

How the
London Assembly
works for you



LONDONASSEMBLY

YOUR LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBERS 2019-2020



Tony Arbour AM
GLA Conservatives



Jennette Arnold AM
Labour Group



Gareth Bacon AM
GLA Conservatives



Shaun Bailey AM
GLA Conservatives



Siân Berry AM
City Hall Greens



Andrew Boff AM
GLA Conservatives



Léonie Cooper AM
Labour Group



Tom Copley AM
Labour Group



Unmesh Desai AM
Labour Group



Tony Devenish AM
GLA Conservatives



Andrew Dismore AM
Labour Group



Len Duvall AM
Labour Group



Florence Eshalomi AM
Labour Group



Nicky Gavron AM
Labour Group



Susan Hall AM
GLA Conservatives



David Kurten AM
Brexit Alliance Group



Joanne McCartney AM
Labour Group



Steve O'Connell AM
GLA Conservatives



Caroline Pidgeon AM
Liberal Democrat



Keith Price AM
GLA Conservatives



Caroline Russell AM
City Hall Greens



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Labour Group



Navin Shah AM
Labour Group



Fiona Twycross AM
Labour Group



Peter Whittle AM
Brexit Alliance Group

This annual report covers the Assembly's last year of activity from May 2019 - March 2020. On Page 44 you can find an updated list of Assembly Members and the map.



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Jennette Arnold AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2019-2020



The past twelve months have been an incredibly busy year for the London Assembly. Our primary focus has been to scrutinise the work of the Mayor and a range of organisations that provide some of London's key services—Transport for London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Fire Commissioner and the London Fire Brigade— to ensure they are delivering for Londoners.

As part of this, our committees have produced reports addressing issues as diverse as hate crime, the accessibility of the London's transport network, domestic abuse, tube dust and gender inequalities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We scrutinised the Mayor's actions at Mayor's Question Time and met with thousands of Londoners at People's Question Time, site visits, committee meetings and in our constituencies.

Assembly Members have continued to champion the causes that matter to Londoners, like the loneliness epidemic affecting our city and the urgent need for the establishment of a Domestic Abusers Register. In March, we celebrated International Women's Day 2020 at City Hall, with inspiring stories from a host of distinguished women.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic saw the Mayoral and Assembly elections in May postponed until 2021. Elected in 2000, I was due to step down along with a considerable number of colleagues. Despite this unexpected turn of events, Assembly Members have stepped up to the new challenge. We continue our work holding the Mayor to account and representing the interests of Londoners until the new election date next year.

It has been an immense honour to be Chair of the London Assembly on five separate occasions since its inception two decades ago. Our city has celebrated some of its proudest achievements and mourned some of its darkest moments during this time. I am deeply humbled to have been able to play a part throughout this story.



INTRODUCTION

Navin Shah AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2020-2021



This year marks twenty years on from the establishment of the GLA and the London Assembly. I am proud of the way in which our work has shaped London over this period. As we look to respond to the devastating impact of COVID-19 across our city, it is more important than ever that Assembly Members provide constructive challenge to the actions and decisions of the Mayor. COVID-19 will have a deep and lasting impact on our city and we must come together, as we have at times of crisis before, to enable London to recover and rebuild in a way that makes the capital an even better place to live.

The Assembly's focus for the year ahead is on London's response to COVID-19. The pandemic has completely transformed our way of life. Touted as the great leveller, it has worsened existing problems for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, a reality that is particularly evident in the detrimental impact on BAME communities. Looking ahead, the Assembly will continue to listen to and stand up for Londoners. We commit to asking the difficult questions that need answering and embodying diversity and inclusion in all our work.

At the Assembly's AGM in May, Jennette Arnold stood down as Chair. It has been a great privilege to work with Jennette over the past year. She has been a tireless public servant for London and has always stood up for Londoners. I would also like to welcome Alison Moore and Murad Qureshi to their roles as Assembly Members. They replace Tom Copley and Fiona Twycross who stood down as Londonwide Members in May to take on roles as the Deputy Mayor for Housing and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience respectively. We wish them both well in their new roles and will continue to work with them in the interests of our great city.

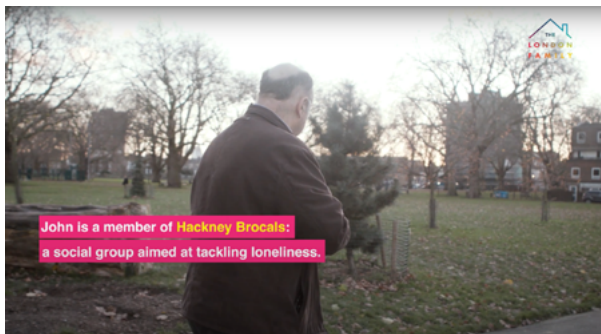


ACHIEVEMENTS

- We investigated **hate crime** in the capital, highlighting that up to 50 hate crimes are reported a day in London. We spoke to ex-England footballer Carlton Cole about his experience of hate crime and recommended that the Mayor put in place arrangements to gather detailed data on the charging, prosecution and conviction rates for each specific strand of hate crime.
- We found that London has almost three times the amount of **modern slavery** cases than any other region or country in the UK. We called for the Mayor to work with partners to develop a coherent strategy for modern slavery, specific to London.
- We continued our long-standing campaign against the **expansion of Heathrow airport** and were delighted when the High Court ruled in February 2020 that a third runway should not go ahead.
- We shone a light on **domestic abuse** amidst an alarming rise in offences across London. We supported MPs in the House of Commons to introduce an amendment to the Domestic Abuse Bill calling for a Register for serial stalkers and domestic abuse offenders.



- We analysed the catalogue of factors which contributed to **Crossrail's** rising costs and on-going delay. We made a series of recommendations to ensure it is completed successfully, with learnings for future large-scale infrastructure projects.
- Working with stakeholders from across London, we launched a cross-party campaign calling upon the Mayor to tackle **loneliness** in our city, securing support from Age UK, the British Legion and the Campaign to End Loneliness.



- We questioned former Fire Commissioner, Dany Cotton, about the London Fire Brigade's response to the **Grenfell Tower fire**, and what improvements could be made to firefighter training in London. We continue to lobby for funding to replace or retrofit flammable cladding in properties across London.
- We carried out an investigation into **accessible and inclusive transport** and received a record number of submissions from individuals, charities and transport groups. We recommended that transport companies should embed inclusive design principles into all aspects of the transport system.
- Over the past year, Assembly Members asked over 4,700 Mayoral Questions on a diverse range of constituency and Londonwide issues.

MOTIONS

These are statements put forward by individual Assembly Members and agreed by the whole of the Assembly, sometimes unanimously but sometimes by majority.

Among the highlights this year:

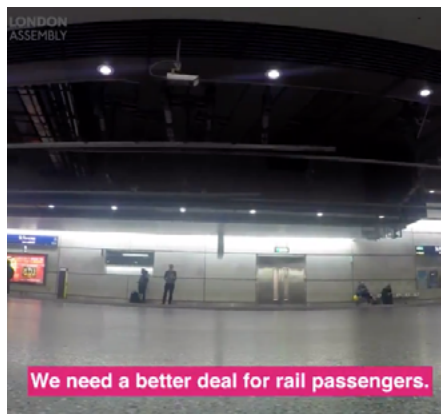
Heathrow Airport expansion



Plastic consumption



Rail devolution



LGBTQI+ inclusive education



PrEP drug



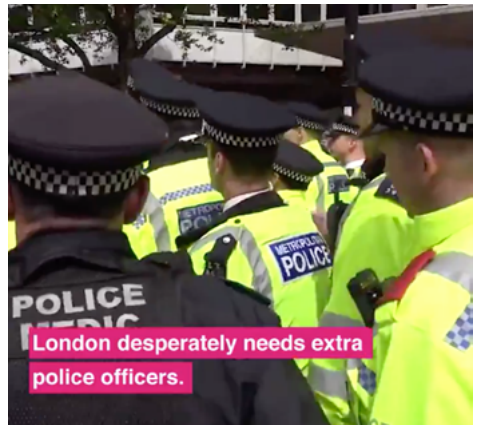
Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill



TfL staff trained to assist passengers with disabilities



Police funding



Police and Crime

The Police and Crime Committee questions the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime, and the Met on crime-related topics impacting London and Londoners. This year, the Committee investigated the types of crime that have been on the rise in London.

The Committee found that there were up to 50 hate crimes a day in London. The Committee recommended that the Mayor should set out how he is regularly and proactively raising awareness of hate crime among all Londoners. The Committee urged the Mayor to consider working with organisations such as sporting and cultural institutions to encourage them to promote awareness of hate crime and how to prevent it, and to counter divisive messages. The Committee also called on the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to commission a properly funded pan-London hate crime advocacy service for victims.



Like hate crime, there has been a rise in modern slavery in London. Following an investigation, the Committee found that London has almost three times the number of modern slavery cases than any other region or country in the UK. The Committee wrote to the Mayor recommending that he should task the London Modern Slavery Partnership Board with developing a coherent strategy for modern slavery, specific to London, to give it clarity of purpose and help drive forward partnership work. The Committee called on the Met to ensure that more detectives are assigned to the Specialist Crimes and Vulnerabilities Unit to improve its response to, and investigation of, human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Committee's investigation into domestic abuse offences in London found that in 2011, there were around 46,000 domestic abuse offences recorded by the Met compared to just over 85,000 in 2018. At the end of 2019, there were 90,000 domestic abuse offences recorded by the Met. It is widely acknowledged

that domestic abuse is an underreported crime and that the true number of offences is likely to be far higher. The Committee published

a report making a number of recommendations on how the Mayor can improve the response to domestic abuse and improve service provision for victims across London. One of the recommendations called on the Mayor and MOPAC to continue to support the Assembly's work in lobbying for the introduction of a Domestic Abusers Register and consider options for piloting a register in London.



Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning

The Fire, Resilience, and Emergency Planning Committee spent the majority of the year questioning the London Fire Brigade on lessons learned from the tragic Grenfell Tower fire.

In 2019, there were three reports published on the London Fire Brigade's response on the night of the Grenfell Tower fire, including a progress review by the London Fire Brigade. On the day of the report's publication by the London Assembly, the Committee questioned the former London Fire Commissioner, Dany Cotton on its conclusions. The report raised significant questions on how the force responded to the Grenfell Tower fire but also on what could have been done beforehand to better prepare employees of the London Fire Brigade including the training programme for firefighters.



Following the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, the Committee held an extraordinary meeting to question the London Fire Brigade on the findings of the Inquiry and its plans to address the criticism it received. The Committee will continue this questioning as the Grenfell Tower Inquiry continues.

The Committee held a further extraordinary meeting following the news that Dany Cotton was retiring from her role as London Fire Commissioner. The Committee voted to approve the appointment of Andy Roe, as the new London Fire Commissioner, to lead the London Fire Brigade through a challenging period of transition.

The Committee then met with Andy Roe to discuss his plans for leading the London Fire Brigade and ensuring change within the service. The Commissioner presented his transition plan to the Committee and discussed in detail proposals to improve every workstream within the force, with a particular focus on firefighter training. This piece of scrutiny is ongoing and will be led by the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee in 2020-2021.



Travel

The Transport Committee examines all aspects of the capital's transport system in order to press for improvements for Londoners. As with previous years, this has included in-depth sessions with the Deputy Mayor for Transport and the Commissioner of Transport for London. Through these vital sessions, the Transport Committee examines the Mayor and Transport for London's progress in delivering an affordable and reliable transport system that works for all Londoners.

The Transport Committee has continued its close scrutiny of Crossrail, given ongoing delays to the delivery of this vital addition to London's transport network. This work builds on the detailed examination that the Committee has done on this topic, captured in its report of April 2019.¹ Since this report, the Transport Committee has held follow up meetings with Crossrail chiefs and the project representative, and received regular update reports on the project's progress and its safety record. It also held a public meeting with the Mayor of London, the Deputy Mayor for Transport, the Commissioner of Transport for London conducted a site visit to Bond Street – one of the unopened Crossrail stations.

The Committee carried out an investigation into accessible and inclusive transport, which received a record number of submissions



from individuals, charities and transport groups. A well-attended open-mic forum also ensured that user voices were heard, which greatly contributed to the report's findings. The Committee recommended that Transport for London should add Thameslink to the Tube map, as it is a fully accessible service, and that transport companies should embed inclusive design principles into all aspects of the transport system.



London's transport network needs to evolve as the city grows and the living and working patterns of Londoners change. The Committee outlined key areas for the Mayor of London and Transport for London to concentrate on in its report, 'Transport Now and in the Future', in order to ensure the right transport infrastructure is in place and that London remains a city where people can quickly and easily travel around. The recommendations included a call on the Mayor and Transport for London to carry out an urgent review of micro-mobility vehicles, and to continue to lobby for devolution of suburban rail franchises to help deliver a metro-style suburban rail service for Londoners.



Environment

The Environment Committee investigated key issues throughout the year including the impact of the Heathrow and City Airport expansion, the affect of the climate emergency on Londoners, and Tube dust.

The Environment Committee spent much of this year campaigning against the expansion of airports in London. The Assembly, as a whole, has long been opposed to the expansion of Heathrow Airport. When a public consultation opened into the expansion of Heathrow Airport, the Assembly reiterated its



strong opposition to a third runway. The Committee also raised concerns about the proposed plans to expand London City Airport and responded to the public consultation outlining why the expansion should not go ahead.

The London Assembly has previously passed a motion calling on the Mayor to declare a climate emergency, supported by specific plans with the actions needed to make London carbon neutral by 2030. The Environment Committee held two open-forum sessions with community representatives and policy experts to understand how London can prepare for the impact of the climate emergency and extreme weather. The meetings focused on heatwaves and drought, extreme rainfall,

energy efficiency, and clean energy in London's homes and communities. Following the meeting, the Committee published a report which made a number of recommendations to the current and successive Mayors. These included measures to enhance water use, flood and heat risk awareness activities, build skills and workforce capacity in the retrofit and energy efficiency sector, and support more community energy programmes to get off the ground.

Tube dust was another significant investigation for the Environment Committee this year. The Committee went to a London Underground station to understand how the stations, lines, and tunnels are cleaned to help improve the air quality on the Tube. The Committee further questioned TfL on the levels of harmful particles in Tube dust, including arsenic and chromium VI. Correspondence between TfL and the Committee have been ongoing, and it is expected that Tube dust will remain a topic of interest in the new Assembly year.

LONDON
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Economy

The Economy Committee investigated economic issues that matter to Londoners, such as low-pay and in-work poverty, the low-carbon economy, and the impact of Britain leaving the EU on London.

In early 2020, the Committee held an investigation into low-pay and in-work poverty in London. Data from London's Poverty Profile shows that 1.3 million Londoners in poverty live as part of a working family, which is a 50 per cent increase over the last decade.

Following a meeting with experts, the Committee published a report which urged the Mayor to include supporting transition back into the labour market as one of the listed priorities in the Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund prospectus for future rounds of funding applications. We recommended that this should focus on groups at risk of being in low paid work or in in-work poverty.



The Committee also focused on the future of skills in a low-carbon circular economy. A core aspect of the Mayor's commitment to making London a zero-carbon city by 2050, is the need to transition to a low-carbon, circular economy. To achieve this, London will need a dynamic skills system that can meet the changing demands of businesses and provide Londoners with a fair chance to access new employment opportunities. Following the Committee's investigation, a report was published which recommended that the Mayor should use the Adult Education Budget to provide funding for retraining employees with a view to assisting London's transition to a low-carbon economy.

Budget and Performance

The Budget and Performance Committee examines the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by the whole of the Assembly. The Mayor's budget totals nearly £19bn so this element of the Assembly's work is crucial to ensure that appropriate spending decisions are made for Londoners. This year, the Committee recommended that:

- The Mayor and Transport for London need to be much clearer about what capital projects are potentially at risk over the next four years.
- The London Fire Brigade should provide in its 2020-2021 Budget enough resources to fund the start of its transformation.
- MOPAC needs to make a realistic assumption of additional Government funding and prepare a sustainable plan based around this increase, before the start of 2020-21.

Brexit

Over the past year, the EU Exit Working Group held sessions on the EU Settlement Scheme, on the impact of exiting the EU on London's financial sector, as well as on the outlook for London in future trade deals with the EU and non-EU countries. The role of the EU Exit Working Group is:

- To co-ordinate the work of the London Assembly's committees in relation to the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union.
- To lead for the London Assembly in the Government's negotiations with the European Union to help to ensure that London's voice is heard.
- To consider the activities and approaches of other devolved administrations and relevant bodies across the United Kingdom in relation to the UK's vote to leave the EU, with a view to ensuring any consequential implications arising for London are taken into account.
- To make recommendations to the Mayor, Government and any other relevant parties in relation to the UK's vote to leave the EU.

Following an extensive investigation, the London Assembly EU Exit Working Group wrote to the Mayor to ensure London's concerns on Brexit are being represented to Government. The letter made a number of recommendations, including that the Mayor should lobby the Government on lowering the immigration salary threshold, in order to ensure the future of

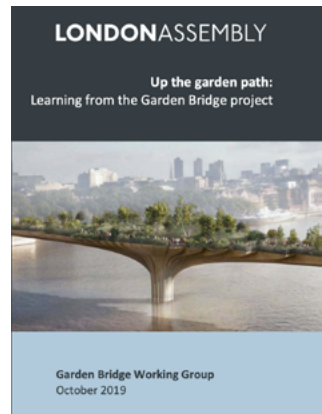
London's healthcare workforce, and to provide further funding to charities supporting vulnerable European nationals.



The Garden Bridge

The London Assembly has been examining the procurement of the Garden Bridge since September 2015. The Garden Bridge would have significantly changed the landscape of London. However, the project was beset with a variety of problems and was eventually cancelled in 2017. Almost £53.5m was spent on the Garden Bridge project - the overall public sector contribution amounted to £42.9m, with TfL paying £23.9m.

Over the past year, the Garden Bridge Working Group examined whether Transport for London's oversight of the project was robust enough, and whether it was right to release further public money for the project. Following two meetings with high-profile witnesses from TfL, including the then Commissioner Mike Brown, the Working Group produced a report, *Up the Garden Path*. This found that key decision-makers involved in all, or part, of the Garden Bridge project have passed the buck consistently since its beginnings in 2012. The report suggested that all involved were ultimately responsible for the project's failure and made several recommendations to improve procurement processes for significant infrastructure projects valued over £50m.



Health

The Health Committee reviews health and wellbeing issues for Londoners, particularly public health issues. It monitors how well the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy is being implemented and whether or not health inequalities are being addressed across London.

Over the past year, the Health Committee focused on a number of child health issues in London. We gathered views from Londoners through an online survey on the Talk London platform on the topic of child dental health. We recommended among other things, that all schools in London should be sugar-free by 2022.



The Committee published a report on Adverse Childhood Experiences and how domestic abuse, parental mental health issues and substance misuse can often co-occur, which can negatively impact physical and mental health later on in life. To tackle this problem, the Committee made a series of recommendations to the Mayor and the London Health Board centred on information sharing and data collection, promoting multi-agency working, and adopting trauma-informed approaches to improve support offered by services.

The Committee also wrote a letter to the Mayor of London on the impact of insecure housing on children. Poor and overcrowded housing has been shown to have a significant impact on the mental health of parents and children.

YOUR EDUCATION

Education

The Education Panel reviews and investigates the Mayor's education policies and looks into inequalities for young people across London.

The Panel produced a report on increasing school exclusion rates across London, as mainstream schools struggle to deal with pupils with increasingly complex needs. The report recommended the Mayor work with partners to prevent unnecessary school exclusions and actively challenge hidden exclusions.

The Panel looked closely at skills and Further Education funding, following devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the GLA. The Panel wrote to the Mayor to support and encourage the development of a more inclusive education system that addresses the inequality in outcomes and educational attainment for pupils across London.

The Panel also looked at barriers facing women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Panel members met with students at Hornsey School for Girls, to hear about their experience of studying STEM subjects, and to find out what they think should be done to improve STEM education for girls in schools.

As a result of this investigation, the Panel made a number of recommendations to the Mayor on how he can address gender inequality in STEM.



YOUR HOME AND COMMUNITY

Housing

Every year, the Housing Committee looks into the Mayor's housing delivery record through the Affordable Housing Monitor. As with previous years, this included in-depth analysis of housing delivery in London, consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, and key stakeholders from across London's boroughs.

The Housing Committee published a report on temporary accommodation that looked at the rising numbers of homeless Londoners and the problems local councils are facing in trying to find suitable temporary accommodation. Recommendations included investing in projects like Capital Letters and PLACE, and encouraging cross-governmental working between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions.



The Committee also investigated the Housing First scheme, which gives people who have experienced homelessness and have chronic health and social care needs, a stable home from which to rebuild their lives. The report outlined that the Mayor and the Government should provide longer term funding for

Housing First schemes, and the Mayor should establish a pan-London Housing First lettings agency to source accommodation for the long-term homeless. Later in the year, the Committee visited the site of a night shelter for rough sleepers in Lewisham. The Deputy Chair was given a tour of the centre and discussed the Mayor's Winter Programme with service users and staff.

The Housing Committee carried out an investigation on affordable home ownership, with a particular focus on shared ownership. The Committee held an open-mic forum with a number of shared owners and resident's groups to gather

experiences and views on how the shared ownership model can be improved for Londoners.

The Committee also looked into leasehold tenure generally and



issues such as ground rent and service charge increases and bills for major work repairs and improvements. Both the affordable home ownership and leasehold investigations led to letters being written to the Mayor, which made a number of recommendations on reforming the shared ownership model and leasehold tenure. On shared ownership, the Committee recommended that the Mayor should require housing associations to share more detailed information on costs related to shared ownership, as well as exploring options for encouraging forms of affordable home ownership that are more accessible to low and middle-income Londoners. On leasehold, the Committee recommended the use of commonhold as an alternative to leasehold.

Planning

The main priority of the Planning Committee was to lead the London Assembly response to the Mayor's draft London Plan. The London Plan is the capital's key strategic planning document. Changes were made by the Mayor of London following the initial draft publication and Members of the Committee put forward representations during the Examination in Public - a number of public meetings to discuss the draft Plan with an independent Panel of Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Planning Committee highlighted key concerns with the draft Plan, namely around fully utilising the Green Belt, family-sized homes, small plots and light industrial space. The Committee further explored these points at a Q&A session in January 2020, and wrote to the Mayor with a number of concerns highlighted. At a full Assembly meeting in February 2020, the Assembly voted on the draft Plan. The Assembly was deemed to have not rejected the Mayor's draft new London Plan 2020.

The Committee published a report on the progress of neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood planning can be a powerful tool for local communities to deliver inclusive growth, but in London, barriers are holding it back. The report called for improvements to be made to the process and for the Mayor to explicitly support neighbourhood planning and accelerate the delivery of neighbourhood plans.



The Committee also wrote a letter to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on permitted development rights and how this planning tool should not allow poor quality and substandard homes to be built in London.

The Budget and Performance Committee conducted an in-depth investigation into the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) plans to redevelop a large site in West London. The largest landowner on the proposed site, Car Giant, had told the Committee that they no longer supported the plans, raising concerns about the viability of the redevelopment. The Committee received confidential documents from OPDC and discovered that OPDC's application to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for funding included a reference from Car Giant showing support for the plans. The Committee urged OPDC to publish the documents to improve transparency. As a result of the Committee's scrutiny, OPDC published all related documents on its website.



Regeneration

The Regeneration Committee reviews the Mayor's regeneration functions and spending decisions, including oversight of the Mayor's Development Corporations: the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.

The Regeneration Committee held several meetings over the year on public land disposals, the Cultural Infrastructure Plan, the London Borough of Culture and Opportunity Areas. The Committee visited the Participatory City Every One Every Day project in Barking and Dagenham to explore an example of the Mayor's investment in regeneration, with a focus on both building homes but, as importantly, securing industrial land for jobs.

The Committee wrote to the Mayor on public land disposals and found a number of efficiencies that could be made to improve the process of bringing public land into use. The letter recommended the Mayor makes the brownfield land register map a live resource to encourage development in London.



Domestic Abusers Register

Assembly Members have continued to put pressure on the Government to introduce a Domestic Abusers Register as part of landmark Domestic Abuse Legislation included in the Queen's Speech.

The London Assembly has been lobbying hard for the introduction of a Register for serial domestic abuse perpetrators since 2017. Evidence shows that the introduction of a Register would provide the necessary impetus for a shift in focus towards preventing domestic abuse, rather than responding to its devastating impact.

The number of victims of domestic violence in London has significantly risen in recent years. In 2019, there were around 89,000 domestic abuse offences recorded



by the Metropolitan Police, compared to just over 46,000 in 2011. This shocking level of domestic abuse in London is a snapshot of a much higher figure nationally and provides a compelling case for more robust action against perpetrators.

Now that the Domestic Abuse Bill has returned to Parliament, we are continuing to work with Parliamentarians and other stakeholders to make the case for a Domestic Abusers Register.

London's Loneliness Epidemic

According to research by YouGov carried out on behalf of the London Assembly, more than half of Londoners find that the capital is a lonely place to live.

That's why, in 2019, Assembly Members launched a cross-party campaign calling upon the Mayor to deliver a public awareness campaign around loneliness. Assembly Members recognised that although our capital is one of the busiest and most vibrant cities in the world, it can also be a lonely and alienating place for Londoners of all backgrounds and ages.

In a unanimous motion calling for the Mayor to do more to tackle loneliness in London, Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, highlighted how loneliness is linked to poor physical and mental

health. People who are lonely are more likely to be readmitted to hospital, more likely to visit a GP or Accident & Emergency and more likely to enter local authority funded residential care. Shockingly, the healthcare cost of treating loneliness is £6,000 per person over 10 years.



As part of the campaign, we spoke to Londoners to shine a spotlight on some of the inspiring community initiatives that take place across London with the aim of bringing people together. Businesses like the Alexandra Pub in Wimbledon, Café Conversations and Hackney Brocals demonstrated the simple steps that can be taken to make London a more friendly, welcoming and inclusive city for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Taking concerted action to address loneliness across London needs collaboration as well as sustained commitment and leadership. We were delighted that the Assembly's campaign was supported by:

- British Legion
- Age UK
- The Campaign to End Loneliness
- London is Lonely
- Later Life Ambitions
- North London, South London and East London Cares
- The Alexandra Pub
- Hackney Brocals
- Café Conversation



IN THE MEDIA

Media highlights

Number of slavery victims in London up tenfold in five years

Committee demands overhaul of how police and mayor's office handle problem



The Guardian article on modern slavery.

ITV coverage on the London Assembly response to Boris Johnson and Jennifer Arcuri.



On social media

67k



Views on
YouTube videos

21k



Engagements on
Facebook posts

67k



Engagements on
Twitter posts

19k



Engagements on
Instagram posts

EVENTS

The Annual Chair's Event - International Women's Day

This year, the annual Chair's event celebrated International Women's Day. Chair of the Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, hosted guests from across London to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Throughout the evening, guests were entertained by an array of talented speakers, performers and trailblazers on topics as varied as anti-FGM campaigning, autism, and girls in STEM. Guests enjoyed a performance by the Voice of Domestic Workers' Choir, who even got attendees dancing to their anthem calling for justice and rights for Britain's migrant domestic workers.

The event championed the International Women's Day 2020 theme of #EachforEqual, and guests were asked to think about the actions they can take to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, and celebrate women's achievements.



Lunchtime Briefings

After every Mayor's Question Time, Assembly Members are invited to attend Lunchtime Briefings. These sessions are an opportunity for Assembly Members to learn from inspiring organisations, businesses and charities that contribute to the lives of Londoners.

Some of the sessions that took place this year included a session with Therapy Dogs Nationwide, a charity that helps vulnerable people by arranging visits with their trained dogs, providing comfort and distraction at times of need. Assembly Members also attended sessions delivered by the Royal British Institute, the Electoral Commission, and the Alan Turing Institute.



THIS YEAR

At the Annual Meeting in May a new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assembly were elected, and the committee structure and membership finalised. We welcomed two new Londonwide Assembly Members - Murad Qureshi AM and Alison Moore AM - who have replaced the two Members who resigned to take up positions as Deputy Mayors within the GLA.



Murad Qureshi AM



Alison Moore AM

Our work holding the Mayor to account continues in 2020-2021. As London responds to the unparalleled challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that the Mayor's actions are subject to effective scrutiny.

The financial impact of COVID-19 on London is just becoming clear, and the GLA faces up to a £493 million budget deficit over the next two financial years. The **Budget and**

Performance

Committee will look at the potential impact this shortfall will have on each functional body. Our priority will be working out the impact of the cuts and what we can do to reduce the effects on Londoners.



As London emerges from lockdown, the **Health Committee** is examining the key challenges we face as a city in terms of health, including the detrimental impact of the virus on people from a BAME background, the adverse effects on health and social care staff, preventing a second wave of the pandemic, and whether localised lockdowns in London would work.

COVID-19 and the steps taken to minimise its spread have caused unprecedented disruption for London's businesses. The **Economy Committee** is therefore looking at the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown on businesses across London, with focus on the hospitality, tourism, and cultural and creative sectors.

The **Transport Committee** is examining how Transport for London can protect the health and safety of its own staff and passengers on Tubes, buses and in stations, while increasing service levels.



WHAT DOES THE LONDON ASSEMBLY DO?

The London Assembly is a crucial check on the powers of the Mayor of London. As the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, it is important the Mayor is held publicly and democratically accountable.

The Assembly examines the decisions and actions of the Mayor to ensure promises to Londoners are delivered and the money he spends, collected from Londoners, is wisely spent.

The 25 cross party London Assembly Members are elected at the same time as the Mayor of London. Eleven Assembly Members represent the whole capital and 14 are elected by constituencies. The Assembly holds the Mayor and Mayoral advisers to account by publicly examining policies and programmes through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

In addition, the Assembly questions the Mayor 10 times a year at Mayor's Question Time.

The Mayor must also consult Assembly Members before producing statutory strategies and the multi-billion-pound budget for the GLA Group. The Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies and amend the draft budget if a majority of two-thirds agree to do so.



Assembly meetings are open to the public so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly can publicly review their performance.

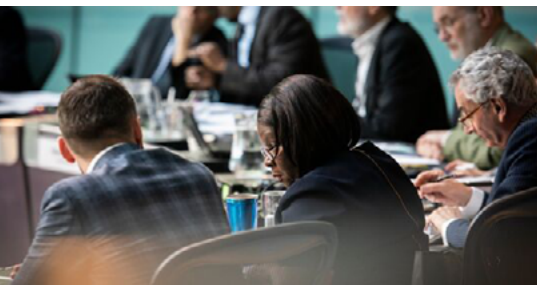
As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital.

Assembly investigations are carried out by cross-party committees which cover vital areas like transport, policing, housing and planning, the economy, health and the environment. The Assembly can press for changes to national, Mayoral or local policy.



OUR COMMITTEES

- Audit Panel
- Budget and Performance Committee
- Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee
- Confirmation Hearings Committee
- Economy Committee
- Education Panel
- Environment Committee
- EU Exit Working Group
- Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee
- GLA Oversight Committee
- Health Committee
- Housing Committee
- Planning Committee
- Police and Crime Committee
- Regeneration Committee
- Transport Committee



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