

19th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 26 February 2026

This is my nineteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 1 January – 12 February 2026.

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

Executive Summary

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony

On 19 January, I was honoured to mark the annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony, jointly with the London Assembly at City Hall. The theme for this year's ceremony was Bridging Generations, a reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors.

It was an honour to work alongside, partners, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and Holocaust Educational Trust as well as hearing testimonials from Holocaust survivor, Annick Lever BEM, and Bosnian genocide survivor, Safet Vukalić BEM. Rabbi Nick Kett, Radlett United Synagogue, provided the memorial prayer.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust created an exhibition, 80 Candles for 80 years, that we displayed at City Hall, marking the 80 years since the liberation of the Nazi's Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

London's homicide rate per capita is the lowest since records began

On 12 January, we published statistics that showed last year London had the lowest murder rate per capita since records began, the fewest murders of those aged under 25 this century, and one of the lowest number of homicides for almost three decades.

It's clear that our sustained focus on being both tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime is working. This includes investing in intervention and prevention work led by my Violence Reduction Unit - the first in England. At the same time, we're supporting the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) by more than doubling City Hall's investment in policing to help boost police numbers and relentlessly target the worst offenders and criminal gangs.

But I am not complacent and one death will always be one too many. That's why I'll continue to do all I can to invest in the police and provide positive opportunities for young Londoners so that we can build on this significant progress and continue making London safer for everyone.

£1.5 billion boost to help accelerate affordable and social housing across capital

My new City Hall Developer Investment Fund (CHDIF) will deliver a record breaking £1.5 billion in very low-cost interest loans to housing associations, enabling them to accelerate the construction of new, affordable and social housing across the capital.

Secured from central government, City Hall will deliver low-interest loans at 0.1 per cent for the first time – which are well below current market levels – for housing finance. The loans will provide additional support to help build more homes through innovative finance, helping to unlock challenging sites across London and supporting my action to deliver more homes for thousands of Londoners.

I am continuing to work closely with the Government to boost delivery and am committed to building on the progress already made to tackle London's housing crisis, with more new council homes started in London than at any time since the 1970s and, prior to the pandemic, more new homes of all tenures completed in London than at any point since the 1930s.

On average, I am delivering over 10,000 more new homes in the capital each year than the previous Mayor and since 2018, more than 25,000 council homes have been built – or are being built – with the help of City Hall funding. Last year, the number of council homes completed by London boroughs through GLA-funded programmes was at its highest level since 2016-17.

The CHDIF was allocated an initial £322 million last October as part of my ongoing partnership working with Government to ramp up housebuilding in London and unblock stalled sites.

I have confirmed an additional £1.5bn will be made available through the CHDIF over the next year – which is 60 per cent of the £2.5bn national allocation. It brings the fund's total investment to £1.82bn.

This fresh investment to boost the delivery of much-needed new homes is on top of up to £11.7bn funding through my Social and Affordable Homes Programme over the next decade, which will also be supported by these low-cost loans. It is the biggest and longest investment the capital has ever received, and I continue to urge housing providers to bid for funding to help deliver social and affordable housing in every London borough.

TfL sets out ambitious programme for the future of London's transport network as it publishes draft Business Plan

At the end of January, TfL set out its new draft Business Plan, its ambitious programme for the future of London's transport network – building on huge progress made over the last decade, from launching the Night Tube and the Superloop to delivering the Elizabeth line, more than quadrupling Cycleways and building the largest zero emission bus fleet in Western Europe.

The new document, which covers TfL's plans and investment priorities to 2029/30, sets out how TfL will deliver transformational change to its services and improve the experience of its customers, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians in London. It also outlines how through continued investment it can make the city greener, create new high-quality jobs, deliver more affordable housing and boost economic growth across London.

This includes supporting plans to transform Oxford Street and the delivery of new affordable housing and jobs with the recently confirmed proposals for the DLR extension to Thamesmead via Beckton Riverside. It also continues to make the case for other growth schemes across London, such as the Bakerloo line Extension, making Great Northern services from Moorgate to Stevenage and Hertford North part of London Overground, and developing the West London Orbital.

TfL will also be reimagining London's bus network, expanding the successful Superloop network to further improve connectivity across outer London, and introducing new bus priority measures and world-leading traffic signal technology to cut delays and improve reliability. Bus services will be expanded in outer London, with changes made to some central and inner London services to align with changing levels of demand in those areas, and TfL will also invest in the next generation of bus shelters and improved real-time information for customers.

The plan sets out sustained investment in London's vital transport infrastructure, which will improve the customer experience for millions of Londoners and visitors. This includes the completion of new signalling to ensure better journeys on the District and Metropolitan lines, progressing plans for a new Bakerloo line fleet, new train fleets on the Piccadilly line and DLR, additional trains on the Elizabeth line, the complete refurbishment of the Central line fleet and the replacement of TfL's ageing tram fleet. The new plan also contains the recently announced bold new programme of work to cut congestion and transform how the capital's streets operate over the next five years.

I'm hugely proud of what we have achieved improving transport across London over the last 10 years – but we must never be complacent, so this plan sets out sustained investment to continue making it safer, greener and fairer for everyone.

Family Financial Resilience Partnership

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes Bernard, launched my new family advice programme, the Family Financial Resilience Partnership, with a visit to Best Start in Life Family Hub in Deptford, Lewisham.

The Family Financial Resilience Partnership is an investment of over £2 million this year working in partnership with twelve London boroughs and two sector-leading advice organisations, to provide free high-quality general and specialist independent advice to low-income families with children. The programme's principal aim is to support families to have incomes that meet their everyday needs with ambitions of achieving £8 million in financial gains for families. The visit was a showcase of how advice in Family Hub settings can best serve families by offering an integrated service and Debbie heard from local families about their experiences accessing services for their family. Debbie was joined at the launch by The Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP, Minister for Employment, who is responsible for the recently published UK Child Poverty Strategy.

Acme Studios Creative Enterprise Zone Announcement

On 15 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, announced £2.2 million funding for London's Creative Enterprise Zones.

The announcement took place at the Propeller Factory (part of Acme Artists' Studios), which is based in the New Cross and Deptford zone in Lewisham. Acme Artists' Studios was awarded £250,000 to support the purpose and development of the Propeller Factory as London's largest affordable artist studios and a permanent home for hundreds of artists.

This latest investment will see Croydon, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham, Lambeth, Hounslow, Ealing, Waltham Forest, Haringey, and Hammersmith and Fulham, each receive a share of £630,000 to support artists and creatives in their Creative Enterprise Zones. This will enable them to unlock

more affordable creative workspaces, champion planning policies that support cultural initiatives, provide advice and business support, and create jobs as part of my work to reverse the decline in studio spaces in London.

I am also extending a grant fund for boroughs to support significant, long-term investment across all 12 Creative Enterprise Zones. Up to £1.35 million will be available later this year for building improvements, securing long-term leases and freeholds, and investing in major equipment and energy-efficiency upgrades for studios.

Key Worker Living Rent

I am pleased to have confirmed plans for Key Worker Living Rent (KWLR) homes, following a recent consultation on my manifesto commitment to deliver 6,000 Rent Control Homes, with rents linked to key workers' incomes.

KWLR will provide intermediate homes, for long-term rent, at rents based on 40 per cent of key workers' average household income.

I look forward to working with a range of partners to develop these homes. I've made funding available to support development of KWLR homes through my London Social and Affordable Homes Programme and I'm encouraging planning authorities to secure them as a form of affordable housing.

Wingspan Walk visit

On 30 January, I was joined by renowned architect, TV presenter and housing campaigner, George Clarke, and Haringey Council leader, Cllr Peray Ahmet, on a visit to one of the capital's largest social housing developments, Wingspan Walk, which received £43.5m in City Hall funding.

The visit with Haringey Council marked the major milestone of completing 1,000 new, high-quality and green council homes in the borough – one of the biggest council house building programmes in the capital in a generation.

Wingspan Walk consists of 272 new energy-efficient homes available at social rent, helping to keep running costs low and support families most in need. It is situated close to Tottenham Hale train station on previously disused land. Residents also have access to nearby Down Lane Park, two communal courtyards and cycle storage to encourage sustainable travel.

I will always prioritise getting as many affordable homes built as possible and am working closely with Ministers to secure even more support to meet my ambition to build 40,000 new council homes by the end of this decade.

Oxford Street Development Corporation has been established

On 1 January 2026, the Oxford Street Development Corporation (OSDC) was formally established by secondary legislation.

The OSDC will drive economic growth for London by providing the strategic focus, leadership and long-term planning to make Oxford Street a global destination for shopping, leisure and events.

I am pleased to say that Nabeel Khan has now been appointed as CEO.

Nabeel brings considerable experience in urban planning, economic development and major regeneration across London, most recently at the London Borough of Lambeth, leading the Growth & Environment department's work to ensure people and places can thrive in a sustainable and inclusive local economy.

Oxford Street highways and traffic consultation closed

On 16 January, the TfL consultation on traffic and highway changes to enable pedestrianisation of the first phase of Oxford Street closed.

This consultation focused on the proposed transport and highway changes to enable the pedestrianisation of the section of Oxford Street between Orchard Street and Great Portland Street – we call this section 'Oxford Street West'.

The outcome of the consultation will be published in due course.

NBA London Game

I was delighted to welcome the NBA London Game 2026 back to our city for the first time since 2019. On 18 January, Londoners filled The O2 Arena as the Memphis Grizzlies and Orlando Magic delivered an outstanding display of elite basketball—marking the league's 10th regular-season game in London.

The return of the NBA showcased London's continued strength as a global sports destination, giving fans the chance to witness stars such as Ja Morant, Jaren Jackson Jr., and Paolo Banchero compete at the highest level.

Beyond the excitement on the court, I am proud to be supporting a long-term basketball legacy for our city. In the lead-up to the game, I announced major new investments to expand access to high-quality basketball spaces and opportunities for Londoners. Central to this is the creation of a new Facilities Development Fund, providing an initial £500,000 to refurbish and upgrade community basketball courts across London—including weather-proofing priority sites and improving year-round use. City Hall is also working with partners to grow this investment to £1 million.

In addition, I was pleased to launch the new NBA Court Time programme, funded by City Hall, offering £1-to-play indoor basketball sessions from February to April across six GLL leisure centres. This initiative ensures affordable access to indoor courts during the winter months, supporting juniors, youth and adults, with dedicated women-only sessions. The programme will be delivered in partnership with the London Coaches Programme.

These commitments build on our shared ambition with the NBA to grow basketball at every level. Alongside the game, London supported Community Jr. NBA activity and Her Time to Play sessions—helping to engage thousands of young Londoners and inspire the next generation of players and leaders.

The NBA's return has once again shown that London is a natural home for world-class basketball. I remain firmly committed to expanding access to high-quality courts, supporting young coaches, and bringing more global basketball events to our capital so that every Londoner has the chance to enjoy and participate in this fast-growing sport.

Strategic Licensing public consultation launch

On 12 February, I launched a six-week public consultation on the Government's proposals for a new strategic role for the Mayor of London in the licensing system, alongside a new city-wide strategic licensing policy.

The proposed pilot would test whether a more coordinated, city-wide approach to licensing can improve consistency and transparency, with the goal of opening up opportunities for London's hospitality, culture and nightlife industries. The new approach would add a strategic overview and voice for London, guiding and bringing more consistency to the 33 local licensing policies and services run by local authorities across London.

This consultation forms a key part of that process. It provides an opportunity to gather views from Londoners, local authorities, licensing responsible authorities, businesses, or any other key stakeholders involved in licensing across London on the draft London Strategic Licensing Pilot. The consultation is open for responses until 27 March.

Policing, Crime and Security

New funding proposals to further crack down on crime

On 15 January, I announced as part of my draft budget proposals that I would again be taking the difficult decision to increase council tax to provide crucial funding for the MPS.

Last year we made vital progress in making London safer. As well as the homicide rate falling to the lowest since records began, theft from the person fell by 15%, personal robbery by 14%, and knife crime fell by 17%.

I am determined to keep up the pressure on reducing crime, and this additional funding will help to implement a major crack down on mobile phone theft – with more resources to smash the phone theft gangs – as well as to ensure we can build on the significant progress we're making to reduce knife crime, gun crime, homicides and burglary in the capital.

Transport

TfL unveils ambitious five-year plan to cut congestion and transform London's road network for the future

TfL has announced a bold new plan to revolutionise how the capital's streets operate over the next five years. The first-ever pan-city roadworks plan will focus on using innovation to deliver safer, healthier, and more efficient journeys for millions of Londoners. There will be a particular focus on improving the capital's bus network - one of the most accessible and affordable ways of travelling

in London. TfL's 2030 vision is for a better, safer street network that prioritises sustainable transport and reduces congestion, creating a greener and more reliable capital.

TfL works closely with London's boroughs to manage one of the world's busiest and most complex road networks, including a network of 6,400 automated traffic signal junctions and pedestrian crossings, one of Europe's largest. London's road network plays a vital role in enabling billions of journeys per year and new infrastructure and technology are central to TfL's work to manage this network as safely and efficiently as possible.

Building on London's reputation for having one of the most technologically advanced road networks in the world, the plan will see TfL complete the rollout of cutting-edge systems and infrastructure upgrades to optimise traffic flow, improve safety, and support sustainable travel.

This year, TfL will also be expanding its pioneering lane rental scheme from red routes to borough roads. The scheme charges utility companies and others a fee to dig up the busiest roads at the busiest times, reducing congestion and providing funds for innovative new ways to reduce delays on the roads. This has been proven to reduce congestion, improve journeys and enhance air quality.

The Government is also in the process of devolving authority to me to approve lane rental schemes, which will allow for more schemes to come forward with consistency across London.

I'm committed to making London's transport network as safe, efficient, and sustainable as possible. Congestion is annoying for everyone, and it costs our economy millions of pounds a year. This innovative new strategy will tackle the causes of congestion head on – a bold new approach to managing the capital's streets will ensure they work for everyone.

The next Superloop express bus service launches, with free travel in the first week

The next Superloop express bus service, SL11, went into service for the first time on Saturday 24 January, reducing journey times and strengthening transport links in south east London.

The SL11 route is running as a limited-stop express service between Abbey Wood and North Greenwich via Thamesmead and Woolwich, providing Londoners with a sustainable transport option. It will also support regeneration plans in the Thamesmead area and the DLR extension, which was recently given the green light in the Budget.

It comes after TfL's latest consultation on proposals to extend the DLR from Gallions Reach to Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead demonstrated strong public backing. The introduction of route SL11 is a key milestone in supporting thousands of new homes and jobs, unlocking growth and improving sustainable travel options in the area.

To celebrate the launch, pay as you go customers enjoyed free travel on SL11 for the first week. The SL11 route builds on the success of the game-changing Superloop network, which has carried around 60 million passengers overall since its introduction. With the inclusion of SL11, the Superloop bus network increases to 218 kilometres of routes, transforming travel in and around outer London and adding 8.1 million of bus kilometres per year to the capital's network.

The buses will have dedicated priority seat moquettes and most buses will have USB chargers at seats.

In my manifesto I pledged to bring in Superloop-style express buses while major projects like the DLR to Thamesmead are underway, and I'm proud to have delivered on this.

Replacing the 472 with this faster, more direct service will help to support early regeneration plans in Thamesmead and boost transport links in a historically under-served part of London.

TfL awards new seven-year contract to Indra Group to operate London's world-renowned Oyster and Contactless system

On 21 January, TfL confirmed that Indra Group has been awarded a seven-year contract to operate TfL's revenue collection systems, including the contactless and Oyster ticketing system.

The contract, which was competitively tendered, will see Indra handle the operation, maintenance, development, enhancement and expansion of TfL's revenue collection system. This system is used by millions of customers across London and the south east every day, allowing them to travel seamlessly across the city to work, school, leisure or visit friends and family.

Indra has undertaken more than 2,500 mobility projects worldwide. More than 100 cities around the world have relied on Indra's solutions to make their mobility more efficient, connected, safe and sustainable. In London, more than 90 per cent of Tube and bus journeys are now made using a contactless or Oyster card. This contract will ensure this system remains accessible to all, including those from overseas with contactless cards or mobile devices, while also supporting customers by allowing them to see their journey history and apply for refunds where necessary as simply as possible.

Through the life of the contract, Indra will work with TfL and other key stakeholders, including the GLA, DfT and bus and rail operators, to support improvements to the system and further expansions of the contactless ticketing system. TfL is currently working with the DfT to expand pay as you go with contactless to further stations across the south east. Last year, 30 stations gained pay as you go with contactless for the first time, and a further 20 stations due to go live in 2026, with the potential for more stations to benefit from the simple and convenient ticketing technology in future years.

As part of the new contract, Indra will also work with TfL to further improve the Oyster card system, which is more than 20 years old, to bring it further in-line with the contactless ticketing system. By introducing an account-based ticketing system onto the Oyster card, customers will have even greater flexibility, ensuring the most beneficial fare is applied for the journeys made. In addition, this could potentially mean customers being able to load an Oyster card onto a mobile phone, as well as potentially further innovative enhancements, in the future.

TfL awards new cleaning contract to Mitie

On 8 January, TfL announced the award of a five-year contract for the provision of cleaning and associated services to Mitie.

The contract covers the cleaning of trains, Tube and bus stations, as well as TfL head office locations, the London Transport Museum and waste collection at City Hall.

Under this new contract, Mitie will deliver intelligence-led, data-driven cleaning services, waste management and pest control across the TfL network, with a team of more than 2,000 colleagues. Mitie will establish a dedicated TfL Cleaning Centre of Excellence in London, using real-time data monitoring and trialling new technologies to enhance efficiency and productivity. Additionally, a 24/7 specialist team will address ongoing challenges TfL faces with graffiti across its fleet.

Central to this contract is a strong focus on colleague welfare, including fair pay, pay progression, and secure working hours. Reflecting a commitment to fair work and employment stability, TfL and Mitie will ensure that all colleagues receive at least the London Living Wage, enhanced sick pay, and comprehensive safety and training measures, as well as the Living Hours standard minimum working hours contracts.

Now the contract has been awarded, TfL will be working with Mitie and Trade Union partners on a comprehensive pilot in order to understand the necessary steps to deliver these services in-house in an efficient, affordable and productive manner. I'm delighted that TfL has committed to this, as I have long championed insourcing where possible.

Section of the A40 Westway to be closed from March to late April to enable vital maintenance work

TfL has announced it will be carrying out essential safety-critical renewal work to the A40 Westway between the A40 Westway Roundabout and the Marylebone flyover from 20 March to late April. This work will require the closure of the A40 Westway and diversions will be in place to allow the work to be carried out.

The A40 Westway is one of the busiest strategic routes on TfL's road network, used by up to 96,000 vehicles a day. To keep the A40 Westway and surrounding road network running safely and reliably, the works and associated road closures have been planned to minimise disruption as much as possible. The works have been planned so that part of the closure falls in the Easter period, when traffic flows are slightly lower, and have also been scheduled to avoid other major roadworks as far as possible.

Parts of the structure have reached the end of their service life, and TfL and partners have been carrying out renewal works for a number of years to ensure that people using the A40 have safe and reliable journeys for decades to come. This next phase of work involves replacing two joints on the Marylebone Flyover A40 Westway, which will allow the flyover to safely expand and contract with temperature changes and vehicle movements. This is complex and specialist work which requires a full carriageway closure. The nature of the work and the structure means the carriageway can't be reopened until the work is completed. TfL reviewed a range of options and concluded that closing the Westway is the best way to ensure the essential work is completed as quickly and safely as possible.

Though every effort will be made to reduce disruption, TfL recognises the closure will have a significant impact on road users. A comprehensive traffic signal strategy will be put in place to keep traffic moving as smoothly as possible during the closure, which will be continually reviewed as part of the ongoing management of the road network.

TfL trials new bus shelter designs at 27 locations across London

TfL has begun trialling new bus shelters design aimed at improving accessibility, safety and customer experience, with the new designs introduced at 27 locations across London over the coming weeks. TfL is committed to making bus travel more attractive as part of its Bus Action Plan, and the new design features will be installed at existing shelter locations by upgrading or replacing a variety of individual features.

A number of TfL's existing shelters vary in age and condition, creating an inconsistent customer experience. This trial introduces a modern, environmentally responsible and sustainable design identity that aligns with TfL's iconic bus network. The trial will take place within the boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Camden, Croydon, Hackney, Havering, Hillingdon, RB Kingston-upon-Thames, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth and City of Westminster.

The trial began at the end of January, running for 12 months. The locations were selected based on the condition of the existing shelters and the number of customers using each bus stop, as well as high crime locations. Across the sites, two different designs and four different configurations of features are being used to test the new approach, ensuring a broad range of criteria can be assessed throughout the trial.

At the trial locations, customers will benefit from enhanced features including:

- Better lighting: Creating a brighter waiting environment to help customers feel safer and provide better visibility of the bus shelter and stop for bus drivers
- Improved seating: An updated seating design which will enhance comfort and ease of access, especially for customers with mobility impairments
- More robust materials: Making shelters less prone to the impact of vandalism, making them easier to maintain
- An improved roof design: A reflective red vinyl will be used strengthening the iconic red bus brand identity. The brighter bus shelter will also stand out more during the hours of darkness, making it more recognisable from further away
- Priority spaces: A priority seating moquette and creating dedicated waiting space with signs for priority customers
- CCTV: Installing CCTV at 10 locations to enhance public safety and evaluate how the cameras support police investigations and influence crime levels in those areas

In developing the new design features, TfL has engaged with a number of campaign groups and charities who have provided valuable feedback, including disability focus groups, the RNIB, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and London TravelWatch. Incorporating their perspectives was essential to ensuring that the design meets the needs of all customers and reflects the highest standards of accessibility and safety. Throughout the trial TfL will carefully consider any feedback and will incorporate this into the future design of London's bus shelters.

In the coming weeks, alongside the trial of new shelter designs, additional bus shelters will be introduced at locations that previously had no provision. Approximately 20 new Landmark London shelters are being installed at some of the network's highest demand stops, many of which have not had a shelter before. In addition, 11 refurbished shelters are being redeployed across the network to further improve waiting conditions for customers at unsheltered stops.

TfL welcomes nominations to name ten Santander Cycles after inspirational women cyclists for International Women's Day

TfL and Santander Cycles are calling on customers to nominate their cycling idol, as TfL is set to name ten cycle hire bikes after professional women cycling stars and 'unsung heroes' to mark this year's International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March.

Customers can email SantanderCyclesvote@tfl.gov.uk or send a postal entry to be in with a chance of having the name of their favourite cycling hero feature on a Santander bike before midnight on 8 February. Entries must include the name of their chosen cycling idol - whether that be a professional women cycling star, or an 'unsung hero' closer to home - and a brief explanation as to why they have inspired them to take up cycling.

A panel of judges, featuring cycling enthusiasts from both TfL and Santander, will select the most frequently nominated professional women cycling stars alongside 'unsung heroes' to be showcased on Santander Cycles this March for International Women's Day.

I want cycling to be an option for everyone in London, but women and girls unfortunately still face barriers that can prevent them from riding. This fun new initiative from TfL and Santander Cycles is a fantastic way to inspire women cyclists to embrace active travel as we continue building a greener, fairer, better London for everyone.

More stations and tunnelled sections across London's Tube network now connected to high-speed mobile coverage

More stations and tunnelled sections of the Tube network across London now have high-speed mobile coverage, including the first sections of the Circle and District line.

Alongside the whole of the Elizabeth line, which was completed in December 2024, 62 out of 121 Tube stations that are located 'underground' are now receiving mobile coverage in their ticket halls, corridors and platforms. Key stations, including Euston Square, Cannon Street and Battersea Power Station, have recently gone live with 4G and 5G mobile coverage, with more, including King's Cross St Pancras, Gloucester Road, Warwick Avenue and Vauxhall, set to go live in the next few months.

Work to extend coverage in the tunnels along Tube lines also continues to make good progress, with the first sections of the Circle and District line between Blackfriars and Cannon Street, and between Notting Hill Gate and Bayswater, now live. TfL and Boldyn are working to introduce more sections as quickly as possible during 2026, and now expect the vast majority of the Northern and Metropolitan lines to have coverage in the tunnels by the end of summer 2026.

It's great to see further progress in our goal to introduce high-speed mobile coverage across the Tube network. The latest stations and tunnels going live means that we are on a clear path towards having 4G and 5G mobile coverage across the whole network by the end of 2026.

TfL launches a celebration of poetry to mark 40 years of 'Poems on the Underground'

On 6 January, TfL announced a series of special events and publications to celebrate the 40th anniversary of 'Poems on the Underground', which has brought world-class poetry to millions of

London Underground customers since 1986, transforming daily journeys into moments of reflection and connection for four decades.

TfL hosted a special commemorative event on Friday 30 January at Bank Tube station to officially mark the milestone. London poets whose work has featured in the scheme over the years attended the event where they heard poetry readings from staff poets and other poetry lovers.

A special revised edition of '100 Poems on the Underground' is now also available for purchase at several retailers, including the London Transport Museum shop and online. The new edition adds poems by Sappho and Jean Binta Breeze to the poems displayed during the first five years of Poems on the Underground.

A new set of winter 'Poems on the Underground' launched on 9 February, including "Syzygy" by Rachel Boast, "A Short Piece of Choral Music" by Jonathan Davidson, and "Narcissus" by Blake Morrison. It also features a haiku by Kobayahsi Issa with original calligraphy by Yukki Yaura, and verses by the Romanian poet Mircea Dinescu and the American Jane Hirshfield.

In addition to the new collection, TfL is featuring some of the first 100 poems at five selected stations, continuing the expansion of the project beyond train carriages. Poems will be featured at Aldgate East, Heathrow, Seven Sisters, St. John's Wood, and Westminster.

For the past 40 years, 'Poems on the Underground' have given us moments of reflection, joy, solace and so much more as we make our way through the hustle and bustle of the Tube. Much loved by Londoners as part of the familiar furniture of our city, they are incredibly popular with visitors too.

TfL announces 2026 Art on the Underground programme and tenth annual Brixton mural commission

TfL has announced five new works in its rich and varied Art on the Underground programme for 2026. The new commissions will give space to underrepresented voices, and the renowned painter Hurvin Anderson will deliver the tenth annual commission in the Brixton Mural Programme in November.

Since its conception in 2000, Art on the Underground has commissioned site-specific works on the TfL network that examine themes of community, space and place, and bring unexpected interactions and new perspectives to the millions who travel on London's transport network each year. Five new commissions by contemporary artists will launch over the course of the year, inspired by subterranean histories, lost voices and hidden work, exploring historic imbalances and under-representation and reframing public space.

London-based artist, Phoebe Boswell, will launch a large-scale photographic artwork at Bethnal Green and Notting Hill Underground stations in March, inspired by local Black swimming communities, while American artist, Ellen Gallagher, will explore colonial landscapes and marine mythology in her design for the 42nd pocket Tube map.

The third audio artwork commission at Waterloo Underground station will run for 10 days in the summer with my Culture and Community Spaces at Risk programme, by London-based composer, artist and DJ, Ain Bailey. In September, a largescale artwork by Scottish painter Caroline

Walker, spotlighting women who work on the TfL network at night, will be introduced at Stratford station.

For two and a half decades, Art on the Underground has shown how public art can bring joy, spark conversation and connect our communities. This year we have five new commissions to look forward to, which are sure to enrich our journeys and amplify untold stories that celebrate the diversity and resilience of our capital.

Places for London opens applications for businesses looking to grow at Lockton Street Arches

On 14 January, Places for London, TfL's wholly owned property company, revealed that applications for its new Places for Growth at Lockton Street Arches are now open and ready for ambitious businesses looking to grow.

The run of 11 arches, located near Latimer Road Tube station in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, is currently being refurbished and is the first site in Places for London's Places for Growth programme which will help new, emerging and growing businesses with a specially designed rent model, that is initially discounted and steps up to market rent over four years.

Businesses taking part in the initiative will receive personalised business support and advice from Portobello Business Centre and Grow London Local, and access to dedicated in-house support provided by Places for London, as well as becoming part of a thriving, London-wide tenant community.

Places for London wants to provide a pipeline of new, growing businesses across London, and the Places for Growth initiative will see them supporting a wide range of entrepreneurs to join and support the city. Supporting innovative, ambitious businesses is part of how London grows and how to support our many diverse neighbourhoods and communities.

Transport for London's apprenticeships open up a range of careers

Transport for London TfL celebrated National Apprenticeship week by highlighting the wide range of apprenticeship roles that are available across the organisation.

The opportunities, including some opened earlier this year, span from Level 2 to Level 6 (a Level 2 apprenticeship being the equivalent of five GCSEs, and Level 6 equivalent to achieving a degree), will allow people of all ages and from all walks of life to learn on the job while earning. The 157 roles are in a variety of locations across the organisation, including asset and track maintenance, London Underground escalators, trams engineering, and London Underground construction site supervision.

TfL proudly welcomed Work and Pensions Secretary, Pat McFadden, to the Railway Engineering Works in Acton. There, joined by Andy Lord London's Transport Commissioner and Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport he saw first-hand how apprentices learn to repair trains and railways and spent time talking to them about their apprenticeships and future careers.

National Apprenticeships Week is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore apprenticeships in a wide range of sectors, including transport. Apprenticeships are deeply valuable both for employers and Londoners, helping to meet current skills gaps and drive economic

growth, as well as providing great opportunities to continue to learn whilst also earning. TfL offers a wide range of roles supporting its vital work across London – from the Underground or London Transport Museum to road systems and its property company Places for London. I urge Londoners to get involved and see where an apprenticeship could take you, whatever career stage you're at.

First new customer toilets on the Tube network open at Morden station

TfL has unveiled two new customer toilets at Morden Underground station as part of my wider plans to invest £15m in toilets for customers on the TfL network. The station is the first on the London Underground network to benefit from new toilets in this new phase of work.

The absence of toilets can be a barrier for people travelling by public transport. In 2024, I committed to spending £3 million each year for five years to introduce toilets at select stations, increase the number of accessible toilets, enhance existing facilities, and improve overall availability so that customers are always within 20 minutes of a toilet without having to change trains.

A gender-neutral toilet and an accessible toilet, both with baby changing facilities, are now available at Morden where the former ticket office was situated. Morden is the first London Underground station to benefit from new toilets following my commitment, as well as the first station on the southernmost section of the Northern line's Morden branch to offer facilities. It has been prioritised due to it being a terminus.

Accessible toilet facilities opened last year at Clapton, Seven Sisters and White Hart Lane London Overground stations as part of the programme. New accessible toilets will be installed next at New Cross Gate and then Acton Central London Overground stations. Work is currently underway at Amersham Underground station, where major refurbishment works will convert existing customer toilets into fully accessible facilities. Further new accessible toilets will be installed at Colindale, Leyton, Northolt and West Ham Underground stations, as well as at Surrey Quays London Overground station as part of wider station enhancement works.

Future of Cars in London Roundtable

On 5 February, my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, and Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, hosted a roundtable to discuss the recent announcement that Zipcar will be departing London and the UK's car club market. This roundtable was attended by a number of council leaders, operators and key stakeholders, and focussed on the immediate next steps which we collaboratively need to take to address the challenges of Zipcar leaving London, and the longer-term actions which can address some of the key issues facing London's car club sector.

Environment

Visited Grosvenor's South Molton Street Refit Site

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Grosvenor's flagship South Molton Street retrofit project in the West End, where he met with members of their property and sustainability teams. The project supports London's net zero ambitions by showing how historic Georgian buildings can be upgraded to modern standards in a way that improves energy efficiency while protecting heritage. Mete saw a range of retrofit measures, including fabric

upgrades, secondary glazing, lime plastering, and preparations for air-source heat pumps and solar panels, which will collectively improve the buildings' energy rating from EPC band F to C.

Roundtable with Secretary of State for Energy, Ed Miliband

On 19 January, Mete Coban, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended a ministerial roundtable hosted by the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The meeting brought together Ministers, Mayoral and Combined Authority representatives to discuss the forthcoming Warm Homes Plan.

Kew Gardens' Roadmap to 2030 event

On 20 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended Kew Garden's Roadmap to 2030 event. This is an annual event in the lead up to 2030 climate goals to assess progress, plan or future COPs, and create opportunities for collaboration between key stakeholders. Mete spoke on a panel called 'Leaving No One Behind', which was chaired by Richard Deverell, Director of Kew, alongside Fernando Bastos (Head of Climate and Nature at the Embassy of Brazil), Clover Hogan (Founder of Force for Nature and youth activist), Monomita Nag-Chowdry (Climate Programmes Lead at the British Council), and Mike Berners-Lee (Director at Small World Consulting). He also led breakout rooms covering a wide range of topics, including working with the private sector, embedding science in policy decisions, bringing the public with us, and collaboration opportunities. This event will take place again in 2027.

Mayor's Roundtable for Swimmable Cities

On 21 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, co-hosted and took part in the Swimmable Cities Mayors' Roundtable, alongside Catherine McKenna and the Mayor of Paris, as part of an online, closed-door session convened by Swimmable Cities. This supports my Clean and Healthy Waterways agenda by positioning London as a global city leader on cleaner, healthier urban waterways, sharing learning internationally while keeping a clear focus on equity and inclusive access. During the session, Mete delivered a case study on London's journey and contributed to a facilitated discussion on ambition, delivery challenges and collaboration under a Chatham House-style format.

Bird in Bush Primary School

On 22 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Bird in Bush Primary School in Southwark, with Southwark Council Cabinet Members Cllr John Batteson and Cllr Jasmine Ali. The school had received capital funding from the Greener Schools Pilot for new energy-saving double-glazed windows which were installed in December. Mete met with headteacher James Robinson, spoke at the school's morning assembly and met with students from the school's Climate Action Group.

Silk Stream Catchment Project

On 23 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited The Silk Stream Catchment project in Harrow. This six-year flood resilience project that launched in 2021

has naturalised the stream, creating new flood storage, wetland habitats and improved community access. Hosted by Michael Bradshaw of London Borough of Harrow and guided by Thames 21 representatives and members of the Chandos Park Community Group, Mete conducted river-fly monitoring in the river – citizen-led science which provides early indication of river pollution. This project, funded through my Green and Resilient Spaces Fund with partners including Defra, is a great example of my ambition for waterways and empowering communities to make their neighbourhoods more nature-rich, healthier and climate resilient. My Green Roots Fund will support more projects like this: www.london.gov.uk/GreenRoots

Unlocking Sustainable Urban Regeneration in the UK

On 27 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at the Unlocking Sustainable Urban Regeneration in the UK event. The event was organised by C40 Cities and hosted by Arup to mark the launch of a research report which provides recommendations to unlock barriers to deliver long-term regeneration for cities across Europe. The report has been produced by C40 in collaboration with Arup and Urban Partners.

South East London Chambers of Commerce Event

On 29 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at the South East London Chambers of Commerce event. The event brought together businesses from across the five London boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham, Bromley, Bexley and Croydon, to hear from my Mete about the benefits of becoming more sustainable, and how we are supporting businesses to transition to net zero.

London Trams Decarbonised Therapia Lane Depot

On 3 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, and my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, attended TfL's Therapia Lane tram depot to mark the completion of major decarbonisation works. The works undertaken at Therapia Lane will reduce carbon emissions by around 183 tonnes of CO₂ a year and form the first in a series of depot-decarbonisation schemes planned across the TfL estate. During the visit, the Deputy Mayors met with the project team and reviewed the benefits of the scheme, which was part-funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and supports my ambition for London to reach net zero by 2030. The visit also showcased how the project contributed to green skills and supply-chain jobs, as well as demonstrating the feasibility of removing fossil fuels from large operational sites.

London Anchor Institutions' Network and NHS Conference: Celebrating five years of anchor partnerships and impact

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the London Anchor Institutions' Network (LAIN) and NHS Conference, titled 'Celebrating five years of anchor partnerships and impact'. Mete delivered a keynote address in which he highlighted the importance and urgency for implementation of climate adaptation measures. The conference was attended by senior leaders and delivery teams from anchor institutions. LAIN members are committed to using their procurement, workforce and estate-management capacity to help create a fairer, greener and more prosperous London. LAIN is the biggest cross-sector network of its kind, with members representing a cross-section of major public sector, higher education, culture, faith-based and private organisations.

Cities as Critical Infrastructure

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, gave a keynote speech at the 'Building resilient societies across the UK' event. He spoke alongside Lord Toby Harris, the Chair of the National Preparedness Commission, Cassie Sutherland, Managing Director, Climate Solutions & Networks at C40 Cities, and Juergen Maier, Chair of Great British Energy. The event was convened by Ramboll and the Resilient Cities Network to bring together leaders shaping the UK's approach to resilience across government, cities, utilities and industry. Mete spoke about London's leadership in resilience, and about integrating climate, energy and infrastructure planning in resilience.

Creekside Education Trust

On 5 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, visited Creekside Discovery Centre to see the work of the Creekside Education Trust in engaging young people in environmental education and nature conservation activities. This supports delivery of the Clean and Healthy Waterways Plan by strengthening partnerships that can improve access, inclusion and engagement with waterways. Joined by a local group of school children, Mete spent time exploring the river, wading into Deptford Creek, learning about the history and ecology of the site as well as what the Trust are doing to protect and celebrate the area.

Wild Tolworth Celebration

On 10 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the celebration of the Wild Tolworth project, including releasing cattle onto the land. The cattle will support the rewilding of this site, using no-fence technology to focus the grazing where needed. Supported by my Rewild London Fund, the project is part of the wider transformation of this site, supporting biodiversity and restoring natural processes.

UoW Sustainability Week

On 12 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, delivered a keynote address at the Regent Street Cinema as part of the University of Westminster's Sustainability Week. Mete spoke to the importance of the green transition and highlighted the benefits of transitioning to more sustainable practices, both in terms of new green skills and innovation, which would benefit the university students in the room.

Fire

New Cross Fire Memorial Service

On 18 January, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, delivered a tribute at the 45th anniversary service to commemorate the lives of 14 young black people who died as a result of the New Cross Fire.

Meeting with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services [HMICFRS] Inspector for London

On 21 January, my Deputy Mayor for the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, met with HMICFRS's Inspector for London, Lee Freeman, to discuss the upcoming inspection of the London Fire Brigade.

Growth and Skills

Mayoral Innovation Exchange

On 27 January, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, attended the Mayoral Innovation Exchange 2026, alongside senior politicians from across mayoral strategic and combined authorities, as well as The Rt. Hon Alan Milburn, Peter Hyman, Lindsey Macmillan and Sir Charlie Mayfield. Hosted by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the aim of the MIE is to foster collaboration, enable innovation and share best practice between mayoral strategic authorities. Among the discussions, focussed on skills and growth, my Deputy Mayor discussed the government's Youth Guarantee and took the opportunity to share the work that we are doing in London to reduce the number of NEETs and build more inclusive and healthier workforces.

Adult Skills summit at WM College

On 2 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, visited WM College to attend a London Adult Skills summit, convened by the Association of Colleges. This was organised by New City College to highlight the importance of provision and funding for adult skills for colleges. My Deputy Mayor set out how further education and adult skills is critical to my vision for inclusive growth for London, as set out in the Inclusive Talent Strategy.

Invitation to the Opening of the newly expanded Centre of Nutraceuticals at the University of Westminster, at their School of Life Sciences

On 5 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, attended the opening of the newly expanded Centre of Nutraceuticals at the University of Westminster's School of Life Sciences. At the opening, Howard gave some remarks on the important role the centre will play in health prevention and business innovation. It was noted that this work aligns strongly with my London Growth Plan to turbocharge productivity, invest in innovation and skills, and translate research into growth and job creation.

London Higher's Access and Participation Conference, Queen Mary University London

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, gave the keynote speech at London Higher's access and participation conference titled Growth for All. The event explored how strategic regional co-ordination can transform widening participation into a powerful driver of inclusive growth. This aligns strongly with the ambitions I set out in my Inclusive Talent Strategy, specifically around how we can improve access and participation in higher education through supporting the sector with the development of Regional Access Partnerships.

London Ambulance Service visit for National Apprenticeships Week

On 12 February, to mark National Apprenticeship Week 2026, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, visited the London Ambulance Service. The visit provided a spotlight on apprenticeship pathways into careers for Londoners and show-cased employer-led skills provision, which is a central pillar of the Inclusive Talent Strategy for London.

Housing

Section 106 Clearing Service

I am pleased to announce that Homes England's 'Section 106 Affordable Housing Clearing Service' has been extended to London and will operate in the capital until its expected closure on 31 July 2026. The service helps facilitate and accelerate the sale of unsold and uncontracted Section 106 affordable homes. The service is open to housebuilders, registered providers, and local authorities.

In line with the government's 'Policy statement: a roadmap for Section 106 delivery in England', the service will also support the implementation of the government's new time-limited S106 process. Where eligible homes are uploaded to the 'Section 106 Affordable Housing Clearing Service' and fail to secure a buyer, the time-limited process will encourage local planning authorities (LPAs) to make use of existing flexibilities to renegotiate S106 agreements and allow the tenure of homes to be varied to secure a buyer. LPAs are expected to consider the renegotiation of S106 agreements through this time limited process, if the conditions set out in the policy statement are met.

Further detail on the time limited process, conditions and eligibility is set out in the government's ['Policy statement: a roadmap for section106 delivery in England'](#).

I encourage London developers, registered providers, and local authorities to register and engage with the service.

Traveller Movement's screening of short film

On 19 January, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, gave the opening speech at Traveller Movement's screening of a short film 'Where They Put Us: Traveller Sites and the Legacy of Environmental Racism'. The film which featured residents of the Stable Way site in West London, looks at the lack of provision of traveller sites across London and the negative impacts of the locations of existing sites on the life outcomes of traveller communities including long term mental and physical health conditions. The event included a panel discussion with Traveller Movement, and guests from Anglia Ruskin University, Runnymede Trust and a Journalist. My Community Engagement team will continue to ensure the insight from various Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities feeds into wider GLA policy design and delivery.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Goldman Sachs International

On 12 February, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber, I visited the Goldman Sachs International headquarters and discussed London's strengths as a global hub for the financial services sector.

Business engagement and support

During this time, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber continued to engage with business and promote London internationally as the place to do business.

- On 8 January, participated in a filmed testimonial to support the Knightsbridge Partnership's upcoming ballot campaign, which aims to secure the Partnership's continuation through to 2031.
- On 21 January, attended the London Business Support Strategy Executive Roundtable with key funders of business support in London to discuss how we better support London's small businesses.
- On 22 January, attended the Growing Together Alliance reception in the house of Commons to highlight the importance of regional collaboration.
- On 27 January, attended Lambeth's Nighttime Economy Strategy launch at Electric Brixton, and highlighted the launch of the Nightlife Taskforce Report.
- On 28 January, joined the London Frontier Innovation Board to agree priorities for London's allocation of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund.
- On 29 January, chaired a meeting of the London Business Forum to discuss key priorities for London's businesses and economy in the year ahead.
- On 30 January, attended the Croydon Town Centre Expert Summit on the potential transformation of Croydon.
- On 2 February, met with the General Manager of the State Bank of India to discuss London's strengths and relationship with Indian businesses.
- On 2 February, attended a Newcastle Investors dinner in London with leading businesses on how London and Newcastle can work together on joint projects and promote growth.
- On 3 February, attended the London Breakfast organized by Knight Frank highlighting the strengths of London's commercial property sector and discussed the property outlook for the year ahead.
- On 4 February, attended the CBI's Mayoral Summit Roundtable in Manchester and discussed with the representatives of the other mayoral authorities and business organisations how we can work together to deliver economic Growth.
- On 5 February, met Bexley Council's Leader, Cabinet Member for Place Making, and Chief Executive, to discuss Bexley's Economic Growth Strategy. He also visited Erith town centre to meet business owners and hear how GLA funded regeneration projects are supporting the local community.
- On 9 February, attended the University of East London Symposium to discuss the importance an inclusive economy and good workforce health.
- On 10 February, hosted an Innovation Strategy roundtable with senior leaders on London's innovation system and how to make London an even more attractive place for corporate investment and partnership.
- On 10 February, spoke at the Spill the Beans event for producers to get their products in front of supermarket buyers, investors and food service experts at the Institution of Structural Engineers.
- On 12 February, attended the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Patron Lunch and spoke about key priorities for the next six months and London's competitiveness including business costs, skills and safety.

International promotion

- From 11 to 16 January, attended the JPM Healthcare Conference in San Francisco. He spoke at events including 'Life Sciences in London: Building the UK–US Innovation Bridge', hosted by Imperial College, London & Partners and Taylor Wessing, and the 'Nixon Peabody Global Life Sciences Breakfast'. He also attended meetings with senior business leaders to promote London as a leading city for life sciences foreign direct investment, and promoted London Life Sciences Week to investors and life sciences companies from around the world. He met with Daniel Lurie, the Mayor of San Francisco and corporate business leaders in other key business sectors and a total of 15 companies to promote foreign direct investment into London.
- On 22 January, attended and delivered welcome remarks at the opening of Airwallex's new London office, welcoming their continued growth in London and highlighting the importance of international fintech investment.
- On 5 February, met with representatives from the World Economic Forum to discuss the Mayor's economic development priorities and opportunities to work together.

Civil Society and Sport

Go! London – NFL impact partnership

On 19 January, Go! London launched a new grant fund impact partnership with the NFL Foundation UK. Go! London is a £22.5 million community sport fund that I am co-funding alongside Sport England and the London Marathon Foundation. The new impact partnership with the NFL will provide young Londoners with the opportunity to discover the fast-growing and inclusive sport of non-contact flag football in safe, supportive community settings.

The £1 million impact partnership with the NFL Foundation UK will help community organisations embed flag football into their programmes, increasing grassroots participation, inclusion, and positive outcomes for children and young people. The impact partnership will also invest in a coach development programme, creating new training and leadership opportunities for young Londoners.

Culture

Children's Plinth Unveil

On 8 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, launched the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards 2025 winners' exhibition. The three winning artworks were produced in 3D in collaboration with the St Martin-in-the-Fields for the second year in row. The exhibition is being held in the Lightwell at the Crypt in St Martin-in-the-Fields and will be open until Easter.

Visit to the Brit School

On 20 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture, Justine Simons OBE, visited the Brit School in South London. The visit included a tour of the school alongside Stuart Worden (Principal) and Jon Pelluet (Director of Development). As part of the tour, Justine spoke to students, and saw demonstrations including a live-music session, costume-making and videogame design.

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board Meeting

On 21 January, my Cultural Leadership Board met on the joint theme of the Tourist Levy and Diversity in the Public Realm. The board heard about opportunities and potential implications for culture, tourism and the wider economy in London. The board also joined by Jean-François Manicom, Senior Curator at the London Museum Docklands, who provided an overview of London Museum Docklands' contemporary work, including the London Sugar and Slavery gallery. Artist Khaleb Brooks presented their work 'The Wake', which I have commissioned to be London's Memorial to Victims of the Transatlantic Slavery. They explained their artistic approach and process behind the sculpture. The board will next meet in April.

Cultural Impact Award Joint Announcement

On 22 January, I met with artists and cultural leaders at the first joint Cultural Impact Award launch at City Hall. Barnet, Merton and Greenwich have each received £300,000 to deliver a transformative part of their London Borough of Culture bid that shows ambition and drives positive social and economic change.

There were musical performances from each borough as cabinet members for culture unveiled their plans in front of invited guests and council leaders.

Barnet is staging Light + Flight - a new borough-wide cultural programme bringing together artists, communities and local stories to explore creativity, connection and belonging. Royal Borough of Greenwich will put young people in the driver's seat. A new paid steering group of 24 people aged 13-30 will name, design and deliver the Cultural Impact Award programme and gain real-world skills from industry experts. Merton is delivering a three-year cultural programme that includes staging Start of the Line, a new festival spotlighting local talent alongside national legends. Merton has also launched a grants scheme and artists residencies.

London Nightlife Taskforce Report Launch

On 27 January, the independent London Nightlife Taskforce I appointed in early 2025 published its final report. Over the last year, the Taskforce has met regularly to examine the issues facing London's nightlife, worked alongside a dedicated group of researchers, commissioned new research, and ultimately provided 23 recommendations, spread over 10 key areas, so that the city's night-time culture, communities and economy can thrive now and in the future.

My Deputy Mayor, Justine Simons OBE, attended the launch of the report alongside Taskforce members and industry leaders, at the Colour Factory in Hackney Wick.

Metro Mayors Creative Health Announcement

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, welcomed the work of the Mayoral Authorities Creative Health Network, co-convened by CCI 24 Hour London, the Culture, Health and Wellbeing team, and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The Network has secured funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to represent the English region in scoping economic research into the impact of community-led innovation in creative health as one of four Co Lab Policy Awards. The Arts and Humanities Research Council, set

out planned activity aims and next steps at a meeting on 21 January. The programme will be delivered by March 2027.

Communities and Social Policy

Sikh community roundtable

On 7 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes Bernard, chaired a roundtable with members of the Sikh community. The meeting was an opportunity to hear firsthand about the impact of the rise in hate crime, but also to strengthen relationships and deepen understanding, while acknowledging the vital role the Sikh faith and Sikh community organisations play in fostering community relations and wider cohesion.

Tamil Heritage Month

On 14 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes Bernard celebrated the Tamil Heritage Month with community members and Waltham Forest council representatives. A special flag was hoisted by the Waltham Forest Tamil Sangam at the William Morris Gallery to mark the official date of the Pongal Harvest Festival.

Race Equality Race Equity in Employment Taskforce

On 14 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the Action for Race Equality Race Equity in Employment Taskforce. This was the third in a series of four taskforce meetings convened and Chaired by the Mayor for Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. The meeting discussed the long-term legacies of equity in employment, with a particular focus on ethnicity and disability pay gap reporting, highlighting persistent disparities, particularly at senior levels, and challenges such as incomplete ethnicity data, small sample sizes, and limited employee understanding of reporting purposes. Members discussed improving the clarity and granularity of pay gap reporting, strengthening communication to increase data disclosure, and aligning future reports with expected regulatory changes. The group also identified wider actions to support race equity, including reviewing recruitment and progression practices, enhancing accountability.

Muslim stakeholders roundtable

On 27 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, along with my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Kaya Comer-Schwartz, held a roundtable discussion with a group of Muslim stakeholders to hear about the issues that Muslim communities have been facing. The discussion highlighted key concerns around the rise in Islamophobia, safety and security online and in person, on public transport and in mosques, and how Islamophobia is affecting different groups within the community, but especially women and young people.

Launch of the Women's Forever Fund

On 28 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Policy, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the launch of the Women's Forever Fund at the Houses of Parliament. This ambitious and

forward-looking initiative, supported by the Women's Resource Centre, aims to use £50 million of dormant assets to secure long term, sustainable support for women's charities across the UK. The event was an opportunity to meet with organisations supporting women in London and beyond, and foster our shared commitment to tackling gender inequities and creating lasting change.

Jumma Aesthetics exhibition visit

On 29 January, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited the Jumma Aesthetics exhibition at Blackhorse Workshop and Café in Waltham Forest. The exhibition powerfully showcases the rich cultural diversity of British Muslim communities, using the clothing worn by men on Jumma (Friday prayer) to highlight the vibrancy and breadth of modern British identity.

Youth Leaders Programme presentation

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard along with my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended a youth led child poverty research presentation. The presentation of the Youth Leaders Programme, hosted by 4in10 and funded by XLP and Trust for London, was an opportunity to listen to the youth group share their own experiences of growing up in poverty in London, their perception of structural inequalities and their vision for a fairer London.

Sufra food charity event

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended an event at food charity Sufra in Brent. The event marked the launch of the publication of the evaluation of the GLA's Food Roots programme, which ran between 2021 and 2025. The programme supported the development of local food partnerships to encourage them to rethink how food support is provided in London and encourage models of support that move beyond emergency food aid provision and towards forms of wraparound support (including income maximisation) that tackle the root causes of food insecurity in the communities that these organisations serve. The event was also an opportunity for my Deputy Mayor to tour Sufra's Community Wellbeing Service, developed with Food Roots funding, and to attend a roundtable discussion with residents to hear their experience accessing support from this Service and the impact of the cost of living on their lives.

Question Time' style panel event for sixth formers

On 10 February, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended a BBC 'Question Time' style panel event for sixth formers from across the UK. The event took place at St. Margrets church, next to Westminster Abbey. Topics covered included tackling antisemitism, the importance of food banks and confidence in British politics.

Children and Young Londoners

Launch of a new Mental Health in Schools project

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited Gladesmore Community School in Haringey to mark the launch of my new Mental Health in Schools project. Delivered by Anna Freud, the project helps schools adopt an evidence-based, systematic framework for wellbeing, creating environments where every young person feels supported and able to thrive. During the visit, Joanne heard directly from staff about the positive impact this work is having on students across the community.

Visit to Belmont Primary School to celebrate a Gold Healthy Schools London Award

On 22 January, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited Belmont Primary School in Harrow to celebrate the school's achievement of the Healthy Schools London Gold Award, for promoting physical activity. Joanne heard directly from staff about the positive impact this work is having on pupils' wellbeing across the school community.

Launch of London Bridge Wellbeing Platform

On 22 January, my Statutory Deputy Mayor for London, Joanne McCartney, attended the launch of a new service at London Bridge train station, hosted by the charity Together for Mental Wellbeing.

The London Bridge Wellbeing Platform provides accessible, early mental health and wellbeing support in one of the busiest transport hubs in the capital. During the launch, Joanne delivered a speech, toured the service and met frontline staff and partners across Network Rail and British Transport Police, local health organisations and community groups.

Visit to Shirley Park Primary School in Croydon for UFSM

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, was joined by Natasha Irons, Member of Parliament for Croydon East, and Councillor Joseph Lee, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, on a visit to Shirley Park Primary School in Croydon. She discussed my Universal Free School Meals programme in a Q&A session and had lunch with some KS2 pupils. Having provided over 100 million meals for London's state primary school children is one of my proudest achievements. For as long as I am Mayor, I will continue to fund this programme, helping to make London the healthiest city to grow up in.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Olympic Divers Recognition Ceremony

A special ceremony was held at the London Aquatics Centre on 16 January to recognise the achievements of some of Britain's most decorated divers. Tom Daley OBE, Matty Lee MBE, Andrea Spendolini Sirieix, Grace Reid, Noah Williams, Kyle Kothari and Scarlett Mew Jensen, along with diving coaches Jane Figueiredo and Alex Rochas, were honoured with commemorative champion stones. These will later be installed at Champions Place at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as a

permanent public tribute to athletes and coaches whose journeys began at the centre and went on to reach the highest levels of international competition.

Sadler's Wells East Celebrates One Year

On 23 January, Sadler's Wells East welcomed Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Lisa Nandy MP, marking one year since its opening and celebrating the Government's recent announcement on national funding towards the arts sector.

The Music is Black: A British Story at V&A East Museum

On 29 January, ticket sales opened for The Music Is Black: A British Story, the first and opening exhibition at the V&A East Museum, which opens to the public on 18 April 2026.

The exhibition offers a multi-sensory journey through over 125 years of Black British music, featuring more than 200 objects and highlighting the artists, creators, and communities whose innovation has shaped Britain's cultural and musical identity.

Los Angeles Delegation visit to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

On 27 January, LLDC hosted a delegation from Los Angeles at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, as the city prepares to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The programme included a visit to the ArcelorMittal Orbit, London Aquatics Centre and London Stadium, demonstrating how the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games extended beyond a single summer of sport and acted as a catalyst for long-term regeneration.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

West London Orbital – funding announcement

On 15 January, I announced £400,000 to progress the business case for the West London Orbital (WLO).

The WLO is a proposed new rail service, utilising existing, underused rail lines from Hounslow towards Hendon, travelling via Old Oak Common in the OPDC area, that would become part of the London Overground network. This funding contribution, alongside funding from other partners, will allow the project to further progress the business case for the WLO.

Creative Enterprise Zone – reaccreditation announcement

On 15 January, I announced continued funding support for the Acton and Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ).

The Acton and Park Royal CEZ is one of nine zones that will receive a share of the £630,000 funding to help support all types of creatives working in the area, including artists, designers, makers, photographers, filmmakers and musicians.

First accredited as a CEZ in 2022 and run in partnership by OPDC and Ealing Council, the Acton and Park Royal CEZ has delivered a range of initiatives to support the creative community in West

London. This includes funding London Craft Week and the London Design Festival through the Park Royal Design District, as well as programmes to provide affordable workspace and to support a range of local creative entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.

HS2 tunnelling event

On 27 January, OPDC's Chief Executive Matthew Carpen attended a launch event at HS2's Old Oak Common site, to mark the switch-on of the first of two tunnel boring machines which will tunnel from Old Oak Common to Euston.

Matthew joined Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Darren Jones MP, my Deputy Mayor, Jules Pipe, HS2's Chair, Mike Brown and CEO, Mark Wild, alongside Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other key partners, to mark the launch of the first machine, Madeleine, at the Old Oak Common site.

The tunnel to Euston will connect Old Oak to Central London, attracting new investment and creating opportunities that will strengthen the local economy for years to come.

Small Grants Scheme

On 28 January, OPDC opened applications for the next round of its Small Grants Scheme.

The Small Grants Scheme offers an opportunity for residents, businesses and voluntary groups who are active in their communities and passionate about local causes to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhoods over the year.

The scheme is designed to celebrate different types of social action: from creating welcoming places for people to meet and develop new skills; to improving health and wellbeing and reducing loneliness. Grants of between £1,000 and £7,000 are available to support inclusive, grass-roots initiatives that make a positive difference to the community.

Applications close on 25 February and OPDC will announce the successful initiatives in March.

Planning and Regeneration

Local Plans

On 19 December, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Haringey Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. While the response broadly supported the vision and objectives of the draft, it made clear that the draft Local Plan was not in general conformity with the London Plan due to the proposed approach to affordable housing, specifically the proposed 40% threshold for development following the fast-track route. Officers noted that the proposed higher threshold was not supported by a whole plan viability assessment.

On 12 January, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the consultation on the proposed main modifications to the Wandsworth Local Plan Partial Review. The response welcomed the modifications to the affordable housing thresholds which bring the Local Plan into alignment with the threshold approach set out in Policy H5 of the London Plan and confirmed that with these amendments the Local Plan was now in general conformity with the London Plan.

On 30 January, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the Islington Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. They welcomed the positive approach being taken by the London Borough of Islington to meet identified need and confirmed that as drafted the Regulation 18 Plan was in general conformity with the London Plan.

London Plan Draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report

On 19 December, GLA officers in the London Plan team published the Draft IIA Scoping Report for consultation. In addition to consulting the statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA regulations (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) this Draft IIA Scoping Report is also being published for wider consultation to enable other environmental, social and economic consultees to comment on the approach with regard to evidence gathering and proposed IIA framework. The consultation on this Draft IIA Scoping Report has been extended by two weeks and will run until 13 February 2026.

Regeneration

On 20 January the Design Unit hosted an event to launch a new cohort of 53 Mayor's Design Advocates (MDAs) and 8 Advocate Organisations. My Deputy Mayor, Jules Pipe, spoke at the event which included presentations from the Design Unit, Places for London, and a panel discussion, with returning MDAs gave an overview of the Good Growth by Design programme, upcoming projects and the role of MDAs in supporting London's built environment through quality, inclusive and sustainable design.

On 28 January, the project teams of the 12 London boroughs participating in my High Street Place Labs programme came together at City Hall for a half-day workshop to discuss strategic approaches to improving their high streets. The projects were supported by David Ogunmuyiwa, Manijeh Verghese, Julian Lewis and Robin Hutchinson MBE, in their capacity as Mayor's Design Advocates.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2025/0944	10 -11 Brunel Street, 36-48 Shirley Street	Newham	26/01/2026	
2025/0955	Premier Park Data Centre	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	19/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0974	Hook Park	Kingston upon Thames	12/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0985	Land at Avondale Drive, Hayes	Hillingdon	02/02/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0986	Land at Austin Road, Hayes	Hillingdon	02/02/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0990	Land At Albert Wharf And Swedish Wharf	Hammersmith and Fulham	19/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0996	Bermondsey Place, Phases 2 and 3	Southwark	26/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/0998	Hayes Park West	Hillingdon	12/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1000	Lewisham House	Lewisham	26/01/2026	Does not comply with the London Plan
2025/1004	Meadbank Nursing Home	Wandsworth	12/01/2026	No Strategic Issues

2025/1008	Mallard Place	Haringey	12/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1009	Former Bromley Civic Centre	Bromley	19/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1012	Citylink	Croydon	12/01/2026	No Strategic Issues
2025/1024	Brentford Lock West Phase 3	Hounslow	04/01/2026	No Strategic Issues
2025/1037	Lennox Estate	Wandsworth	26/01/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1039	22 -24 Southwark Bridge Road	Southwark	21/01/2026	No Strategic Issues
2025/1045	Brixton Station Road	Lambeth	02/02/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1048	Douglas Bader Park Estate	Barnet	30/01/2026	No Strategic Issues
2025/1052	Standon House	Tower Hamlets	26/01/2026	
2025/1055	Liberty Shopping Centre	Havering	02/02/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2025/1056	2-6 Hannah Close	Brent	02/02/2026	
2025/1058	Court Farm Garden Centre	Kingston upon Thames	02/02/2026	No Stage 2 required
2025/1061	Land At Alfreds Way	Barking and Dagenham	02/02/2026	

2026/0008	Blenheim Shopping Centre	Bromley	19/01/2026	No Strategic Issues
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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
2021/0642	Purley Station Car Park	Croydon	12/01/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2024/0225	201-207 Shoreditch High Street	Hackney	12/01/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0183	Great North Leisure Park	Barnet	19/01/2026	Call in application
2025/0555	Somerleyton Road	Lambeth	26/01/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0802	High Barnet Place	Barnet	26/01/2026	Call in application
2025/0861	33 Cavendish Square	Westminster	02/02/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0864	Mitcham Gasworks Site	Merton	26/01/2026	Allow LPA to approve

Key engagements

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

- I officially opened the first meeting of the Oxford Street Development Corporation Board on 7 January
- I visited a MyEnds Rough Sleeping project on 8 January
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 8 January
- I joined the Met Police Commissioner to view a Violence Reduction Unit programme on 9 January
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 13 January
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 January
- I gave a speech at the annual London Government Dinner on 15 January
- I met with the UN Secretary General (António Guterres) on 16 January
- I spoke with the Home Secretary (Yvette Cooper) on 16 January
- I attended an NBA Game; Memphis Grizzlies v Orlando Magic on 18 January
- I attended and spoke at the City Hall Holocaust Memorial Service on 19 January
- I joined UK Mayors to meet the Secretary of State for Housing on 19 January
- I met with Jahm Najafi on 19 January
- I met with Lord Khan of Burnley on 20 January
- I met with Baroness Gray of Tottenham on 20 January
- I officially launched the extended Superloop (SL11) on 21 January
- I attended the Assembly Budget & Performance Committee on 26 January
- I held my regular planning meeting on 26 January
- I met with the CEO of the Southbank Centre (Elaine Bedell) on 26 January
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 27 February
- I met with Paul Epworth on 27 January
- I attended the Assembly Budget plenary on 29 January
- I met with the Mayor of Amsterdam on 29 January
- I visited Charing Cross Police Station to view Op Reckoning on 29 January
- I visited new homes built in Haringey on 30 January
- I held my regular planning meeting on 2 February
- I met with Sir Anthony Seldon on 2 February
- I met with His Highness the Aga Khan on 3 February
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 4 February
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 5 February
- I attended the British Muslim Trust launch on 9 February
- I met the Attorney General (Richard Hermer) on 10 February
- I spoke with the General Secretary of TUC (Paul Novak) on 11 February
- I hosted a reception for traditional media and content creators on 11 February
- I visited Goldman Sachs on 12 February
- I met with the Leader of the House of Lords (Baroness Smith) on 12 February