26th Mayor's Report to the Assembly
Mayor's Question Time – 19 November 2026

This is my twenty sixth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 2 October – 5 November 2026.

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

Executive Summary

Violence Reduction Unit hits milestone of one million Londoners reached as knife assault figures fall

In October, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) hit the milestone of reaching one million young Londoners since its launch.

New data shows that the number of young people admitted to hospital for knife assault has fallen by 55% since the VRU was set up in 2019. London's hospital admissions declined at a faster pace, leading to a greater reduction than the rest of the country.

Figures also reveal nearly 12,500 fewer victims of violence with injury compared to when the VRU was established, whilst both gun crime and personal robbery are down by more than a quarter.

Knife crime also continues to fall in the capital. The latest data shows there were 2,500 fewer victims of knife crime in the last three years, and figures show a continued downward trend with a 10% reduction in the last 12 months.

I've invested more than £140m in the public health approach the VRU has pioneered across London. Through prevention, early intervention and investment in targeted diversionary activities, the VRU has reached three-quarters of a million young people in just over seven years. A further 250,000 parents and carers, youth workers and professionals that work directly with young people, have received dedicated training, upskilling and support.

Guided by the principle that we can't arrest our way out of violence, the VRU intervenes at critical moments to support young Londoners. Keeping children in the classroom is a vital safety measure, especially as school exclusion doubles a young person's risk of being involved in violence within 12 months. In its first full year, London's Inclusion Charter has driven down suspensions, exclusions, and absenteeism across the capital.

The VRU also meets young people at crisis points. Hospital-based youth workers have guided 75% of young people away from further harm, while youth workers in custody suites that are seeking to break the reoffending cycle, have connected with nearly 17,000 young people. The flagship MyEnds programme delivers hyper-local support, providing 60,000 targeted interventions directly to the communities that need them most.

While violence and knife crime continue to fall across London, this progress serves as a stark reminder of why prevention investment is vital**.** Evidence has proven a direct link between national austerity cuts to youth services and youth work between 2010 and 2019, and the subsequent rise in violence affecting young people.

Keeping up the pressure on phone robbery

On 8 October, I welcomed new data from the Metropolitan Police Service which showed 16,000 fewer mobile phones had been stolen in the past year.

Record funding from MOPAC is empowering the Met to go after every single part of the £50million-a-year trade in stolen phones. New Met Police drones and Sur-Ron bikes are allowing the police to take the fight directly to the street robbers, while street vendor 'middlemen' who unlock stolen devices, or break them up for parts are being shut down, and organised gang leaders responsible for smuggling stolen phones out of the country are being brought to book.

The ongoing clampdown has seen hundreds of criminals arrested with thousands of handsets seized. I am determined to build on this progress and will continue to support the police and work with the mobile phone industry to go much further in preventing stolen phones being used, sold and repurposed, so that we can continue to build a safer London for all.

Further action to improve mobile phone signal for Londoners

On 15 October, I announced new action to help improve mobile phone connectivity across the capital, publishing a report of where networks are falling short, alongside practical steps boroughs can take to support improvements.

A new framework sets out ten actions boroughs can take to support better connectivity, while a new report and interactive map show how mobile performance varies across London, helping boroughs, mobile operators and infrastructure providers identify where action is most needed.

The work builds on my Connected London programme, established in 2017 to improve access to reliable fibre broadband, mobile connectivity and public Wi-Fi. Since then, I've worked with boroughs and industry to support the expansion of full-fibre broadband, launched a £30 million investment in fibre infrastructure upgrading public assets from copper such as libraries and CCTV columns, and introduced London Plan policies requiring new developments to provide full-fibre connections and meet demand for mobile connectivity.

Through TfL's partnership with Boldyn Networks, 4G and 5G coverage is being delivered across the London Underground network, including in tunnels between stations. Coverage across the oldest and most complicated Tube network in the world has now reached 70% and is on track to be completed by the end of the year.

The partnership is also improving connectivity above ground. Boldyn has enabled the majority of TfL's 80,000 street assets, including lampposts and bus shelters, to support future mobile infrastructure, helping mobile operators boost network capacity in some of London's busiest locations.

Together, the report, standard, framework and map, will help boroughs and industry target their efforts more effectively, building on my work to improve digital connectivity and support Londoners and businesses across the capital.

Pedestrianisation of Oxford Street

On 26 October, I was delighted to announce that Oxford Street had become permanently traffic free, marking a major milestone in the street's transformation.

Since then, there has been a clear sense of excitement about the street's future, with a vibrant atmosphere and strong public engagement. It has been particularly encouraging to see people immediately embrace the new space, spending more time on the street, gathering in areas previously dominated by traffic, and making use of the new seating that has recently been installed.

Oxford Street Development Corporation has worked closely with New West End Company and partners to enhance street cleansing and safety measures, helping to ensure the street is maintained to a high standard and is providing a welcoming environment for visitors, workers and residents.

The first tranche of new benches has also been installed, creating opportunities for people to pause, meet, and enjoy the street in a different way.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the next phase of the scheme and maintaining momentum as we approach the Christmas trading period, ensuring Oxford Street continues to evolve as a world-class destination.

New Strategic Licensing call-in power begins

On 3 November, I was joined by Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and James Small-Edwards, London Assembly Member for West Central, at Blue Note London in Covent Garden - to mark the start of a new era for London's nightlife.

Following the passing of secondary legislation, and as part of wider new licensing powers given to me by Government, I can now step in following local licensing decisions and decide whether to approve a licensing application that can be defined as strategically important for London's economy and reputation as a global city, such as applications for large venues, live music, later opening hours, or major events and festivals.

I will also shortly formally consider the consultation responses on my draft London-wide Strategic Licensing Policy, which I set out earlier this year. This is a historic opportunity to create a consistent licensing system that supports London's vital hospitality and nightlife to thrive, while continuing to keep people safe and listen to communities.

New framework launched to help deliver new London homes, public spaces and infrastructure

On 27 October, I launched a new redesigned framework to make it easier and faster for London's public bodies to access the expertise they need to deliver high-quality homes, public spaces, and infrastructure projects across the capital.

Set up to help small firms and under-represented groups access work opportunities, the four-year Architecture and Urbanisation (A + U) framework enables architectural practices, design studios and built environment specialists to bid for commissions from London boroughs, UK public bodies and housing associations.

The framework is designed to support a wide range of projects, from housing and regeneration, transport and infrastructure, through to civic, workspace, public realm and small-scale projects.

The A+U Framework has been in operation for three years, and between March 2023 and March 2026, it enabled the procurement of over £15m worth of services. This includes the East Architecture Landscape and Urban Design company, who secured nearly £500,000 to support the Oxford Street pedestrianisation programme, and Archio, who secured £1.1m across multiple small sites projects.

Supporting my Good Growth by Design programme the framework helps deliver inclusive, sustainable and design-led growth, with a strong focus on social value and diversity.

It has now been redesigned following extensive stakeholder feedback, to ensure the programme achieves its aim of boosting work opportunities for small and under-represented firms. Changes have included making the procurement process easier and faster and enabling contracts to be awarded more quickly. There is also a stronger focus on sustainability and providing guidance for small organisations, alongside support once they are on the framework.

There is also a new assessment criteria and support measures designed to broaden participation and increase representation across the sector – with diversity, inclusion and sustainability embedded throughout the framework.

While recent years have presented major challenges for housebuilding across the country – with the sector affected by delays in building safety approvals, rising construction costs, shortages of workers and skills and higher inflation and interest rates - the A+U Framework continues to provide a streamlined procurement route for public sector organisations to commission high-quality suppliers.

New £4.7m funding to further help low-income families secure financial support they are entitled to

On 4 November, I announced that my work with partners to ensure those living in the capital are accessing the financial support they are entitled to has put over £100m back into the pockets of Londoners. And I'm delighted that through nearly £5m additional investment over the next two years, we'll further expand this work to enable more Londoners to access the support they need.

Working in collaboration with 12 local authorities, London Citizens Advice, and the London Legal Support Trust, the programme has helped more than 6,000 families to secure financial support. I am now extending this work to reach 19 boroughs over the next two years, potentially helping around 29,000 further families to access £18m.

To hear about the difference this work is making to Londoners' lives, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Barking Learning Centre, where our Family Financial Resilience Partnership is reaching low-income families. Debbie met with families supported through the Partnership in Barking and Dagenham and with staff involved in delivering the programme locally and across London. In Barking and Dagenham alone, our work together has helped over 600 families access nearly £800,000 in financial support so far this year.

I'm committed to doing everything I can to support Londoners with the cost of living and am proud that we have already helped over 170,000 Londoners claim more than £108m in financial support that they are entitled to. This money is making a big difference to help their daily lives and that's why I'm providing further funding to ensure even more families on low incomes can get support.

By funding free school meals in London's state primary schools, providing activities during school holidays and protecting free and discounted travel for children and young people, I'll continue to work hard to help London's families, as we build a better, fairer London for everyone.

NFL London Games 2026

On 11 October, I attended one of the NFL London Games at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium as a guest of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, joining senior NFL leaders, team owners, commercial partners and representatives from across sport and business. The fixture between the Philadelphia Eagles and Jacksonville Jaguars formed part of London's long-standing partnership with the NFL and highlighted the capital's position as one of the league's most important international markets.

During the visit, I met young participants involved in flag football programmes supported through my partnership with the NFL Foundation UK and Go! London, showcasing how major sporting events can create lasting opportunities for young Londoners beyond the stadium. I also attended a pitch-side engagement with Roger Goodell, and met with Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan, who has played a significant role in the growth of the NFL in London over the past decade.

The NFL has been an important presence in London since 2007, and the city remains the only international destination to have hosted all 32 NFL franchises. Major sporting events such as the NFL London Games strengthen London's global reputation, attract international visitors, support local businesses and showcase the capital to audiences around the world. In addition to the economic benefits they generate, these events provide valuable opportunities to inspire young Londoners to be active and engage with sport.

This year's partnership with the NFL extended beyond the stadium, with NFL-branded flags displayed along Regent Street and a fan experience delivered in Trafalgar Square. These activations helped bring the excitement of the NFL London Games to the heart of the capital, engaging Londoners and visitors while further showcasing London as a leading destination for major sporting events.

The visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships with NFL leadership as we look ahead to the 20th anniversary of NFL regular season games in London in 2027. Through our partnership with the NFL, we're working to ensure that London continues to be a world-leading destination for major sporting events and that Londoners benefit from the economic, social and community impacts these events deliver.

Policing, Crime and Security

Crackdown on retail crime

Our world-class retailers, high streets, and town centres, attract millions of visitors from across the UK and around the globe.

Backed by record investment from City Hall, I'm pleased the Met is working closely with retailers and partners to disrupt retail crime.

On 22 October, I welcomed results from a two-week crackdown on the resale of stolen goods, which saw tens of thousands of pounds worth of stolen items seized, 42 arrests and closure notices against 11 shops.

Thanks to intensified action by the Met and its partners, the number of shoplifting offences being solved has doubled, leading to 1,800 additional arrests. But there is more to do, and I'll continue working with the police, retailers and local partners to make London a no-go zone for shoplifters and build a safer city for everyone.

Transport

TfL launches new targeted operation to crack down on persistent fare evasion

TfL has announced the first results from Operation Vector, a new targeted enforcement partnership with the British Transport Police (BTP), designed to identify and stop persistent fare evaders across its network. The crackdown is part of a bold strategy to tackle fare evasion across all TfL services, with the goal of driving down the rate to below 1.5 per cent by 2030/31.

Since it launched in October, Operation Vector has already resulted in 467 people being stopped, 156 penalty fares being issued, 175 reports for possible prosecution, and 24 arrests by officers for offences including fare evasion and wider criminality.

Using an intelligence-led approach, the operation brings together plain-clothes BTP officers with Revenue Control teams and uniformed Transport Support Enforcement staff to identify and intercept persistent fare evaders who routinely push through ticket barriers. As part of the operation, officers are deployed beyond the gateline and use coordinated communications to track and stop those attempting to travel without paying.

The operation is expected to significantly increase the detection of persistent fare evaders, deter offenders and challenge the perception that people can push through barriers without consequences. Enforcement tactics are varied regularly and include targeted checks at gatelines, onboard services and within stations, particularly at major transport hubs. By creating greater uncertainty around where and when enforcement activity is taking place, TfL aims to influence behaviour and improve compliance across the transport network.

Working closely with the BTP will also provide valuable intelligence on the links between fare evasion and wider criminality, helping TfL and its policing partners to better understand offender profiles and target resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Since April 2026, more than 2,400 individuals have been reported for barrier misuse across the network. Alongside this activity, TfL's revenue enforcement teams have also issued more than 33,000 penalty fares and reported more than 11,000 individuals for prosecution consideration.

Public backs plans for DLR extension to Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside that could unlock thousands of new homes and jobs

The public and organisations have shared their views on plans to extend the DLR to Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside, with consultation responses showing continued strong support for the scheme.

Respondents highlighted the improved public transport links, regeneration opportunities and better access to jobs, education and services that the extension could provide for communities on both sides of the River Thames. The proposed extension would provide Thamesmead with its first rail connection and support the delivery of thousands of new homes and jobs in Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead, helping unlock some of London's most important regeneration opportunities while improving connectivity across east and southeast London.

The latest consultation, which ran from 5 June to 16 July 2026, focused on how the proposed new stations at Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead could look, how customers would access them, and how the extension could be constructed while minimising impacts on local communities, businesses and the environment.

Respondents expressed continued strong support for the extension and the wider benefits it could bring, including improved connectivity, economic growth, and regeneration. Many also highlighted the importance of fully accessible stations, safe walking and cycling routes, good bus connections and ensuring the scheme allows for potential future DLR extensions beyond Thamesmead.

The consultation also identified concerns around construction impacts, including traffic, noise and environmental effects. These issues will continue to be considered as the scheme develops.

It's great that we have reached the next milestone of this vital project, following the Government's backing of our plans in last year's budget. This scheme has the potential to transform travel in a part of the capital that has historically lacked the public transport connections it needs. It will unlock thousands of new homes and jobs and boost economic growth across the capital and beyond.

Night Tube at 10: New report shows London leads European capitals for combined strength of nightlife and public transport

A new joint research report, London After Dark, from TfL and Time Out, reveals how London's night-time economy is changing for the better. The new report highlights the important role public transport plays in supporting life after dark, with 88% of Londoners questioned saying they have stayed out later because they knew public transport was running.

The report has been published shortly after Time Out analysis ranked the capital first among 26 European capitals for the combined strength of its nightlife and public transport – hot on the heels of London topping its ranking of global cities for culture earlier this year. Drawing on 5,848 responses across 26 European capitals, the analysis gives equal weight to nightlife and public transport, with London taking the top spot ahead of Vienna and Paris, thanks to its strong performance across both measures.

London After Dark explores how life after dark in the capital has changed over the past decade, the role the Night Tube has played in supporting that change, and what the future could hold for London at night.

The research highlights how London's night-time economy has broadened over the past decade, with Londoners increasingly seeking a wider mix of experiences after dark. Restaurants, theatre, live music and cultural activities play a more central role in nights out than they did before, and transport remains a key enabler, with survey findings showing that 77% of Londoners saying knowing how they will get home is an important factor when deciding where to go. More than half of Londoners (55%) also believe great nights out are increasingly spread across the capital rather than concentrated in central London.

The findings come as London's nighttime offer continues to diversify, with several new venues and partnerships announced in recent months. These include the opening of the internationally renowned Blue Note Jazz Club in Covent Garden. The transformation of Oxford Street will also support more people visiting the West End, with Bond Street, Marble Arch and Oxford Circus served by multiple Night Tube lines.

Since I launched the inaugural Night Tube service on 19 August 2016, Night Tube and Night Overground services have carried more than 67 million customers, supporting jobs, businesses and cultural venues, while improving connectivity across the capital and strengthening London's reputation as a vibrant 24-hour city.

TfL sets out ambition for all new private hire vehicles to be zero-emission within five years

TfL has launched a consultation on plans to accelerate the transition to zero-emission private hire vehicles (PHVs) to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions across the capital. The proposals would see that all newly licensed PHVs are zero-emission from July 2028, with the exception of those that are wheelchair accessible, which would need to be zero-emission from July 2030.

With a confirmed timeline, TfL would also be setting a clear direction for producers of wheelchair accessible vehicles, so they can understand TfL's requirements in advance and produce vehicles that will meet the future licensing requirements.

Road transport remains a major contributor to air pollution and carbon emissions in London. Air pollution impacts health in both the short and long-term with Londoners developing life-changing illnesses such as cancer, asthma and lung disease. The proposals would significantly reduce the NOx and CO2 emissions directly generated from PHVs both in the short term and long term.

Significant progress has already been made in the industry. More than 70% of private hire vehicles are now zero-emission capable. While this has been an important step in the transition to more sustainable fleets, zero-emission capable vehicles that are not fully electric still produce emissions from the exhaust when operating in non-electric mode.

The consultation, which runs until 23:59 on Wednesday 2 December 2026, proposes that:

- All private hire vehicles new to licensing in London, except for wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles, will need to be fully electric vehicles from 3 July 2028
- All wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles new to licensing in London will need to be fully electric vehicles from 1 July 2030

London's private hire vehicles play a vital role in keeping the capital moving, providing an accessible door-to-door service for millions of people, and we want to ensure they can continue doing so sustainably for years to come.

Angel Tube station to be exit-only at weekends from early 2027

TfL has announced Angel Tube station will be exit-only on weekends and bank holidays from Saturday 2 January until further notice. This change is part of TfL's work to extend the working life of the escalators at the station, some of which are nearly 35 years old and are becoming less reliable and more difficult to maintain.

The station features two banks of escalators, one from the ticket hall to the mid-concourse level and one from the mid-concourse to platform level. The former are the longest escalators on the Tube network at over 60 metres long with more than 27 metres of vertical rise. Given the size and age of the escalators, repairing them when they fail is becoming increasingly challenging.

The legacy of historic shortfalls in Government funding for essential TfL asset renewals has meant that TfL has not been able to invest in new escalators at the station. TfL will continue to

investigate options for renewal, repair and replacement within the funding constraints it continues to experience, but in the meantime, is doing everything possible to extend their working life and keep the station as operational as possible.

Making the station exit-only during specific periods will allow TfL to extend the working life of the escalators and give more time to plan next steps, with design work on replacing the escalators to begin this autumn.

Angel Tube station will continue to operate normally on weekdays, and customers will be able to travel to and exit the station at all times. TfL's analysis shows that more people leave Angel Tube station than enter it at weekends and on bank holidays, with usage generally lower than in the week. Customers who do wish to start journeys from Angel at weekends have a number of alternatives when the station is exit-only.

TfL has engaged with local businesses and stakeholders while putting this plan in place and has held meetings with local elected representatives to explain the process behind the change to the operation of the station. These meetings have helped to shape TfL's approach and TfL has done all it can to minimise the impact on businesses during the upcoming Christmas period.

A full customer information campaign will also inform customers about the changes and the reasons behind them, with further information to ensure customers are aware of the changes in the new year.

TfL and Santander launch brand new Santander Cycles app with major upgrades to make bike hire quicker and easier than ever

TfL and Santander have announced a brand-new Santander Cycles app, which launches on 17 November, featuring a range of major improvements that make hiring a bike even easier for Londoners and visitors. Customers are now able to buy passes before travelling and find available bikes and docking stations more easily.

TfL and Santander have also transformed the cycle hire process, meaning you can get on your bike in seconds. Now, customers can hire a bike by simply scanning a QR code printed on the bike itself to unlock it. Payments will also be made easier through the introduction of Apple Pay and Google Pay.

TfL is continuing to make improvements to their e-bikes to make the scheme even more convenient, including new in-dock charging systems that are being installed next year. This means that e-bikes will be able to charge while in their docking station, ensuring they are consistently charged and ready to ride when customers need them.

The launch of the new app comes as TfL expands its long-term partnership with Serco, which will support continued investment into Santander Cycles and help deliver future improvements for customers across London, including rolling out more e-bikes.

To facilitate the launch of the new Santander Cycles app, a planned service outage will take place from the evening of 13 November to the evening of 17 November. During this period, customers are unable to hire bikes, purchase access periods or access their account information.

To celebrate the launch and to thank customers for their patience during the outage, TfL is offering a free ride to everyone who downloads and registers on the new app. Apple and Android users can pre-order the new app using this code: https://get-santandercycles.lft.to/

Customers can redeem a free single ride by entering the code: NEWAPP. Santander e-bikes can be redeemed as part of the offer.

Annual Pass holders, who would not benefit from a free ride, will receive a free seven-day extension and Monthly Pass holders will receive a free five-day extension to their subscription. These will be applied from 17 November.

TfL sets out new plans to make walking and cycling safer in the heart of the City

TfL is inviting people to have their say on new plans to make it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle in and around Monument Junction. Located in the heart of the City of London, Monument junction is a key transport location that attracts commuters, visitors and tourists.

The proposed plans to Monument junction will make movement easier for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users. The proposed changes in the area include:

- New lanes for cyclists, which are separated from traffic by wands
- Advance Stop Lines and early release cyclist signals for cyclists on all arms of the junction, which allow cyclists to get ahead of the traffic at the junction stop line and for onward travel
- Two new signalised pedestrian crossings at the junctions of Cannon Street and King William Street North
- Improvements to crossing at Gracechurch Street would mean pedestrians could cross in one movement, rather than having to wait on an island for a signal to complete their crossing

More details about the proposals are on TfL's webpage, with interactive maps and options to give views on the project. The consultation period is open until Tuesday 24 November 2026.

Veterans to be supported into work and help build more homes in London and boost skills under new MOD and Places for London partnership

Armed Forces veterans will be supported into construction jobs through a new partnership between the Ministry of Defence and Places for London, TfL's wholly owned property company, helping ex-service personnel translate their skills into civilian careers.

Building Beyond Service is a new programme designed to help former Service personnel turn their military experience into construction careers through industry-recognised training and direct links to employers. The first cohort of eight veterans is undertaking training in the operation of plant machinery, with the programme aiming to support up to 60 veterans into construction roles during its first year.

Delivered through the Places for London Skills Academy, in partnership with The Skills Centre and L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage, the programme gives veterans industry-recognised training and direct links to employers. Veterans gain recognised qualifications, connect with live job opportunities, and are supported to build long-term careers in construction, while employers gain access to skilled workers. The current cohort is receiving hands-on training in plant operations, including learning to operate some of the most in-demand, cutting-edge industry machinery and leading practices.

TfL partners with Royal British Legion to commemorate 20 years of London Poppy Day

TfL supported the Royal British Legion to commemorate the 20th anniversary of London Poppy Day on 29 October to help raise record levels of fundraising to support the needs of the Armed Forces community, past and present, and their families.

To mark the milestone, award-winning British singer and actress Dame Elaine Paige recorded special announcements for stations across London's transport network encouraging donations to the London Poppy Appeal.

Collections took place from 07:00 to 19:00 at stations across London, with more than 2,500 volunteers supporting fundraising efforts, including representatives of the Tri-Service contingent from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Last year, Royal British Legion surpassed their fundraising target of £1 million by more than £400,000, with the Legion aiming to exceed last year's extraordinary effort on the 20th anniversary. Royal British Legion bands also performed at a selection of stations, including Battersea Power Station, Blackfriars, Canary Wharf, Stratford and Westminster.

As part of the commemorations, bespoke poppy-branded buses, trains and London Cable Car cabins were on display across London's transport network, alongside poppy themed roundels at select bus stations and London Underground and London Overground platforms.

I was delighted to support London Poppy Day as we marked the 20th anniversary of this important event in our capital. This is the biggest street collection of its kind in Europe, and I'd like to thank all the Armed Forces personnel and Poppy Appeal collectors who were out fundraising across the city.

TfL partners with Befriending Networks to provide free London Cable Car experience for Befriending Week

To mark Befriending Week, which commenced on 1 November, TfL partnered with Befriending Networks in offering Londoners who may be feeling lonely a unique opportunity to meet new people and build new friendships while taking in views of London's skyline.

Between 2-6 November, visitors participating in the Befriending Week cable car experience shared cabins with fellow ticket holders as they soar 90 metres above the River Thames. Designed to spark conversation and tackle social isolation, passengers were encouraged to exchange questions and stories during the journey.

This is the second year in a row that TfL has taken part in Befriending Week, with the Befriending Week experience on the cable car proving hugely popular. Each ticket included a full round trip on the London Cable Car and a complimentary hot drink.

TfL also partnered with the Volunteer Centre Greenwich at the Greenwich Peninsula Terminal to host a dedicated "Games and Connections" event, aimed at bringing community members together with local befriending organisations in a relaxed, interactive setting. The event included board games for guests to play in the Cable Car Experience café and was another way to help people to build new connections.

TfL celebrates 40 years of 'Poems on the Underground' with autumn collection

TfL launched the autumn series of Poems on the Underground with a special event at Covent Garden station where customers using the station enjoyed public recitals. Poems were played on the tannoy throughout the day.

The collection included classical, contemporary and international works, including the award-winning Guyanese-British poet Grace Nichols, whose work has previously been showcased in Poems on the Underground's 40th anniversary leaflet. The poem, "For the Life of This Planet", is a lyrical ode to nature that will reappear in the autumn poetry collection.

Along with Nichols, several other Black poets are featured to mark Black History Month. Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes was represented by "Song for Billie Holiday", a meditation on how art can inspire art. The Jamaican British poet, novelist and children's author Valerie Bloom "Brave New Words", which celebrates the joy of learning new words, also features in this series of autumn's poems.

Emily Brontë's "Fall Leaves Fall" celebrates the advent of autumn. A similar reflection is made in the Estonian poet Jaan Kaplinski's "Only at dusk do eyes really begin to see", while Irish poet Bernard O'Donoghue's "Going Without Saying" reflects on the uncertainty of knowing when a conversation with a friend may be the last.

Poems on the Underground rounded out this year's 40th anniversary celebrations with a poetry and music event on 24 October at the Purcell Room in the Southbank Centre. The lineup featured founder Judith Chernaik, poets Patience Agbabi, Imtiaz Dharker and George Szirtes, along with Apollo Strings Quartet and saxophonist Juliet Lewis.

Environment

Earthfest Schools Day & Green Futures Event

On 5 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, delivered the opening remarks at this year's London Clean Air Initiative Green Futures event. He talked about London's journey towards net zero, the work that is already happening across the capital, and the enormous opportunity this presents for young people. He highlighted the growing green skills gap and the wide range of careers that will be needed to help deliver London's climate ambitions. The event was designed to inspire and inform mainstream and SEND students aged 16+ about sustainable jobs and careers, bringing together over 1,000 students from across London, alongside more than 40 organisations representing different parts of the green economy.

Wild Cities: Shaping Liveable Futures 2026

On 6 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, delivered the opening keynote address for the Wild Cities – Shaping Liveable Futures event. He discussed the role of nature as essential urban infrastructure, London's ambition and the opportunity to build on existing momentum, the importance of equitable access to nature and resilience across the city and the need for collective action across government, business, finance, landowners and communities to deliver at the scale required. There were around 100 senior guests including corporate and institutional decision-makers, alongside leaders from government, science, sport, culture and civil society.

ReLondon Circular Economy Week launch

On 12 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, participated in ReLondon's Circular Economy Week launch event. He gave the opening remarks and was a panellist on a Q&A session with Emma Hardy MP, Minister of State, where he discussed how circularity works for cities, regions and communities amid the emerging devolution and local government reform agenda. In particular, he shared the economic, environmental and social opportunities that devolution can bring through the circular economy. The event was attended by city, local and regional government leadership, innovators, NGOs and community-based organisations making an impact in cities and neighbourhoods.

Cubs 'dragons den' event

On 13 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, took part in Brent District Scouts' *Cubs Dragons Den Finals*. During the event, my Deputy Mayor delivered a keynote address, in which he highlighted the work I'm leading on to create a fairer, greener and healthier city, as well elevating young people's voices. The Cubs then presented their pitches for new sustainable business opportunities for the London Borough of Brent, which my Deputy Mayor provided encouraging feedback on, alongside a judging panel.

Blue Earth Summit

On 15 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, attended the Blue Earth Summit. This is a multi-day conference for innovators, investors and campaigners to collaborate on sustainable solutions for people and planet. He delivered a keynote address focused on work across London to improve water quality and restore biodiversity in the Thames and beyond, including through my Clean Rivers and Waterways Plan.

IFAW Animal Action Award

On 15 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at the Animal Action Awards at BAFTA. The awards celebrate individuals, organisations and even special animals who make extraordinary contributions to animal rescue, wildlife conservation, and welfare. Mete presented the 2026 Wildlife Crime Award to Chief Inspector Kevin Lacks-Kelly, in recognition of his outstanding dedication to protecting wildlife and bringing those who harm it to justice.

Community Energy Taskforce report launch

On 16 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, spoke at the Community Energy Summit, celebrating the launch of the Community Energy Taskforce's recommendations report, which sets out a vision to deliver 1,000 community energy projects across the capital. He highlighted the importance of scaling up community energy and its key role in delivering London's net zero transition. Alongside representatives from the community energy sector, Great British Energy, and the Green Finance Institute, the event explored how London can play a leading role in delivering the Government's Local Power Plan.

Housing

Housing in London report

On 29 October, GLA officers published the 2026 edition of the annual 'Housing in London' report. This report brings together a wide range of analysis of topics, including London's housing supply, affordability, housing conditions, homelessness and rough sleeping.

The Report can be viewed at: https://data.london.gov.uk/housing/housing-in-london.

Growth and Skills

Meeting with the President of QS World Rankings and Howard Dawber

On 6 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, met with Nunzio Quacquarelli, Founder and President of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, which is a global provider of specialist higher education and careers information and solutions.

Launch of Morley College London's Strategic Plan

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, visited Morley College for the launch of its strategic plan for 2026 to 2030. Howard met with Principal and CEO, Susan Bonnett and Chair of Governors, Leisha Fullick, along with local stakeholders and employers, to hear about the college's plans to deliver exceptional adult learning, build industry partnerships, and transform delivery to meet challenges such as artificial intelligence.

Greater London Skills Competition 2027

On 19 October, I was pleased to announce that United Colleges Group has been selected to host the Greater London Skills Competition 2027, which will take place 11-16 March 2027. Supported by City Hall, WorldSkills UK and the Association of Colleges, the college-led competition celebrates the outstanding creativity and technical skills being developed by London's Further Education Sector.

The competition brings together learners from across the capital to compete in a range of skills areas key to London's economy - from cyber security to health and social care. It is expected to be the largest competition to date, with 21 colleges taking part.

Skills competitions demonstrate the transformational impact of adult learning, inspire the next generation of skilled workers, drive growth, and access to good jobs across the capital. It will also be an important milestone in the lead-up to London hosting the WorldSkills National Finals in 2027 - the biggest celebration of skills in the capital for over a decade.

Ravensbourne University: Tour and Lunch

On 20 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, visited Ravensbourne University. As part of the visit, Howard explored the university campus and heard about their focus on courses that connect creative, business and technology. This was also an opportunity for Howard to share the work I've been doing to support London's higher education sector and ensure training provision is more aligned to industry needs.

AoC Principals' Forum meeting at New City College

On 21 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, visited New City College, Hackney campus, to meet with college leaders at the Association of Colleges (AoC) Principals and CEOs Forum. This roundtable event enabled Howard to discuss opportunities to develop the future skills system in London following the government's Rewiring the State announcements in the summer. The event coincided with the launch of AoC campaign 'Adult Learning Pays', which champions the vital role adult education plays in supporting economic

growth, improving health and wellbeing, strengthening communities and helping people access new opportunities.

Breaking ground ceremony at College of North West London, Wembley Park Campus

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, attended the United Colleges Group Wembley Campus Breaking Ground Ceremony, marking a significant milestone in the delivery of a state-of-the-art new further education campus in Wembley, part funded by City Hall.

Howard joined representatives from United Colleges Group, Brent Council, the Department for Education, and project partners, to celebrate the start of construction works at the Olympic Way site.

The new eight-storey, 14,000m² facility will provide modern learning environments and specialist training facilities to support Londoners in developing the skills needed by employers across the capital.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Meeting with the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom

On 27 October, I met with His Excellency Periasamy Kumaran, High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, to welcome him to his new role in London. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the strong and enduring relationship between London and India, and to explore opportunities to further deepen cooperation in the years ahead.

I was accompanied by Laura Citron, Chief Executive of London & Partners, and we had a productive discussion on strengthening trade, investment and business links between London and India. We also reflected on the significant contribution of London's Indian community and the thousands of Indian students who choose to study in the capital each year.

The meeting reinforced London's commitment to maintaining strong international partnerships, promoting economic growth through global trade, and ensuring that London remains an open, inclusive and welcoming city for students, businesses and communities from around the world.

NVIDIA's UK Ecosystem Celebration in London

On 14 October, along with my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, I attended NVIDIA's UK Ecosystem Celebration in London, joining NVIDIA's founder and CEO, Jensen Huang, and a small group of leaders from London's AI, research, startup and business communities.

The event highlighted London's role as one of the world's leading centres for technology and innovation, and Huang announced $1bn of new investment into five UK startups, three of which are headquartered in London.

Future London Growth Fund

On 22 October, I announced the launch of the Future London Growth Fund, backed by the British Business Bank and my investment arm, Funding London, and managed by the FSE Group. The new fund is expected to provide more than £70 million in lending, offering loans of £1 million to £3 million to help ambitious London businesses access the finance they need to grow, innovate and

create jobs. The fund delivers on a key commitment in my London Growth Plan to improve access to finance and support business growth across the capital.

Business engagement and support

During this time, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Growth, Howard Dawber OBE, continued to engage with and support businesses, including:

- On 6 October, attended the British Library event celebrating the success of businesses across London.
- On 7 October, co-hosted with the New London Architecture (NLA), a roundtable on the future of London's commercial office market. The event brought together property owners, developers, investors, local authorities and industry representatives to facilitate an open discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the commercial office sector.
- On 8 October, visited Warburtons' site in Enfield to mark 150 years since Warburtons' first loaf was baked in Bolton in 1876 and discussed the importance of Warburtons Enfield and the sector for the supply of bread and bakery products to households, retailers and local communities.
- On 8 October, delivered a keynote speech at the L&P Green Innovation reception hosted at the NLA, meeting with leaders of green businesses in London.
- On 12 October, attended the British Beauty Week launch and interviewed beauty businesses.
- On 13 October, met with MCR Hotels Chair Tyler Morse to discuss their plans for the redevelopment of the BT Tower.
- On 14 October, spoke at the launch of Opportunity Newham - a new initiative from the London Borough of Newham to ensure that local people benefit from investment and new developments in the borough.
- On 15 October, spoke at the Ealing Festival of Business organised by the West London Chambers of Commerce and joined the festival exhibition featuring 40 stands showcasing local businesses, products and services.
- On 15 October, spoke at a Warwick Business School and Be the Business event celebrating ethnic minority entrepreneurship.
- On 15 October, joined the Oxford Street Development Corporation Board visit of Oxford Street to discuss plans before 'day 1' of pedestrianisation of the street.
- On 19 October, joined the new London and Partners 'Growth Fellows' at the London Centre to discuss London and Partners priorities.
- On 19 October, took part in an 'In Conversation with' the CEO of Centre for Cities, Andrew Carter on the importance of devolution to London.
- On 19 October, spoke at the BusinessLDN dinner "The Budget: The Future of Growth in London" that brought together senior business leaders to look ahead to what the UK Autumn Budget 2026 could mean for London's economy, growth and competitiveness.
- On 20 October, gave the keynote address at a Gardiner & Theobald and Sigma event focussed on delivering digital infrastructure in London.
- On 20 October, attended and spoke at the launch of Cohort 9 of the Grow London Global programme - a programme run by London & Partners which helps scaleup businesses to grow their business internationally and in 2025/26 created £595m in additional GVA for London and is expected to support over 6,600 jobs.

- On 21 October, spoke at the Harley Street Business Improvement District renewal event, marking the launch of its BID Proposal for the 2027–2032 term.
- On 22 October, gave the keynote speech at the London Property Alliance's breakfast briefing to preview their new report "London HQ City". The report showed that London remains Europe's leading corporate HQ destination, attracting three times as many European HQs as any other European city.
- On 22 October, chaired the London Business Forum to discuss UK relations with the European Union and the UK Autumn Budget 2026.
- On 22 October, spoke at a Parliamentary dinner organised by London Square to discuss housing and growth in London.
- On 23 October, spoke at the Rotary Club of Stratford's meeting 'Driving Change 2026: Local Innovation, Global Impact' at City Hall.
- On 3 November, met with VodafoneThree to discuss connectivity in London.
- On 3 November, delivered a keynote speech at the World Travel Market reception at City Hall attended by Ministers and tourism business leaders.
- On 4 November, spoke at an event to mark the topping out of the new Premier Inn building at 5 Strand, set to be one of London's largest hotels.
- On 4 November, met with Andrea Ruckstuhl the CEO of Lendlease to discuss growth in London.
- On 4 November, spoke at the World Economic Forum event on innovation clusters at Imperial College and discussed the London Growth Plan
- On 4 November, met with the MD UK and Ireland of Maersk to discuss the importance of the logistics sector to London's economy.
- On 5 November, spoke at the launch of the Time Out report celebrating 10 years of the night tube and its importance to the night time economy.
- On 5 November, met with businesses from the Latin American community.

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 2 October, met with Cllr Ned Mannoun, Mayor of Liverpool City Council, Western Sydney, Australia, and Jason Breton, CEO of Liverpool City Council.
- On 2 October, met with Nepalese MP and Business Leader Vidushi Rana.
- On 5 October, met with Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Washington DC, Nina Albert.
- On 13 October, met with Australian Capital Territory Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, to discuss areas of mutual interest between London and Canberra.
- On 21 October, met with CEO of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, Mrs Rita Massoud.

Fire

Electrical Safety First (ESF) Gig Economy Report Launch event

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, attended the launch of Electrical Safety First's report, 'Addressing Lithium-ion Battery Fire Risks for Flexible Workers in the Gig Economy', at Portcullis House.

The event brought together researchers, policymakers and industry representatives to discuss the report's findings and the growing risks associated with lithium-ion battery use within the gig economy.

Infrastructure

Dig-Once Approach Guide Launch

I'm pleased to announce the release of the Dig Once Approach Guide from my Infrastructure Coordination Service (ICS).

Publishing this guide is another important step in delivering on my commitment to reduce congestion caused by streetworks.

Leveraging over seven years of pioneering work, delivery experience and industry partnership, this guide provides a framework for promoting collaborative delivery and reducing disruption through collaborative streetworks.

It integrates the knowledge, expertise, and case studies developed through the ICS's work with its partners.

The guide sets out the Dig Once Approach, explaining the core principles across governance, regulations, data, tools, and delivery methods needed to help partners identify opportunities, overcome common barriers, and deliver infrastructure in a way that maximises benefits for Londoners.

This guide is already being used across the sector by the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee, key regulators like Ofgem and Ofwat, and utility partners, both within and beyond London. We are also supporting other cities and Mayoral Strategic Authorities – like the Greater Manchester Combined Authority – to scale and replicate this approach across the rest of the UK.

Culture

BFI London Film Festival Mayor of London Gala

On 12 October, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, I attended the London Film Festival Gala screening of *Ink*, directed by Danny Boyle. Prior to the screening, I joined the film's actors and senior executives from the festival and Film London for photographs and delivered a short speech.

I spoke about my support for the festival as it celebrated its 70th anniversary, the strength of London's screen industries, and the city's role as a global centre for creativity. Through my Creative Economy Growth Programme, Film London will receive £5.8 million in funding over four years (2025-2029) to support London's screen industries.

British Museum Ball

On 17 October, I attended the second British Museum Ball, along with Igor Tulchinsky. The evening brought together 900 guests from art, music, performance and fashion, and was a major moment in London's autumn cultural calendar. This year's Artistic Director was Es Devlin.

The Ball celebrated three major Museum moments: the Bayeux Tapestry – on loan from France and sponsored by Igor Tulchinsky; the USA 250 display; and the Museum's Korea exhibition, which is exploring 2,000 years of creativity.

The inaugural 2025 Ball raised more than £2.5m. All proceeds from this year's ball will support the British Museum's £1 billion redevelopment.

Academy of St Martin in the Fields Announcement

On 23 October, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields (ASMF) announced their acquisition of the London Festival Orchestra business, which owns and operates The Warehouse building in Waterloo, securing its first permanent home, while safeguarding one of London's most vital rehearsal and recording spaces.

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, joined Annie Lydford, chief executive, Callum Given, Director of Social Purpose, and composer Jackie Walduck to mark the occasion.

I provided a £15,000 Making Space for Culture grant to support planning and technical work following ASMF's acquisition of The Warehouse and its operating business. This funding will help ensure the venue can continue to serve London's cultural sector for the long term, supporting musicians, creative organisations and community programmes, while safeguarding an important piece of the capital's cultural infrastructure.

London Borough of Culture Haringey Brand Launch

On 27 October, Haringey Culture Collective, the charity set up by Haringey Council to deliver their programme as my London Borough of Culture 2027, launched their brand identity, Proudly Haringey, and new website www.proudlyharingey.com.

I've awarded Haringey Council £1.35 million to deliver wide-reaching cultural and creative skills development opportunities as part of their year as London Borough of Culture 2027. The website will signpost these opportunities for residents to participate, including jobs, volunteering and joining in with creative and cultural events.

World Cities Culture Forum

From the 28-30 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the World Cities Culture Forum Summit in Tokyo, Japan. This was the 15th Summit of the Forum of which Justine is Founder and Chair. Hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the summit brought together leaders from more than 45 cities to exchange ideas around this year's theme *The Human City: Is culture the infrastructure of the future?*

Discussions focussed on how culture can help cities tackle inequality, delivering arts and health at scale, dismantling barriers for disabled artists, AI and the future of culture, supporting sustainable tourism, and building more inclusive communities. This summit reinforced London's commitment to international cultural collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Communities

Sites of Memory Announcement

On 23 October, I announced that The Wake, London's new memorial to honour enslaved Africans who were trafficked as part of the transatlantic slave trade, has been granted planning permission to be established outside the London Museum Docklands at West India Quay. Securing planning permission means that works can now begin to realise this seven-metre-high bronze cowrie shell installation. I also announced the 10 community groups who have received funding through the Sites of Memory programme to uncover the stories and connections that link their local areas to the impact of the transatlantic slavery. With thanks to support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, 10 community groups across nine London boroughs will receive £10,000 to support community research and suggest new places for memorial markers.

My Deputy Mayor, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke at the launch event for the programme, which will enable organisations to deliver a range of activities, including walking tours and exhibitions, to deepen understanding of Transatlantic Slavery and its long-lasting legacy.

Meeting with Trans Legal Clinic

On 30 September, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met with the Trans Legal Clinic. The meeting was an opportunity to understand the key concerns of Trans Londoners and to reaffirm my commitment to ensuring London remains a beacon for openness, inclusion, equality and LGBTQI+ Rights.

Visit to Open Age to mark International Day of Older Persons

On 1 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Open Age at the Second Half Centre in RB Kensington and Chelsea to celebrate the International Day of Older People. Debbie heard from older Londoners about the positive impact of having access to vibrant community spaces.

EDI Advisory Group Meeting

On 8 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the third EDI Advisory Group meeting of the year. The Group discussed two key priorities: strengthening communities across London and shaping the refresh of my Equality Objectives.

Drawing on their expertise and experience, members provided robust insight into the challenges facing London's communities and identified issues that the group could explore together over the year ahead. They also provided feedback on the framework that will drive delivery of my EDI objectives. The EDI Advisory Group will continue to play a critical role in providing advice, challenge, and support in reviewing progress on the objectives.

Visit to the Movement for Recovery London Summit

On 13 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the Movement for Recovery London Summit at St Paul's Hammersmith. Debbie spoke about the vital contribution of faith communities to tackling poverty, supporting children and families, and building resilient communities. The Summit brought together church leaders, charities, civic partners and community organisations to explore how faith communities and other sectors can work together to support Londoners.

Visit to the Anti-Tribalism Movement's Black History Month event

On 14 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Culture House, one of the Loved and Wanted Community Spaces that I fund, for the launch of the 'Tides of Change' exhibition. This exhibition is hosted by the Anti-Tribalism Movement as part of Black History Month.

My Deaf and Disabled People's Organisation (DDPO) Forum

On 5 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the DDPO Forum, which focused on the implementation of my Action Plan for Deaf and Disabled Londoners. Members shared their thoughts on how we can best monitor the impact of the Plan and shape the new Lived Experience Co-chair and Disability Commissioner roles. We'll continue to engage with the DDPO Forum to ensure they are able to provide regular feedback on the implementation of my Action Plan.

UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism

From 28 October to 30 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination in The Hague, alongside representatives from global cities and organisations committed to tackling racism and discrimination.

Debbie participated in panel discussions and high-level meetings exploring social cohesion challenges facing cities such as London and highlighted City Hall's initiatives, programmes and policies, which aim to address inequality, discrimination, and racism.

Debbie also emphasised London's role in advancing global efforts to tackle racism by drawing on the capital's diversity, international partnerships, and engagement with communities to ensure they have a meaningful voice in shaping mayoral policies.

Health

NHS Blood and Transplant launch new blood mobile at Emirates Stadium

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the launch of NHS Blood and Transplant's new bloodmobile initiative. Debbie donated blood and highlighted the need for regular blood donors, which is particularly critical in London. London has the highest number of sickle cell patients in the UK, disproportionately impacting people of Black heritage.

Over the next 12 months, the bloodmobile will be visiting locations across London to help reach more donors and increase donations from Londoners of Black heritage. This is especially important for patients living with sickle cell disorder who rely on closely matched blood for their treatment. Debbie and I are proud to support this initiative, which makes it easier for Londoners to donate blood by bringing opportunities directly to communities.

Young London

Hoppers Workshop at Shoreditch Park Primary School

On 7 October, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, visited Shoreditch Park Primary School in Hackney to take part in a healthy eating workshop delivered by Hoppers.

During the visit, Joanne met pupils and school staff, took part in a question-and-answer session about healthy eating, and joined a practical food workshop where children learned how to make a healthy lassi.

The visit provided an opportunity to see how schools are helping children develop positive relationships with food and learn about healthy lifestyles from an early age. Joanne heard directly from pupils about the importance of eating well and the role schools can play in supporting healthy habits.

The workshop highlighted the importance of my Universal Free School Meals programme, which has funded more than 130 million meals for primary school children across London, and is helping ensure children have access to nutritious food during the school day.

The Childhood Lottery report launch

On 19 October, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, spoke at the launch of The Childhood Lottery, a new report by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England. The event brought together policymakers, practitioners and young people to explore how access to services, opportunities and support can vary depending on where a child grows up, and the impact this can have on children's lives and futures.

Joanne joined a panel discussion alongside Georgia Gould MP, Professor Peter Fonagy CBE, Assistant Commissioner Laurence Taylor KPM, and other leaders from across the public sector. She also heard directly from the Children's Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors about their experiences of navigating services and the importance of ensuring young people's voices are reflected in decision-making.

The event highlighted the importance of partnership working to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for children and young people. Through initiatives including universal free school meals, mental health support in schools, mentoring programmes, youth services and the London Opportunity Mission, I remain committed to making London the best city in the world to grow up in, working to give every child the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or postcode.

Mental Health in Schools programme visit at London Design Engineering University Technical College

On 21 October, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, visited London Design & Engineering University Technical College (UTC) in Newham to learn more about the school's engagement with my support for mental health in schools. During the visit, Joanne met with school leaders, staff and pupils, and took part in a roundtable discussion on the importance of supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Joanne heard first-hand about the school's work to embed a whole-school approach to mental health, including initiatives to strengthen staff support, reflective practice and student wellbeing. She also spoke with pupils about their experiences of mental health support in school and the importance of creating an environment where young people feel supported, included and able to thrive.

London Design & Engineering UTC is one of 16 schools across 7 London boroughs benefiting from my £810,000 investment in mental health in schools, delivered in partnership with Anna Freud. We have been supporting schools to strengthen their pupils' mental health and wellbeing through

prevention and early intervention, helping ensure young Londoners have the support they need to succeed both in and beyond the classroom.

Mayor's Fund for London 10th Anniversary event

On 22 October, alongside Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, and Mete Coban, and my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, I attended a celebration marking ten years of the Mayor's Fund for London's impact supporting young Londoners. The event brought together young people, community partners, funders, businesses and political stakeholders to reflect on the charity's achievements and the role that partnership working plays in creating opportunities for young people across the capital.

During the event, Joanne, Mete and I met young people whose lives have been positively impacted by the charity's work and heard first-hand about the difference that access to skills development, employability support, healthy food and positive activities has made to their lives. Guests also heard from young Londoners participating in a Q&A discussion about their experiences and ambitions for the future. Mete also took part in a rapid-fire Q&A session with two young people who had been supported by the Fund.

Over the past decade, the Mayor's Fund for London has supported more than half a million young people through programmes designed to improve opportunities, build confidence and help them fulfil their potential. The event highlighted the importance of long-term investment in young people and communities, and the role that businesses, charities, funders and public sector partners can play in helping create pathways to education, employment and future success.

Rally Together London

On 30 October, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, attended the Rally Together London festival at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The event brought together around 100 young people from community venues across London, alongside coaches, activators and community organisations, to celebrate participation, leadership and the opportunities that sport can create for young Londoners.

During the festival, Joanne met young participants, coach trainees, activators and community organisations to hear about their experiences and the impact of the programme. The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate the skills, confidence and leadership being developed through community sport, while highlighting the importance of creating accessible pathways for young people to play, volunteer, coach and lead. Through partnerships such as Rally Together London, I remain committed to widening access to sport, improving opportunities for young Londoners and making London the best city in the world to grow up in.

Go! London Foundation Fund: Focused Round

On 3 November, I announced the launch of the Go! London Foundation Fund: Focused Round, a targeted grants programme designed to reach groups of underserved young Londoners that have been underrepresented in previous funding rounds. The programme will provide grants to specialist organisations supporting young people who are care-experienced, LGBTQ+, affected by domestic violence or abuse, at risk of or experiencing homelessness, or who have experience of the criminal justice system. Through sport, physical activity and tailored wraparound support, the fund aims to improve wellbeing, safety, employability and social connection for young Londoners facing complex challenges.

Go! London x Mayors Migration Council Fund

On 3 November, I launched a new Go! London funding round with the Mayor's Migration Council to support migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people through physical activity and sport. The fund will invest in projects that help young people feel welcome in their communities, build social connections, improve wellbeing, and access pathways into education, training, volunteering and employment. By combining physical activity and sport with tailored wraparound support, the programme will help young Londoners develop the skills, confidence and networks needed to achieve their future aspirations.

Resilience

London Resilience Summit

On 12 October, I opened the London Resilience Summit at City Hall, bringing together almost 250 representatives from emergency services, local government, infrastructure operators, community organisations, businesses and academia to discuss how we can strengthen London's resilience.

The Summit provided an opportunity to share learning and explore how organisations can work together more effectively in response to an increasingly complex and interconnected risk environment, ranging from extreme weather and infrastructure disruption to the local impacts of global events and geopolitical instability.

Delegates heard from resilience leaders from across the UK and internationally, including former Administrator of the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deanne Criswell, and took part in a programme of discussions and workshops.

By bringing together organisations and communities from across London and beyond, the Summit helped strengthen the relationships, partnerships and shared understanding that underpin resilience in the capital. Insights from the day's discussions will help inform the ongoing work of the London Resilience Forum and its partners as they continue to strengthen London's preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies.

Events

Black History Month Reception

On 6 October, I was joined by my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, to host our annual Black History Month Reception.

Following the national theme, this year's theme, 'Honouring Our Communities', highlighted the incredible contributions that Black Londoners make to our great city.

Symeon Brown chaired a thought-provoking panel discussion with Professor Gus John, Jacqueline McKenzie, Yomi Adegoke, and Olivia Francis-Conibert, exploring experiences of racism and belonging, the dynamics of representation and power, and the valuable lessons we can learn from those who paved the way before us.

Curated by award-winning journalist and Black on the Square Community Advisory Group member Nadine White, "Pressing Forward: Black British Media Through the Ages" was an inspiring exhibition that celebrated the rich history of Black British media, exploring the people, publications, and platforms that have amplified Black British stories across generations.

The event brought together more than 200 Londoners from across the capital, including academics, entrepreneurs, change makers, community leaders, public sector representatives, volunteers, and members of grassroots organisations. Guests enjoyed performances from the Pantonic Steel Orchestra, The Velvet Chorus, and a powerful reading of *Contributions* by Kareem Parkins-Brown. Throughout the evening, DJ Monikah Lee kept the atmosphere lively, with music that had guests singing and dancing in celebration. The event highlighted the rich diversity, talent and creativity that makes our city stronger.

The event also brought together employers, policymakers, community organisations, young people and business leaders working to progress race equity in the workplace. Black leaders shared the importance of mentorship and sponsorship in their careers and attendees heard directly from young people about their experiences of entering the workplace and what employers can do differently.

People's Question Time

On 21 October, I was joined by members of the London Assembly for People's Question Time at Islington Assembly Hall. The event was delivered in hybrid format, with both an in-person and on-line audience, and chaired by ITV news broadcaster, Charlene White. I provided an address to the audience, alongside Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM, who spoke on behalf of the London Assembly as Deputy Chair.

My Team London Ambassadors volunteered to support the delivery of the event and played a key role in supporting members of the public to ask the questions that mattered to them during the conversation. The event was a success with just under 250 Londoners attending in person to hear from myself and London Assembly Members.

Diwali on the Square

On 25 October, Diwali on the Square, the capital's annual celebration of Diwali, was due to take place in Trafalgar Square. However, following a recommendation from independent event health and safety experts, we took the decision to cancel the event due to forecast severe weather conditions that prevented the safe build and set-up of the site.

Delivered in partnership with the volunteer-led Diwali in London Committee, the event was scheduled to bring together Londoners and visitors from around the world to celebrate the Festival of Lights through a programme of dance, music, cultural activities and food, with performances and activities representing London's Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities.

The decision followed consultation with event safety leads, production partners, internal teams and the Diwali in London Committee, with the safety of all those involved in delivering and attending the event remaining the primary consideration.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Park Champions Annual Celebration

A special celebration event was held on 5 October to mark the 14th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's Park Champions volunteer programme. Park Champions, together with partners including idverde, University College of London and University of the Arts London, came together to recognise the contribution volunteers make in supporting events, conservation activities, mobility services, guided tours and educational visits across the Park.

Since its launch, the Park Champions programme has contributed more than 1,741 volunteer days. This year alone, volunteers have supported 18 major events, assisted more than 15,100 visitors at the Information Point and provided mobility support to over 3,060 visitors.

Copper Box Arena Events

The Copper Box Arena continues to host a busy programme of sporting and entertainment events. The London Lions men's and women's basketball teams continue to play their home fixtures at the venue throughout the current season, which runs until April.

On 10 October, the arena also hosted a Misfits Boxing event, bringing another major live entertainment event to the Park and demonstrating the venue's versatility as a leading destination for world-class sport, entertainment and community events.

Sultan of Oman State Visit

On 22 October, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was honoured to welcome His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, as part of his official State Visit to the United Kingdom. The visit marked the first State Visit by a Sultan of Oman in 44 years, with the Park selected as a destination on the final day of the visit programme.

Hosted by Here East and Plexal, the visit provided an opportunity to showcase the Park's thriving innovation ecosystem and the pioneering work taking place across the area, highlighting businesses and innovators driving breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, space technology, clean energy and life sciences.

The visit further reinforced the Park's growing international reputation as a leading centre for innovation, while demonstrating the global reach and impact of businesses, entrepreneurs and research institutions based in east London.

Swimming World Cup 2027 Host Announcement

On 22 October, it was announced that the London Aquatics Centre will host the final leg of the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2027 from 29 to 31 October 2027.

The event will bring many of the world's leading swimmers to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and provide athletes with an opportunity to secure qualification places for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. It will be the first major international swimming competition of this scale to be held in Great Britain since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The announcement further strengthens the Park's reputation as a premier destination for world-class sporting events and demonstrates the enduring legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with venues continuing to attract major international competitions more than a decade after the Games.

Stratford Business Rate Retention Zone Announcement

On 28 October, The Rt Hon John Healey MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the designation of Stratford as a Business Rate Retention Zone, marking a significant milestone for east London and unlocking substantial investment in both Stratford Station and Stratford International.

This designation follows many years of work to build a compelling case for investment in Stratford's transport infrastructure. Throughout this period, I've consistently championed the

importance of improving connectivity in Stratford, recognising its vital role in supporting growth across east London and the wider capital.

The investment will help unlock new homes, jobs and business opportunities, support economic growth across London and the UK, and strengthen London's position as a leading global city. It will also ensure that Stratford is well placed to accommodate future growth while improving connectivity and accessibility for residents, workers and visitors.

Inclusive Access at London Aquatics Centre

London Aquatics Centre has become the only venue in the world to have a Poolpod 3.0 installed across all three of its pools, further reinforcing its position as a leader in accessible sport and leisure. The specialist system enables wheelchair users and people with limited mobility to enter and exit the water safely and independently, helping to remove barriers to participation and improve access to swimming for all.

The investment reflects the London Aquatics Centre's commitment to accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that a world-class sporting venue can be enjoyed by as many people as possible. By enhancing independent access to its facilities, the Centre continues to support wider participation in swimming and aquatic activities regardless of mobility needs.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Old Oak joint venture partner procurement

On 12 October, OPDC reached a significant milestone in its procurement for a joint venture partner to help deliver the regeneration of Old Oak, with three bidders shortlisted to progress to the next stage of the competitive process. The shortlist follows a robust evaluation of initial tenders against published criteria, supported by a multidisciplinary panel and independent advisers.

The selected partner will play a key role in delivering OPDC's vision for Old Oak, including new homes, jobs and wider economic growth. A preferred partner expected to be announced in spring 2027.

Engagement on proposed walking, cycling and public realm improvements in North Acton and Park Royal

On 16 October, OPDC launched a public engagement programme seeking feedback on proposed active and healthy travel improvements to the 'Big X' Junction in Park Royal and the North Acton Gyratory.

The 'Big X' refers to the four main roads through Park Royal: Park Royal Road, Abbey Road, Coronation Road and Acton Lane.

OPDC is working with Ealing Council, Brent Council and Transport for London to deliver improvements to the roads and public spaces that make up the North Acton Gyratory and the Big X Junction, to make walking and cycling safer, improve pavements and crossings, deliver cycle lanes and create space for planting and trees.

New mural artwork in Park Royal

On 23 October, OPDC unveiled *Park Royal: Then and Now*, a new mural at Masons Green Lane Subway.

Commissioned and funded by OPDC and designed by local artist Andrew Werdna, the artwork has transformed the subway into a vibrant entrance for Park Royal.

Andrew and his team were inspired by the local area and the local community, and the design of the mural draws on the area's local landmarks and rich industrial history. At the unveiling event, OPDC's Chief Executive Matthew Carpen visited the subway with London Assembly Member Hina Bokhari, artist Andrew Werdna and local ward councillors to see the artwork, celebrate its completion and hear the story of how it all came together. The mural forms part of OPDC's early activation programme, which includes artwork, public wayfinding and the meanwhile use of sites, inspired by and created for, our local communities.

New OPDC website

On 3 November, OPDC launched its new corporate website. Over the past year, OPDC has worked with specialist agency Williams Commerce to design and build the new website. The website has been developed to offer the best customer journey for people visiting and provides a window into the organisation, offering clear concise information on what OPDC does, the impact it has and the how people can get involved.

Planning and Regeneration

London Plan

On 15 October, consultation closed on my draft London Plan. Officers are now reviewing the responses received.

Local Plans

On 7 October, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service, Jule Pipe, held a representation hearing at City Hall for the redevelopment of Shoreditch Works in London Borough of Hackney to provide 78 homes (including 35% affordable housing), 57,165 square metres of office and employment floorspace (including 2,248 square metres of affordable workspace) and resolved to grant planning permission (subject to completion of a s106 legal agreement) and listed building consent.

On 9 October, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service, Jule Pipe, held a representation hearing at City Hall for the redevelopment of Stoney Wood Quarter in London Borough of Barnet to provide 463 homes (including 49.86% affordable) and resolved to grant planning permission (subject to completion of a s106 legal agreement).

Launch of Green Street Library and Community Rooms

10 October saw the opening of Green Street Library in Newham, marking the completion of a six-year, £3.2 million investment from my flagship Good Growth Fund to regenerate Queen's Market and Green Street area.

Working in partnership with the local community, the new design by office S&M Architects replaces the old library nearby, bringing it into the heart of the town centre and doubling its size to provide enhanced learning, digital, workspace and community facilities for young people, local businesses and start-ups.

Alongside the library, significant improvements to Queen's Market, including refurbished interiors, upgraded facilities, new signage and public realm enhancements at Queens Square, are helping to

restore the historic market as a vibrant civic, cultural and commercial destination, strengthening Green Street as a thriving centre for residents, visitors and businesses alike.

High Streets for All Day

On 5 October, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and the Fire Service, Jules Pipe, attended High Streets for All Day at City Hall. The event was organised by the City + Place Unit as part of my High Street Network, convening over 150 representatives from London boroughs, community organisations and the built environment sector to learn about the latest socio-economic evidence on the state of London's high streets, share learning and practical tools to accessing and reactivating spaces and buildings, and to look ahead to the next phase of partnership working.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

GLA Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2026/0473	Abbey Retail Park	Barking and Dagenham	19/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0445	Railway Hotel And Forumside	Barnet	20/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2026/0472	Unity Place	Brent	21/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0448	Addington Sports Club	Bromley	20/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2026/0457	150 – 164 Homerton High Street	Hackney	20/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2026/0435	Hornchurch Cardrome	Havering	05/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the
2026/0431	Lever House	Kingston upon Thames	05/10/2026	
2026/0444	Brockwell Park	Lambeth	14/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0493	Brockwell Park	Lambeth	20/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0526	Apollo Business Centre	Lewisham	20/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0449	London Stadium	Newham	05/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0433	Abbey Rose	Southwark	05/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2026/0437	56-58 Marsh Wall	Tower Hamlets	20/10/2026	No Strategic Issues

2026/0439	Crossharbour District Centre	Tower Hamlets	05/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2026/0481	Former Poplar Bus Depot	Tower Hamlets	19/10/2026	No Strategic Issues
2026/0436	17 Leicester Square	Westminster	05/10/2026	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

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
2025/0715	Hasmonean High School	Barnet	26/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0461	Former Lewisham College	Greenwich	14/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2026/0182	Land at Falcon House	Hounslow	26/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2026/0052	Brixton Station Road	Lambeth	05/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/0463	Former Lewisham College	Lewisham	14/10/2026	Allow LPA to refuse
2025/0714	Newton Industrial Estate	Redbridge	05/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2025/1016	Bankside House	Southwark	19/10/2026	Allow LPA to approve
2026/0042	Bermondsey Place, Phases 2 and 3	Southwark	26/10/2026	Call in application
2026/0295	Borough Triangle	Southwark	05/10/2026	Call in application
2026/0045	Standon House	Tower Hamlets	05/10/2026	
26/0206	Former LEB Building, 255- 279 Cambridge Heath Road	Tower Hamlets	26/10/2026	Allow LPA to refuse

Key engagements

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

- I met with the Chair and CEO of OPDC on 5 October
- I spoke at LSE/Bloomberg conference of European Mayors on 5 October
- I met with No10 North on 6 October
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 6 October
- I hosted the GLA Black History Month reception on 6 October
- I joined the opening of 90s: Art & Fashion Exhibition at the Tate Britain on 6 October
- I met with the Foreign Secretary on 7 October
- I spoke at the official opening of EbonyLife London on 8 October
- I attended the 40th Anniversary performance of Phantom of the Opera on 9 October
- I attended the NFL Philadelphia Eagles v Jacksonville Jaguars game on 11 October
- I spoke at the London Resilience Summit on 12 October
- I met with the Secretary of State for Housing on 12 October
- I attended the Mayor's Film Gala on 12 October
- I attended the National Security Council Meeting on Antisemitism on 13 October
- I attended a NVIDIA UK event and met with CEO Jensen Huang on 14 October
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 October
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 15 October
- I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 15 October
- I spoke at the London Transport Museum Annual Dinner on 15 October
- I attended the British Museum Ball on 17 October
- I held my regular Planning Meeting on 19 October
- I attended a celebration of the life of Jason Arday on 19 October
- I met with the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions on 20 October
- I attended Peoples Question Time on 21 October
- I joined a meeting of Mayors with No10 North on 22 October
- I met with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 October
- I spoke at an event to mark 10 years of the Mayor's Fund for London on 22 October
- I visited a VRU funded programme for students on 23 October
- I met with the Chancellor on 23 October
- I officially marked the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street on 26 October
- I attended the 70th Ballon d'Or Ceremony on 26 October
- I met with Kilmer Sports Group on 27 October
- I met with the Indian High Commissioner to the UK on 27 October
- I joined a Mayors call with HM Treasury on 28 October
- I spoke at Black Tech Fest on 29 October
- I marked London Poppy Day at Westminster Tube Station on 29 October
- I visited Antepliler Kunefe on 29 October
- I marked 50 years of the National Theatre on 30 October
- I spoke at the UK-India Creative Industries Diwali reception on 30 October
- I met with the Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice on 2 November

- I visited Blue Note Jazz Club with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 3 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 5 November
- I met with the Met AC on Counter Terrorism on 5 November
- I attended the Assembly Policing Plenary on 5 November