He highlighted how the Centre supports my ambitions for green growth and good job opportunities for Londoners, as set out in the London Growth Plan. I invested around £258,000 into developing the Centre through my Skills Capital Fund, which will deliver training in areas like clean energy and retrofit. It will help develop the talent pipeline for the net zero transition, a priority for the Inclusive Talent Strategy.

## **Housing**

### **London's Social and Affordable Homes Programme**

On 7 November, I launched London's new Social and Affordable Homes Programme, the largest and longest-term investment in affordable housebuilding in the GLA's history. Worth up to £11.7 billion over the next decade, this programme represents a bold step forward in tackling London's housing crisis — one of my top priorities.



We will work in partnership with Government, councils, housing associations, and developers, to seize this opportunity and deliver the social and affordable homes that Londoners desperately need. The programme will also fund a new tenure, Key Worker Living Rent, with rents linked to the incomes of the key workers who keep our city running.

### **Barking Riverside wins Public/Private Partnership of the Year award**

I am proud that Barking Riverside Ltd has been named Public/Private Partnership of the Year at the Estates Gazette Awards 2025, in partnership with Homes England. This award recognises the transformative impact of the £124 million funding package that is unlocking critical infrastructure and enabling thousands of new homes at Barking Riverside.

Barking Riverside Ltd exemplifies my interventionist approach to housing delivery, as a joint venture between the GLA (through GLAP) and London & Quadrant New Homes. Partnership working is central to its success, and this recognition reinforces the positive role we can play in accelerating housing delivery and creating vibrant communities for Londoners.

### **GLA Land and Property Limited Annual Report 2024-25**

On 10 November, I published the Annual Report 2024-25 for GLA Land and Property Limited (GLAP), which is my subsidiary for the delivery of land in my ownership. Across these landholdings, a total of 68,000 new homes will be delivered on my land and joint venture interests, including homes delivered and looking ahead over the next 25 years. In 2024-25, 1,675 homes were completed, including a high proportion of affordable housing, despite challenging market conditions.

In this period, I have also published the London Development Toolkit which captures the knowledge, expertise and lessons learned from my land and development portfolio across the GLA Group. I have distilled this knowledge into four guidance notes that are tailored to support public landowners who are planning to bring forward residential-led development on their land, to a high quality and efficiently, to best meet the need of Londoners.

### **Thameside West Update**

On 17 November, I was pleased to announce that the Thameside West site had secured major investment from Arada, the UAE's fastest growing master developer. Thameside West is partially owned by the GLA.

Arada has agreed an acquisition of an 80 per cent stake in Thameside West, unlocking a landmark mixed-use development located at the western end of the Royal Docks.

Spread over a 47-acre area, Thameside West is one of Europe's largest and most strategically important regeneration opportunities, with a Gross Development Value (GDV) of £2.5 billion. It occupies central London's longest stretch of undeveloped riverfront, with views across Canary Wharf and Greenwich Peninsula.

The site already has consent for 5,000 homes, a new DLR station, large green space and a kilometre of active waterfront. The first stage of the project will see 1000 homes delivered with construction set to begin in 2027.

## **Homes for Londoners Property Portal**

On the 24 November, I launched a newly enhanced version of my Homes for Londoners property search tool, offering Londoners easier access to intermediate housing options across the capital.

The new portal is being delivered in partnership with Share to Buy, the UK's leading portal for affordable homeownership. It offers home-seekers:

- An enhanced property search with new filters, making it easier to identify homes that meet people's needs.
- Built-in affordability calculators on every live listing, so people can quickly see if homes are within budget.
- Helpful guides on schemes such as Shared Ownership, London Living Rent, Discount Market Sale, and Older Persons Shared Ownership - with more to come soon.

To maximise transparency and choice for Londoners, Shared Ownership, London Living Rent and Key Worker Living Rent homes, funded through the new Social and Affordable Homes Programme, as well as all intermediate rent homes delivered under the London Plan, will be listed on the Homes for Londoners property portal. This ensures Londoners can easily find and compare affordable housing options in one place.

## **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

### **Business engagement and support**

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

- On 10 November, speaking at the launch of the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage Week at London Stadium. The event gathered accredited employers, workers and Citizens UK campaigners to recognise progress in the Living Wage campaign and announce next steps for the Foundation's Making London Work for All programme, part of the Growth Plan's vision for London to be a centre for fair pay.
- On 10 November, giving the keynote speech at Centre for London's annual London Conference on the theme "Decarbonising London: the final five years".
- On 11 November, giving a keynote speech for the South London Partnership's "Destination South London Summit", attended by senior leaders from across business, local government, and industry, to discuss plans for South London's visitor economy. Additionally, meeting with Merlin Entertainment to discuss future plans for the Resort.
- On 13 November, taking part in an Opportunity London 'A New Green Infrastructure for London' Roundtable, to discuss unlocking heat network investment at scale in London.
- On 13 November, attending the Westminster Property Association Annual Lunch, to hear about work underway to drive growth for London and the UK.
- On 18 November, attending Grow London Local's final 'GLL Lates' event of 2025 at Patch St Paul's, celebrating the launch of the Festive Gift Guide and the small businesses supported by GLL this year.

- On 21 November, delivering a keynote speech at Seminal's Annual Summit focusing on the progress made on the London Growth Plan.
- On 25 November, taking part in a fireside chat with local borough leaders as part of the Knowledge Quarter's 10th Anniversary Conference.
- On 26 November, attending Business in the Community's Opening Doors to Good Work event, as part of Good Employment Week. This marks the first year London has celebrated this annual initiative, following the example set by Greater Manchester. Throughout the week, my Economic Fairness team delivered a series of engaging events for employers, reinforcing our commitment to fair and inclusive work across the capital.
- On 27 November, speaking at the launch of Sutton's Economic Growth Plan, which showcased the borough's strengths, including the London Cancer Hub and its wider business community.
- On 27 November, attending the first meeting of the London Frontier Innovation Board. The Board has been established to support the London Growth Mission Board in nurturing the growth of frontier innovation sectors like life sciences, deep tech and climate tech.
- On 28 November, supported the launch of 'Places for Growth' at Lockton Street Arches and Places for London's work to support London's businesses, meeting tenants in nearby Wood Lane Arches.
- On 1 December, attending a roundtable with commercial property agents to discuss the availability of commercial workspace in London and share views on bringing empty units back into use.
- On 2 December, attending a roundtable hosted by Wates Residential in collaboration with Opportunity London.
- On 2 December, co-chairing the London Growth Mission Board, where progress on the London Growth Plan was reviewed, including updates on the Inclusive Talent Strategy and London Infrastructure Framework.
- On 3 December, visiting Seven Sisters Market and chairing a roundtable with Latin American entrepreneurs, with representatives from London & Partners, Funding London, and UK Export Finance.
- On 4 December, delivering a keynote speech at the Annual Venture Capital event hosted by the London Venture Capital Network, focusing on London's venture capital landscape, investment opportunities, and showcasing London's strengths in the sector.

## **International promotion**

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

- On 4 November, joined the Grow Summit Retreat which brought together around 150 entrepreneurs, advisors, and investors to tackle the challenges of business growth and explore the impact of emerging technologies shaping the future.
- During London Life Sciences Week, (16-20 November), spoke at the Welcome to London reception and events held at the London Life Sciences Week Pavilion, attended Life Sciences reception at 10 Downing Street, and engaged with international delegations, investors, founders, innovators, entrepreneurs and national government representatives.

# Civil Society and Sport

## **Go London Foundation Fund**

On 24 November, my Civil Society and Sports team confirmed the award of grants totalling £1.9 million to 52 community and grassroots sport organisations through my partnership fund, Go! London. These grants will enable over 9,000 under-served children and young people to take part in projects ranging from multi-sports, dance, boxing, and swimming, all designed to boost confidence, improve wellbeing, and help young people enjoy the benefits of being active.

This is the fourth round of funding through Go! London's Foundation Fund. To date, 32,000 children and young people have participated in projects supported by Foundation funding, with more than 12,000 reporting improved physical wellbeing and 6,000 reporting improved mental wellbeing.

## **Equitable Volunteering Forum**

On 27 November, the GLA convened 40 organisations from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector at Voluntary Action Islington to discuss Equitable Volunteering. The event examined how to advance equality, diversity and inclusion in volunteering in London and remove barriers for diverse volunteers. The session featured two keynote speakers who shared their insights to ensure volunteering is accessible to all.

## **Social Cohesion Roundtable**

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, joined a roundtable with London Plus, London's voluntary sector infrastructure organisation, alongside other sector leaders. Together, they discussed the challenges and opportunities around improving social cohesion, and how we can better support communities across London.

## **Civil Society Covenant Meeting with DCMS**

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with Stephanie Peacock MP, the Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth, and three leaders of voluntary sector organisations in London. They discussed how we can collaborate to strengthen delivery of the Civil Society Covenant framework and better support the organisations that underpin our communities through stronger partnership working.

## **Go! London Open Innovation Challenges**

On 3 December, Go! London launched two new Open Innovation Challenges – a call for ideas that use sport and physical activity to build stronger, more resilient communities for children and young people. These challenges seek innovative, partnership-driven solutions focused on Sport for Climate Action and Reimagining Spaces for Sport & Play, to make activity more sustainable, inclusive, and shaped by local communities. Applications are open until 17 February 2026.

## Culture

### **Sustainable Theatre: A Global Challenge conference**

On 14 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, joined international theatre industry representatives and policy makers for National Theatre and Theatre Green Book's conference on sustainability in theatre. Justine spoke on a panel of international cultural policy leads about the role culture must play in tackling climate change in global cities, and London's success in meeting clean air targets 184 years early. The conference also launched ReStage - our collaborative project with National Theatre and Arts Council England to ensure theatre and film sets get reused, not sent to landfill.

### **The King's Reception**

On 18 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended a reception at Windsor Castle hosted by the King and Queen to celebrate the diplomatic community in London. It was attended by more than 700 guests, including ambassadors, high commissioners, ministers, and representatives from business, academia, faith groups and local and regional government.

### **BusinessLDN Culture Council Roundtable**

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, welcomed guests to a Culture Council roundtable hosted by BusinessLDN and chaired by Sir Peter Bazalgette. The session explored how business and culture in London can work together for mutual benefit. The roundtable was attended by a range of senior leaders from both business and culture, including the V&A, University College London, London Museum and Heart of London Business Alliance among others.

### **UCL Night Workers Report**

On 3 December, University College London (UCL) published *Night Workers Report: Data After Dark*, the most comprehensive research into night workers published to date. This research, part-funded by the GLA, gathered evidence from night workers across the capital, expanding the evidence base about those who work from 6pm to 6am.

## Communities and Social Policy

### **Interfaith breakfast at City Hall**

On 13 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes - Bernard, hosted an inter faith breakfast at City Hall. The event was attended by faith and community leaders from across faiths to mark Inter Faith Week. It was also an opportunity for Debbie to hear about the challenges and opportunities faced by faith communities across London, from the rise in faith motivated hate crime, to the desire to work with City Hall to bring communities together and further social cohesion.

## **Empower EU awards**

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes – Bernard, gave the keynote speech at the Empower EU awards hosted at City Hall. The awards ceremony, organised by the EU Delegation in the UK, celebrates the social cohesion activity carried out by EU citizen-led organisations in the UK across three categories: Inspiring European Connections; Youth Champions; Community Champions.

## **Full English Exhibition visit**

On 18 November, to mark Islamophobia Awareness Month, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited the Full English Exhibition at East Ham Library. The exhibition was a collaboration between Nurull Islam from Mile End Community Project and photographer Rehan Jamil, who shared their thoughts and inspirations for the exhibition and highlighted how food can bridge cultures and build connections across communities.

## **West London Synagogue visit**

On 7 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr. Debbie Weekes – Bernard, visited West London Synagogue to meet with Rabbi Dr Helen Freeman and discuss the Jewish community's concerns around hate crime and interfaith dialogue and how we can best support them.

## **Trans in the City Awards attendance**

On 14 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the Trans in the City Awards at the London Stock Exchange.

The annual awards celebrate trans and non-binary leadership, allyship and inclusion, bringing together individuals, organisations and advocates driving change across the UK and internationally. The event coincided with Trans Awareness Week and highlighted achievements in workplace inclusion, community advocacy and student leadership.

Dr Weekes-Bernard's attendance signalled our commitment to making London a city where trans and non-binary people are loved, wanted and celebrated—not just during awareness weeks, but every day. She joined corporate partners, community leaders and activists to honour the courage, creativity and contribution of trans communities, and to reaffirm our stance against transphobia and discrimination.

## **GLA LGBTQI+ Community Forum at the London LGBT Community Centre**

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the second meeting of the GLA LGBTQI+ Community Forum at the London LGBT Community Centre.

The Forum brings together community leaders and organisations to ensure the lived experiences and priorities of LGBTQI+ Londoners shape my strategies and programmes. This meeting focused on urgent issues affecting LGBTQI+ migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum, alongside discussions on policing and accountability and plans for LGBT History Month.

Members highlighted growing demand for advice and safe spaces, systemic barriers in the asylum process, and the impact of detention and unsafe housing. Dr Weekes-Bernard reaffirmed our commitment to making London a sanctuary city and to working with partners to advocate for humane policies, fund safe accommodation, and challenge harmful narratives.

### **Dangoor Inter Faith Awards keynote speech**

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Policy, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard delivered a keynote speech at the Dangoor Inter Faith Awards. The awards showcased the inspiring work of London's faith and belief communities, celebrating their creativity and generosity.

### **Action on Disability event**

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended Action on Disability's event to mark International Day of People with Disabilities. The event brought together community members, local organisations, supporters, and allies, to celebrate the contributions of Deaf and disabled residents and highlight the vital role of independent living for disabled people.

Debbie delivered an address at the event, recognising the contributions of disabled people in London and sharing information on the work we are doing to tackle the inequalities facing disabled people. She shared information on the development of the Disability Action Plan, a London-wide plan that is being co-produced with disabled people, Deaf and disabled people's organisations, and the wider community. The Disability Action plan will launch in Spring 2026.

### **Borough of Sanctuary – Ealing visit**

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Policy, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard Borough, visited Ealing to celebrate the council's role as a Borough of Sanctuary. The visit included a tour of a local drop-in centre that provides services to sanctuary seekers and a roundtable with key partners. Discussions touched on what it means to be a Borough of Sanctuary and community cohesion issues that sanctuary seekers face.

## **Children and Young Londoners**

### **British Nutrition Foundation Annual Conference**

On 25 November, My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, spoke about the role of Universal Free School Meals in improving children's outcomes at the British Nutrition Foundation's Annual Conference. The event was focused on diet-related health in children and young people, and Joanne was delighted to be part of a programme of expert speakers which examined how real-world solutions can help equip them for better dietary health in the future.

### **London Opportunity Mission Board Meeting**

On 3 December, the first meeting of the London Opportunity Mission Board took place, co-chaired by Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, and Councillor Ian Edwards, London Councils' Executive Member for Children and Young People.

The London Opportunity Mission will bring together partners to foster a more coordinated approach to early childhood development and improve school readiness in London. It will play a pivotal part in helping to deliver the Government's Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Mission, with a focus on the needs, strengths and diversity of London's communities.

The focus of this first Board meeting was to understand the Mission's scope and aims and agree governance arrangements and workstreams going forward.

## Health

### **Brixton Blood Donation Centre**

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited the Brixton Blood Donation Centre to highlight the importance of donating over the winter months.

Debbie travelled to the donor centre on an NHS Blood and Transplant branded bus, to show Londoners just how easy it is to donate. She was joined by influencers Sayo and Bus Aunty to demonstrate the need for donors of Black heritage to come forward and donate to treat patients with sickle cell disease.

This year, 16,000 donors of Black heritage are needed to meet the rising demand for better-matched blood and help ensure that patients receive the care they deserve.

Over the next six weeks, there are more than 23,000 unfilled blood donation appointments in London, and I call on Londoners to come forward and do something amazing this winter.

### **GLA Group Public Health Unit annual report 2024-25**

On 7 November, the GLA Group Public Health Unit Annual Report 2024-25 was published. The report includes case studies from across the GLA Group which show how my teams are working to incorporate health and wellbeing into all that we do. The report uses the GLA framework of levers for putting health at the heart of policy to show how we can take strategic and practical actions to improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners.

## Resilience

### **London Resilience and the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) Masterclass**

From 17 to 21 November, London Resilience and the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) delivered a Strategic Masterclass in Counter Terrorism. This senior leadership programme convened multi-agency partners from across London, with counterparts from Government as well as Europe and North America. This unique programme focused on the Protect and Prepare pillars of the UK CONTEST Strategy, by harnessing the experience and expertise of thirty-two internationally regarded speakers, as well as through the facilitation of a tabletop exercise, and three specialist workshops. Participants were able to actively learn and share knowledge, explore best practices in counter terrorism, and build relationships with peers. The course received formal recognition through certification and accreditation, reinforcing London's commitment to maintaining high standards in preparedness and strengthening the resilience of the city.



## **International Learning on Resilience**

On 3 December, the London Resilience Unit hosted Chief Resilience Officers from Cape Town and Sydney to share international learning on resilience strategy and governance. Discussions covered emerging risks, community resilience, and specific challenges such as food resilience and urban health. This exchange of experience supports London's ambition to remain at the forefront of global resilience practice.

## **London Legacy Development Corporation**

### **Inclusive Growth Framework**

On 24 November, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) announced its new Framework for Inclusive Growth. Drawing on the economic progress and social impact achieved through long-term investment, strong place leadership, and a partnership built on shared purpose, the Framework sets out how LLDC will ensure future opportunities and growth are inclusive.

### **Prior + Partners Economic and Social Impact Report**

On 21 November, the Economic and Social Impact Report by urban planning specialists Prior + Partners was published. It showcases how the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has evolved from a landmark regeneration project into a thriving, globally recognised destination and Innovation District, that has helped to shift London's growth axis eastward. Key highlights include:

- £3.5bn GVA generated to date, supporting £1.8bn GVA in the Growth Boroughs per year.
- 38,300 jobs generated within the Legacy Area to date, and a further 17,700 jobs across the Growth boroughs.
- The next phase will deliver an additional 13,300 jobs across the Legacy Area, with nearly half projected to be filled by residents and £5.5bn in GVA to be generated annually in the Legacy Area by 2035.

### **Inaugural Winter Adventure Programme**

This December, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park launches Winter Adventure – a new festive tradition that will bring the Park to life with seasonal events – inviting visitors to explore its spaces in new ways while celebrating the spirit, creativity and vibrant communities of east London.

Running daily from 1 December to 24 December 2025, the Park will reveal a surprise festive moment at one of the 24 locations across the Park – from its Olympic and Paralympic sporting venues and restaurants, to community hubs and East Bank cultural institutions.

### **Hackney Yards Topping Out Ceremony**

On 27 November, the Hackney Yards topping out ceremony took place, where the highest beam of the development was lifted into place. Once complete in 2026, 100% of the 190 homes at Hackney Yards will be affordable, alongside 38 low-cost creative workspaces. Located just steps from Hackney Wick Overground Station, Hackney Yards will offer a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom homes built in line with our Design Quality Policy.

Every home will provide 5% additional area above the minimum space standards, with sustainable, inclusive and accessible features influenced by LLDC's ambitious climate targets and Inclusive Design Policy. Hackney Wick is a thriving neighbourhood that now boasts the upgraded Hackney Wick Overground Station and more than 4,000sqm of improved public realm. In addition to the Hackney Yards properties and creative workspaces, it is also being primed to welcome a new public square, and improved cycling and pedestrian routes.

## **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**

### **Old Oak Masterplan Framework**

On 20 November, OPDC's Old Oak Masterplan Framework was endorsed by the OPDC Board.

This is another significant step forward for the Old Oak project, which will create a new urban district in West London – building on the character of the area, with new private and affordable homes, jobs and workspace, local community facilities and green and open space.

The Masterplan Framework will help ensure the future development of Old Oak is brought forward comprehensively, maximising the regeneration benefits for existing and future communities. With direct input from the local community, stakeholders and key strategic partners – this marks an important milestone in realising OPDC's regeneration ambitions for the area.

### **Rupa Huq - HS2 Community Event**

On 22 November, OPDC's Chief Executive Matthew Carpen, and OPDC Chair Dame Karen Buck, attended a community event held by HS2, Rupa Huq MP and Mark Wild, HS2 CEO at HS2's Old Oak Common site.

The event offered an opportunity for residents, businesses and stakeholders to find out more information on the new station and how it is being constructed, employment and training opportunities, investment in local communities, and what is planned in the area. Residents were able to speak directly with HS2, Rupa Huq and the OPDC team.

### **Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – redesignation**

On 24 November, OPDC started consultation on the redesignation of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum. The Forum has applied to be redesignated for another five years. This is a legal requirement, and the application has been submitted to both OPDC and Brent Council, as the Forum area covers both planning authorities.

### **West London Waste Plan – consultation**

On 20 November, OPDC's Board approved the start of consultation on the West London Waste Plan.

The current West London Waste Plan (WLWP) was adopted in 2015 by the London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, and Richmond upon Thames, as well as OPDC (with reference to the Brent and Ealing parts within the OPDC boundary).

An updated WLWP is now being developed as a joint document, based on a similar arrangement used to prepare and adopt the 2015 WLWP. It is scheduled to be issued for consultation in early December 2025, subject to it being approved for consultation by all the participating local planning authorities.

## **Planning and Regeneration**

### **Planning Reform**

On 27 November, an 8-week consultation opened on the Support for Housebuilding London Plan Guidance document (LPG). This proposes time limited changes to cycle-parking requirements, changes to elements of the housing design guidance, and a time-limited new planning route for the delivery of affordable housing.

At the same time, the Government is consulting separately on proposals for time-limited Community Infrastructure Levy relief and additional planning powers for the Mayor.

### **London Plan**

On 28 November, the London-wide assessment of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs (GTANA) was published online. The GTANA is part of the evidence base for my next London Plan.

### **Local Plans**

On 30 October, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Enfield Traveller Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation. This welcomed the positive approach being taken by London Borough of Enfield to meet identified need and confirmed that, as drafted, the Regulation 19 plan was in general conformity with the London Plan.

On 5 November, GLA officers attended the examination hearings for the Wandsworth Local Plan Partial Review and raised general conformity concerns regarding the proposed approach to affordable housing and its failure to reflect the Threshold Approach set out in the London Plan.

On 11 November, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Inspector's further question in relation to Matter 2 Housing Need and Supply of the Enfield Local Plan examination. The response confirmed that the lowering of the borough's housing target prior to 2029 to below the one set out in the London Plan was not in general conformity with the London Plan.

On 20 November, GLA officers on my behalf agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with London Borough of Camden regarding the Camden Local Plan. Officers worked with Camden to agree several proposed modifications to bring the Plan into general conformity with the London Plan prior to the examination hearings. These included clarifying that the Camden Local Plan includes the London Plan housing targets over the period 2019/20 to 2028/29, and identifying the 10-year requirement for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches to meet assessed need as set out in the London-wide GTANA.

On 24 November, GLA officers on my behalf agreed a SoCG with London Borough of Newham regarding the Newham Local Plan. Officers worked with Newham to agree several proposed modifications related to housing targets and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation to bring these aspects of the Plan into conformity with the Local Plan. However, the SoCG made it clear that the

Local Plan was not in general conformity with the London Plan due to the proposed approach to affordable housing, specifically the proposed 60% threshold for development following the fast-track route which is not justified by robust evidence.

### **High Street Network**

On 3 December, my High Street Network convened for a visit to Deptford High Street to explore how creative industries can drive high street renewal, enterprise and regeneration.

Located at the heart of Lewisham's Creative Enterprise Zone, the event provided an opportunity for borough officers across London to visit the Good Growth Fund supported Cockpit Arts project and learn about affordable workspace provision and how Creative Enterprise Zones help shape policy and investment.

### **High Street Vacancy Data**

Persistent vacancy is one of the clearest signs of distress on a high street. The High Streets Data Service (HSDS) has recently launched the London Vacancy Register to provide boroughs a shared, up-to-date record of persistently vacant high street properties, including photographic records and landowner information. It offers ready-made evidence base that boroughs can verify for use of the High Street Rental Auction (HSRA) policy and is part of my officers' work piloting a new Civic Estate Agency service to tackle high street vacancies where they have particularly negative impact in a place.

### **Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)**

I have asked officers to send letters with comments on the following Stage 1 referrals:

<b>GLA Number</b>	<b>Development Name</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Decision date</b>	<b>Decision</b>
2025/0938	The Totteridge Academy	Barnet	14/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0945	Langdon House	Camden	19/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0957	Land Adjacent to Cockfosters Underground Station	Enfield	14/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0880	GMV 500's	Greenwich	17/11/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0903	STC Ivor Grove Sports Club	Greenwich	01/12/2025	Does not comply with the London Plan
2025/0966	Phases 3, 4, and 5 of Greenwich Millennium Village (GMV)	Greenwich	14/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0921	Atlas Wharf	Hackney	01/12/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0909	Imperial College London	Hammersmith and Fulham	19/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0948	Lots Road South	Hammersmith and Fulham	24/11/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0897	Land at Rainbow Industrial Estate	Hillingdon	24/11/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0868	Albany Riverside	Hounslow	24/11/2025	No Stage 2 required

2025/0869	Brentford Police Station	Hounslow	24/11/2025	No Stage 2 required
2025/0896	Treaty Centre	Hounslow	24/11/2025	Does not comply with the London Plan
2025/0910	Former SCC HQ County Hall	Kingston upon Thames	18/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0919	Motspur Park Gasholder Site	Kingston upon Thames	01/12/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0899	Vauxhall Square	Lambeth	24/11/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0979	Motspur Park Gas Holders	Merton	01/12/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0894	Bankside House	Southwark	01/12/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0914	H1 Elephant Park	Southwark	01/12/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0859	35A Commercial Road	Tower Hamlets	17/11/2025	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0942	1 Canada Square	Tower Hamlets	26/11/2025	No Strategic Issues
2025/0900	Unlimited House	Westminster	10/11/2025	No Strategic Issues

## Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

Letters have been issued for the following statutory Stage 2 referrals:

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2024/0458	Unit 7, Geron Way	Barnet	01/12/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0086	245-249 and 253 Ealing Road	Brent	24/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0665	Argenta House	Brent	24/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0128	1 Undershaft	City of London	24/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0392	63 St Mary Axe	City of London	10/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0597	Friary Park Estate - Phase 3	Ealing	10/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2023/0602	1 Vince Street	Hackney	17/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0343	134 Kenton Road	Harrow	01/12/2025	Call in application
2023/0038	Cranford Community College	Hounslow	24/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0364	301-303 Ilderton Road	Southwark	17/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0832	Canada Water Masterplan	Southwark	01/12/2025	Call in application
2024/0247	101 Whitechapel High Street	Tower Hamlets	17/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0419	Teviot Estate	Tower Hamlets	24/11/2025	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0520	27-29 Thomas More Square	Tower Hamlets	24/11/2025	Complies with the London Plan

## Key engagements

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

- I met with the Prime Minister on 7 November
- I attended the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on 9 November
- I attended the GLA Service of Remembrance on 10 November
- I held my regular planning meeting on 10 November
- I joined UK Mayors for a meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 13 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 13 November
- I attended the Assembly Policing Plenary on 13 November
- I spoke at the British American Project conference on 14 November
- I spoke at the opening of London Life Sciences Week on 17 November
- I held my regular planning meeting on 17 November
- I spoke at the GLA 25 years reception on 17 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 18 November
- I met with the CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies on 18 November
- I met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 18 November
- I met with the Exchequer Secretary on 18 November
- I met with JP Morgan on 19 November
- I attended an event as part of Mitzvah Day on 19 November
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 20 November
- I met with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 20 November
- I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 24 November
- I met with the Minister for Investment on 24 November
- I met with Lord Levy on 24 November
- I marked one hundred million free school meals served to primary school children across our city on 25 November
- I spoke with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 25 November
- I spoke at an event organised by the Damilola Taylor Trust on 27 November
- I attended my second Air Quality and Health Summit on 27 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 27 November
- I held my regular meeting with the NHS and OHID on 27 November
- I held my regular planning meeting on 1 December
- I attended the British Fashion Awards on 1 December
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 2 December
- I chaired a meeting of the VRU Reference Group on 2 December
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 3 December
- I attended an event for the GLA Aspiring High programme on 4 December
- I held my regular meeting with the London Fire Commissioner on 4 December
- I attended the Trafalgar Square tree lighting on 4 December
- I attended the London Fire Brigade Christmas Carol Service on 4 December