

# How the London Assembly works for you



# LONDON ASSEMBLY

## Annual Report 2017/2018



Chair Jennette Arnold  
OBE AM

# Welcome to the Annual Report from Chair Jennette Arnold OBE AM

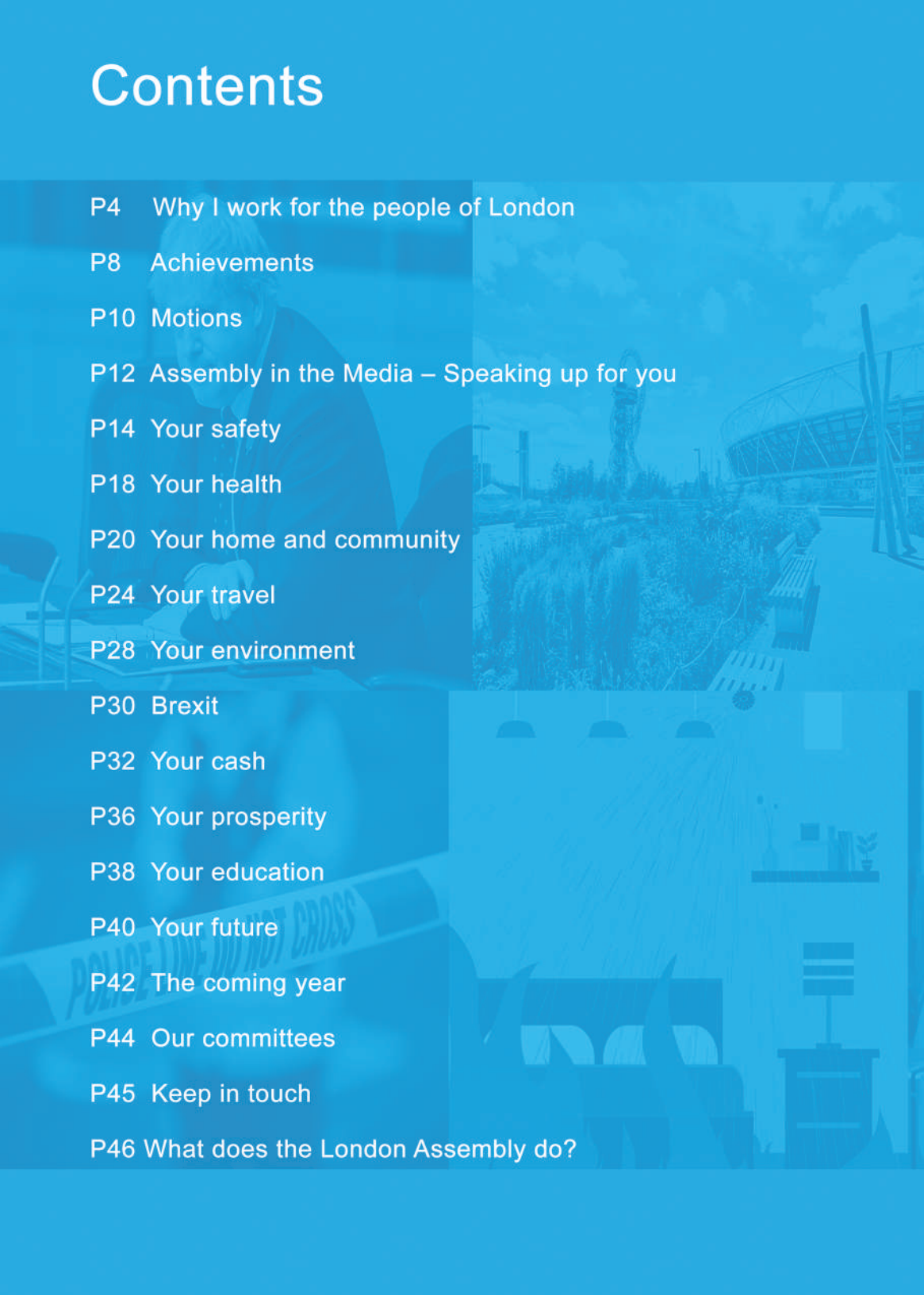
During the past year, we saw terrible attacks on the people of London at Westminster Bridge, London Bridge, Finsbury Park and Parsons Green. We mourn the loss of those who died and send our sympathies to their friends and families. We also extend our sympathies to the people of Manchester who also suffered horribly.

The other tragedy which blighted last year was the Grenfell Tower fire which claimed the lives of so many and the causes of which are under investigation. Despite the tragedies, London has come together to stand for our common values of fairness and tolerance.

For the Assembly itself it has been a year of firsts. Not only was the Assembly's work in holding the current Mayor's actions and policies to account widely reported and influential, for the first time a previous Mayor, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, was called in to answer questions about the financial mess brought about by the ill-fated Garden Bridge project.

We also scrutinised the Mayor's policies relating to a host of issues that impact the everyday lives of Londoners including their health, safety, travel, and importantly their money. I hope this report gives you an insight into why the work of the London Assembly is important and relevant to Londoners.

# Contents

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- The background of the page is a collage of three images, all tinted in shades of blue. The top-left image shows a man with grey hair, wearing a dark jacket, looking down at a document. The top-right image shows a modern architectural structure, possibly a stadium or public space, with a large, curved, metallic-looking roof and some greenery in the foreground. The bottom image shows a person's hand holding a yellow banner that reads "POLICE YOU DO NOT CROSS".
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# Why I work for the people of London



**Tony Arbour AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"I've lived in London all of my life, so far and there is no greater honour than to represent the community in which one lives."



**Jennette Arnold AM**  
Labour Group

"I wanted to bring the voice and aspiration of Londoners to City Hall because that's where the decisions are made that impact on all our lives."



**Gareth Bacon AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"The Mayor of London provides services on a daily basis that are crucial to the daily lives of Londoners. It's vital that he provides those services properly and he is held accountable for doing so."



**Shaun Bailey AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"I love London, it's the greatest city in the world and working together we can achieve anything for our young people in the future."



**Sian Berry AM**  
Green Party Group

"Being on the London Assembly lets me be a very powerful voice inside City Hall for some of the campaigns I've worked with in the past."



**Andrew Boff AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"We sometimes forget that there are people living in overcrowded conditions and in poor quality housing. The London Assembly seeks to address those issues."



**Leonie Cooper AM**  
Labour Group

"For the last two years I've been Chairing the Environment Committee, I also sit on the Housing Committee. It's been a great privilege to work through that Committee and through Housing."



**Tom Copley AM**  
Labour Group

"It's a fantastic opportunity to influence the policies that affect the lives of millions of Londoners and hopefully to influence them to help make people's lives better."





**Unmesh Desai AM**  
Labour Group

"The Assembly gives me a platform to represent the interests of my constituents and also to promote the message that London is moving east."



**Tony Devenish AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"To work for all the hundreds of very special "urban villages" making up the social fabric of West London, which I am honoured to represent."



**Andrew Dismore AM**  
Labour Group

"I wanted to be part of a team that scrutinised important public services, like the Police, Fire Brigade and Transport for London, as well as have input on the important policy areas that are changing the face of London."



**Len Duvall AM**  
Labour Group

"I passionately believe you can make a real difference Londonwide. Working on issues like Housing, Transport and Policing is where you can make a real difference for the communities of London."



**Florence Eshalomi AM**  
Labour Group

"I wanted to become an Assembly Member so that young people across Lambeth and Southwark could see that politics is for them and to make sure that we have diversity here at City Hall."



**Nicky Gavron AM**  
Labour Group

"I want to give a voice to London's many communities and make London even more inclusive."



**Susan Hall AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"I saw just how much the work that we do can make a difference to Londoners. From City Hall, one can certainly make a difference."



**David Kurten AM**  
UKIP

"I want to serve the people of London and try to do everything I can to maintain the history and heritage of this great city as we go forward into an exciting future."



**Joanne McCartney AM**  
Labour Group

"When I was first elected I had young children and I wanted to make sure they that grew up in a city that was fair and full of opportunity."



**Steve O'Connell AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"I wanted to make sure that the people living in London boroughs get the best that they can from City Hall and the Mayor."



**Caroline Pidgeon AM**  
Liberal Democrat

"I was a borough councillor for ten years where I made a real difference. I became a London Assembly Member because I wanted to do the same thing across the whole of London."



**Keith Prince AM**  
GLA Conservatives

"Nothing gives me more pleasure than fighting for the residents of Havering and Redbridge here in City Hall to make sure they get the best deal out of London Government."



**Caroline Russell AM**  
Green Party Group

"I became a London Assembly Member because that way I was going to be able to ask the Mayor questions directly to make our streets and air better for all Londoners."



**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**  
Labour Group

"I was really interested in coming to the London Assembly so that I could bring attention to problems I'd meet in my consulting room but I couldn't tackle as a GP, but I can as a politician."



**Navin Shah AM**  
Labour Group

"I wanted to shape London. I want London to be united, socially cohesive and provide the best quality of life."



**Fiona Twycross AM**  
Labour Group

"I want to do my bit to change London for the better to make sure that people can get on irrespective of who they are or where they came from."



**Peter Whittle AM**  
UKIP

"I'm a born and bred Londoner and it's a great feeling of privilege to be able to represent all of the people who voted for me, and indeed, when it comes to scrutinising the Mayor."







# Achievements



Summoned the former Mayor, **the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP**, back to City Hall to answer questions about the cancelled Garden Bridge project. The Assembly's previous work is credited with exposing many of the real problems that emerged with the multi-million-pound project.



Highlighted a wide range of issues in the running of the former **Olympic Stadium** (the 'London Stadium'), maintaining the spotlight on the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games.



Produced a number of '**Brexit Directives**' to the Mayor in relation to the impact for London of leaving the EU. The recommendation to provide further information for EU nationals currently living in London was adopted by the Mayor.



Influenced the Mayor's **transport strategy** around the break down of mode share and integration of door to door services.



After the 'Driven to Distraction' report on **bus safety**, the Mayor announced permanent toilets for drivers on all routes.



Successfully influenced the Mayor's policy and statutory **environmental strategy** in relation to bottled water in London.



Had a major impact on the Mayor's primary policy document – the London Plan – in relation to **off-site construction methods**.



Challenged the Mayor on his proposals to tackle **health inequalities** in London.



Held sessions with high-profile guests such as **Jeremy Vine** on the perils of cycling in London.



Worked with the Mayor and London government partners to look at the issues arising from the tragedy of the **Grenfell Tower fire**.



Urged the Mayor to draw up a **gun crime strategy** after offences rose by 44% in just three years to 2017.



Unanimously agreed a motion to support the introduction of a **Domestic Abusers Register**. The Assembly wrote to all London MPs and lobbied the government to include it in its new Domestic Abuse Bill.

# Motions

These are agreed 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:



## Domestic Abusers Register

The Assembly is concerned that the number of domestic abuse victims in London increased by 15% from 62,546 in 2014 to 71,926 in 2016. Domestic abuse now accounts for approximately 1 in 10 offences in the capital.

The Assembly called on the Mayor to write to the Home Secretary for a register for those convicted of a domestic abuse related offence, similar to that used for sexual offenders. This would shift the onus onto the offender while allowing the police to hold information on perpetrators, prioritise resources based on risk and better protect survivors.



## Police use of tasers

The Assembly urged the Mayor to make representations to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to ensure that the police attempt, to the best of their ability, to ensure that tasers are never used in an unwitnessed and unaccountable way.

The Assembly noted that the best way to guarantee this, is to make sure that all lone taser-carrying officers are equipped with body worn video. Apart from in circumstances where a police officer's safety may be in immediate danger, such video should always be switched on before a taser is discharged.







## Women getting the vote

2018 marks 100 years since some women secured the right to vote for the first time in the UK. The Representation of the People Act was passed on 6 February 1918 giving women the vote provided they were aged over 30 and either they, or their husband, met a property qualification. This year is also the 90th anniversary of women gaining equal voting rights to men by the Equal Franchise Act.

The Assembly welcomed the various campaigns and events to celebrate the anniversary and to promote further gender equality.



## Tube noise

The launch of the night tube has seen a surge in complaints about noise.

The London Assembly agreed a unanimous motion to encourage TfL to take noise complaints more seriously, introduce a proper compensation scheme for those affected and adopt internationally recognised noise thresholds.

# The Assembly in the Media – Speaking up for you

Held high-profile sessions with guests such as Jeremy Vine on the perils of cycling in London.



Jeremy Vine  
@theJeremyVine

Following

Great to see the members of the @LondonAssembly today and hear their serious questions about safe travel for us all. Thanks to the excellent committee



BBC NEWS

Speaking to the London Assembly transport committee, the BBC presenter also said road layouts in the capital should be changed to keep cyclists safe from "angry, dangerous drivers".

EveningStandard.

Jeremy Vine has shared his views on cycling in London at City Hall.



Summoned the former Mayor, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, back to City Hall to answer questions about the cancelled Garden Bridge project. The Assembly's previous work is credited with exposing many of the real problems that emerged with the multi-million-pound project.



BORIS JOHNSON  
Former Mayor of London  
BBC LONDON

FT FINANCIAL TIMES

Boris Johnson unable to answer questions on Garden Bridge



INDEPENDENT

Boris Johnson facing grilling over £37m spent on failed Thames Garden Bridge project



Highlighted a wide range of issues involved in the running of the former Olympics Stadium (the 'London Stadium'), maintaining the spotlight on what is happening to the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games.

## THE TIMES

The £8 million cost of removing and reinstating the retractable seats each summer has caused a "big issue" and could have been avoided, the London Assembly's budget monitoring committee was told yesterday.

## Daily Mail

London Assembly demands to see West Ham's landlord's accounts amid concerns E20 Stadium LLP is heading towards insolvency

London Mayor urged to tackle gun crime as offences rise according to a report by the London Assembly.

 DAILY  
STAR

Worrying stats released by the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee also revealed how personal robbery was by 36%, from around 22,500 to more than 30,000.

## The Guardian

The Metropolitan police recorded **2,542 gun crime offences in 2017**, the highest number in five years and 44% more than the 1,755 recorded in 2014, according to a report by the London assembly's police and crime committee.



# Your safety



The **Police and Crime Committee** pushed the Metropolitan Police and the Mayor to tackle the rise of gun crime in the capital. The '**Gun crime in London**' report said the supply of guns into the UK from abroad is a growing concern and that the proportion of gun crime related to gangs is dropping. It recommended that the Mayor consider developing a gun crime strategy for London. The report attracted a great deal of media attention and continues to be used as part of the debate about violent crime in London.



The committee kept up on-going pressure on MOPAC and the Met to make the city safer regarding terrorism, violent crime and moped gangs. In September 2017, the BBC used statistics on knife crime and gangs from the Committee's 2016 report, '**Serious youth violence**'. In November 2017 the committee's discussion on better regulation of vehicle hire following recent terror attacks received national coverage.

During a discussion on preventing extremism, the Mayor praised the Committee's previous report, '**Preventing extremism in London**', published in 2015, and used this to reinforce the need for a better arrangement with the Home Office on Prevent – the policy designed to prevent radicalisation and terrorism.

August 2017 saw the publication of the first interim report by HMIC on the Met's investigation into electoral fraud in Tower Hamlets: commissioned by MOPAC because of a recommendation made by the **Police and Crime Committee** in March 2017.

The Committee met with local authorities, housing associations and community representatives to look at the impact of antisocial behaviour on Londoners. Its January 2018 report, '**Respecting others: tackling antisocial behaviour in London**', prompted the Met to roll out a pilot of antisocial behaviour warning notices in Camden & Islington.

In January 2018, the Committee brought together London's three police forces: the Met, City of London Police and British Transport Police, to look at the ways they collaborate on issues like terrorism, public order and tackling violence.

The Committee checked that security and policing at the Olympic Park was operating effectively. It asked the Mayor to be clear on how policing and security is considered when developing the site.



The Committee challenged MOPAC on its effectiveness and transparency. MOPAC has agreed to put in place a process for publishing more online, where information is suitable for public disclosure.

The Committee challenged the Met and Mayor on how they keep people in custody safe. Doctors, nurses, custody staff and independent observers told members about their experiences of working in police custody and the state of healthcare provision.

The Committee questioned the Met and MOPAC monthly on its performance and responded quickly in the wake of the terror attacks to seek reassurance on behalf of Londoners.



## Grenfell

The Assembly has worked with the Mayor and London government partners to look at the issues arising from the tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster in June 2017.

The **GLA Oversight Committee** met in January 2018 to discuss pan-London charity giving in the aftermath of the fire at Grenfell Tower, hearing from a range of charity experts and third sector representatives.



In addition, the **Housing Committee** began a project on social housing governance. This project arose out of some of the many failings which are thought to have contributed to the devastation caused by the Grenfell Tower fire last year. It will consider how well social housing residents are engaged and involved in decisions about their homes, including those relating to safety.



On 7 September 2017, Members agreed to appoint Navin Shah AM as a rapporteur to investigate the effectiveness and economic viability of requiring Automatic Water Suppression System (sprinklers) in all London buildings. As part of the rapporteur review a wide-ranging evidence gathering process sought the views from experts over 17 meetings, four site visits and received 23 written submissions.



On 22 March 2018 the report, '***Never again: Sprinklers as the next step towards safer homes***', was published. The report concluded that requiring Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS) like sprinklers, alongside passive protections like fire doors, could further significantly reduce the risk of loss of life and property. However, AFSS are not mandatory in residential buildings below 30 metres high in England.

# Your health



The Assembly challenged the Mayor on his proposals to tackle health inequalities in London. Scrutiny of the Mayor's draft Health Inequalities Strategy continued, with a meeting with the Mayor's senior health advisors in March.

The **Health Committee** highlighted the urgent need for the London Health Board to become more diverse and transparent.



The Committee launched its report on eye health and sight loss in London at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

The report received strong support from the eye health sector, with the President of the Royal College calling it 'music to the ears' of everyone working to promote eye health in London, the RNIB calling it a 'powerful and insightful', and the Chief Executive of Moorfields Eye Hospital joining the Committee's calls for action from the Mayor. The Committee continues to work in partnership with a coalition of interested organisations to lobby the Mayor to raise the profile of this important issue.





The Committee published its compendium report, '**Supporting mental health for all**', on mental health for marginalised groups, drawing together the findings from its investigations on LGBT+ communities, Deaf people, disabled people and people in contact with the criminal justice system. The report set out key recommendations on how the Mayor's Thrive LDN mental health programme should focus on marginalised groups.

The Committee also held a roundtable event with representatives from the health and business sectors and commissioned new research on making work healthy for all, as part of its efforts to drive improvements to the **Mayor's Healthy Workplace Charter** programme.





# Your home and community



The Mayor published his draft London Plan at the end of November 2017 and the **Housing Committee's** January meeting questioned the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development on the housing aspects of the new draft.

The meeting also involved guests from the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Havering. In March, the Committee looked into overcrowding in London's homes and heard from representatives from the London Boroughs of Hackney and Newham, as well as Peabody Housing Association and the Mayor's policy team. The points raised during these meetings were added to existing work undertaken on the draft Housing Strategy in formulating the Assembly-wide response to the draft Plan, which was sent to the Mayor in early March. The Committee agreed that the boroughs should be empowered to make local decisions where this is appropriate and where they are properly resourced to do so.







However, it expressed concern that the draft Plan does not offer the boroughs sufficient support for significant strategic decisions, for example in relation to negotiations with developers over tenure mix on new housing schemes. It also recommended that the Mayor set targets for larger homes and to alleviate overcrowding, to ensure the mix of homes is both suitable now and for the future.

The Committee's report '**Protecting London's Property Guardians**' was published in February 2018 which examined property guardianship schemes, under which unused buildings are used to house resident 'guardians' temporarily, for reduced rents.

It included new primary research commissioned from the University of York's Law School on the extent and spread of property guardianship in London, the conditions in which guardians live and an assessment of key areas of concern for the boroughs in enforcing against rogue guardianship businesses.

The report made recommendations to the Mayor and Government aimed at re-balancing the relationship between guardians and the companies managing the properties they occupy.



The report was welcomed in a Guardian article and it was also covered in BBC Radio 4's You & Yours consumer programme in March. The Chair had a meeting in March with Lord Kennedy, who takes an active interest in this issue and is looking for an opportunity to take our recommendations forward through legislation and requested a meeting with a relevant minister. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will publish a factsheet about guardianship on its website as a response. The University of York planned a follow-up workshop with industry practitioners at City Hall in the Summer and will be publishing a *Local Authority Pocket Guide to Property Guardians*.



The report '**Hidden homelessness in London**' was published in September 2017. It revealed estimates that there are thirteen times more hidden homeless people in London than those sleeping rough - as many as 12,500 each night. The report made recommendations to the Mayor and the Government.

The Committee also recommended the Mayor introduce resident ballots for estate regeneration projects where existing social homes are being demolished. This has now become a new condition of City Hall funding.

In August 2017, Nicky Gavron AM published the final report of her rapporteur review on '**Offsite manufactured housing**' (OSM) on behalf of the **Planning Committee**.



The report called on the Mayor to use his powers to kick-start a 21st Century housing revolution based on OSM homes as a new industrial sector for the UK, which London could be leading. The report received widespread positive endorsements from key stakeholders, including Mark Farmer, author of the recent Government commissioned review on the UK's construction sector.

The Mayor echoed this support for “such a timely and important report... [and] I agree that we need to support greater housing delivery in London through additional housing construction activity that takes place in factories”.

# Your travel



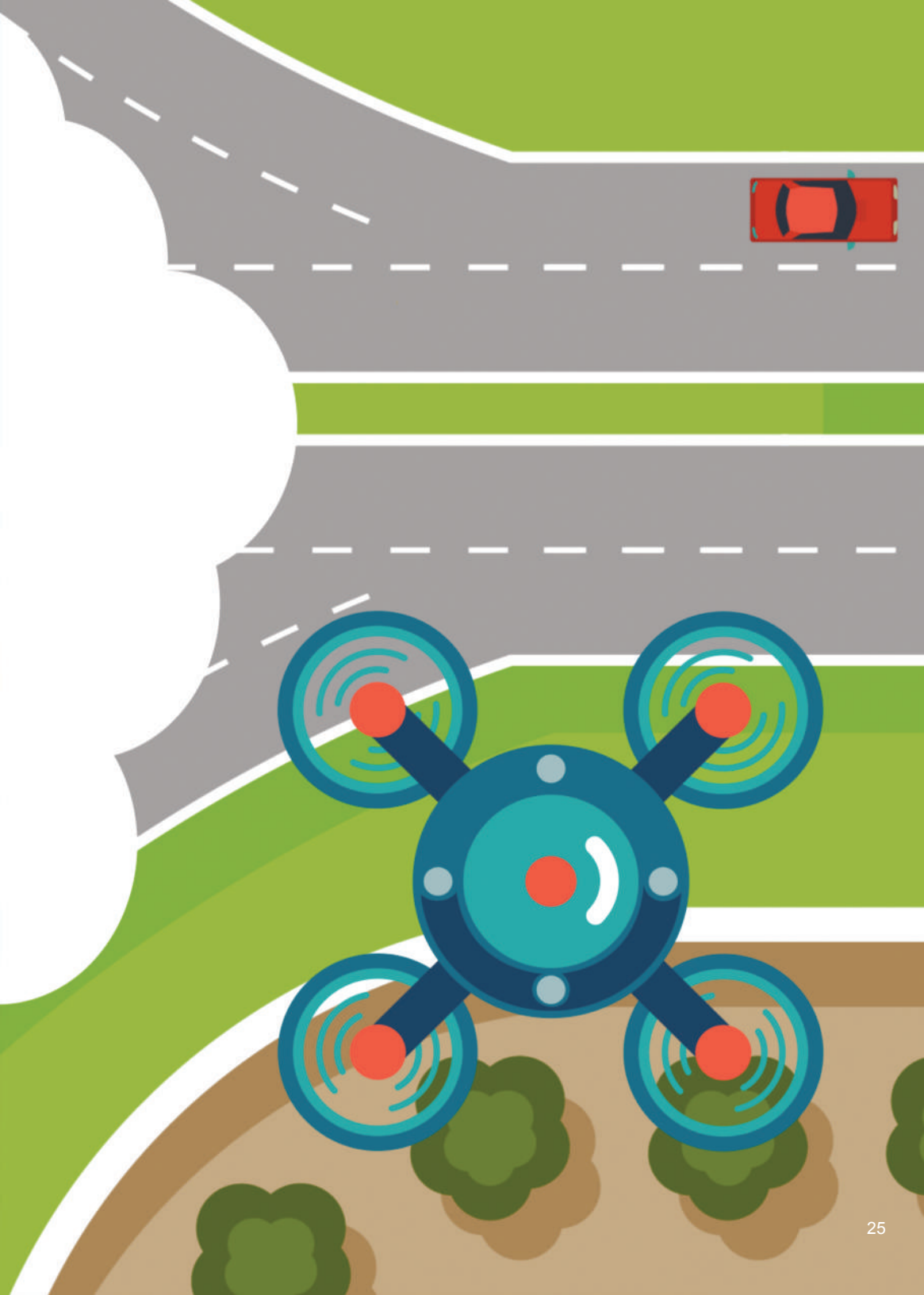
The **Transport Committee** published two reports on London's bus services. The first report, '**Driven to Distraction**', looked at bus safety, and made several recommendations to Transport for London (TfL) including a review of bus driver working conditions, strengthened financial incentives for bus operators to focus on safety and linking TfL staff bonuses to collision reduction.

The report was welcomed by TfL, with Commissioner Mike Brown telling the Committee and the TfL Board that it had highlighted a vital issue TfL needed to act on. The report led to the Mayor announcing on 13 February 2018 permanent toilets for bus drivers on all routes.



Keeping up pressure on TfL In September 2017, the Assembly resumed its scrutiny of **Transport for London's (TfL) capital programme** and other financial issues. Elements of TfL's capital spending programme are at risk due to the financial pressure on several of TfL's revenue streams. TfL agreed to provide further information on its savings and efficiencies, including the impact they will have on passengers.





For the '**Future Transport**' report, the Transport Committee sought to learn lessons about how effectively the Mayor and TfL monitor and plan for the emergence of new technology. It focused on technological change in three areas: driverless cars, phone App-based services and drones.

The **Transport Committee** responded to the Mayor's Draft Transport Strategy in September 2017 and made several recommendations asking the Mayor to amend parts of the plan, or consider certain issues in more detail.



It welcomed the Mayor's new healthy streets approach and the target for 80% of journeys to be made by walking, cycling and public transport. However, the Committee argued the final strategy needed more detailed planning in several areas, such as in bus network reform.



There were several notable examples of the Committee's impact on policy decisions. The Mayor published his final Transport Strategy in February 2018, which included a new proposal recommended by the Committee on integrating 'door-to-door' services for the disabled or elderly who cannot easily use standard transport services.

The Committee also received the Mayor's response to Caroline Russell AM's rapporteur report on walking and cycling at Outer London junctions, which indicated that TfL is implementing several recommendations, including the proposal for TfL to check the area around junction upgrade sites for any potential improvements that can be implemented simultaneously.



# Your environment



Mayor's draft Environment Strategy published in August 2017, included many recommendations and themes from the Committee's work from recent years, including:

1. investigating with the Government a deposit return scheme, working to improve access to tap water refills and working to reduce plastic bottle sales and increase access to tap water on the Greater London Authority group's own premises;
2. the proposed adoption of more ambitious World Health Organisation guidelines on reducing concentrations of toxic particles in the air, and the proposal of a central London Zero Emission Zone in 2025;
3. the publication of a Solar Action Plan – a specific recommendation from the Committee's 2015 report, 'Bring me sunshine';
4. the publication of a Fuel Poverty Action Plan, taking forward many recommendations from the report 'Getting Warmer', including a focus on the rented sector and vulnerable households and action to improve energy efficiency in hard-to-heat homes.





The **Environment Committee** continued its work on waste management, publishing in February 2018 its findings report on energy from waste, and in March broader findings and recommendations on waste management in the report '**Wasting London's Future**'.

This brought together the committee's work over the previous year on the circular economy, household recycling, and energy from waste. It made several conclusions and recommendations to the Mayor, including:

- London should not need more incinerator capacity but should instead prioritise waste reduction, re-use and recycling.
- The Mayor should step in and use his powers, where necessary, to ensure that under-performing boroughs are implementing his recycling policies.
- The Mayor should extend his recycling collection standards to blocks of flats.
- The Mayor should seek Government support for local authorities to enforce recycling collection rules with fines for persistent offenders.

# Brexit



The **EU Exit Working Group** produced a number of 'Brexit Directives' to the Mayor in relation to the impact on London of leaving the EU. The recommendation to provide further information for the EU nationals currently living in London was adopted by the Mayor of London.

In July 2017, the Assembly's **EU Exit Working Group** convened an open mic meeting with EU citizens and expert speakers about their concerns and the practical support they need. Assembly Members heard that EU citizens wish for a smooth transition and one which is as administratively as simple as possible. In its first Brexit Directive, the Group then wrote to the Mayor of London to stress the important role he can play in making that happen and in ensuring that these Londoners continue to feel welcome.

Following a series of meetings on Brexit-related matters and the issuing of the Assembly's '**Brexit Directives**', the **EU Exit Working Group** received a response from the Mayor in December setting out his intended actions in relation to financial services, security and the European Structural and Investment Funds. The Working Group and other Committees have had significant success in ensuring that key issues are fed into the Mayor's representations to Government on Brexit.







# Your cash



In July 2017, the **Budget and Performance Committee** took the rare decision to issue a summons notice to the Mayor of London's Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, requesting documents regarding the Mayor's correspondence concerning the Review into the Garden Bridge project undertaken by Dame Margaret Hodge MP.



On 14 December 2017, the **GLA Oversight Committee** used its powers to summons the former Mayor of London, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, to appear before the Committee to answer questions about decisions he made regarding the Garden Bridge project. This is the first time a former Mayor has been summonsed.



In March 2018, the Oversight Committee questioned the former Mayor, the then Foreign Secretary, the **Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP** about the controversial Garden Bridge project.

The Committee put questions to Mr Johnson about the lack of involvement of TfL's Board in procurement decisions associated with the project and the reasoning behind Mayoral decisions.

The failed bridge project seemed to bypass proper appraisal, procurement procedures were not followed and the promised money from the Garden Bridge Trust did not materialise - leaving the tax payer to pick up the bill.

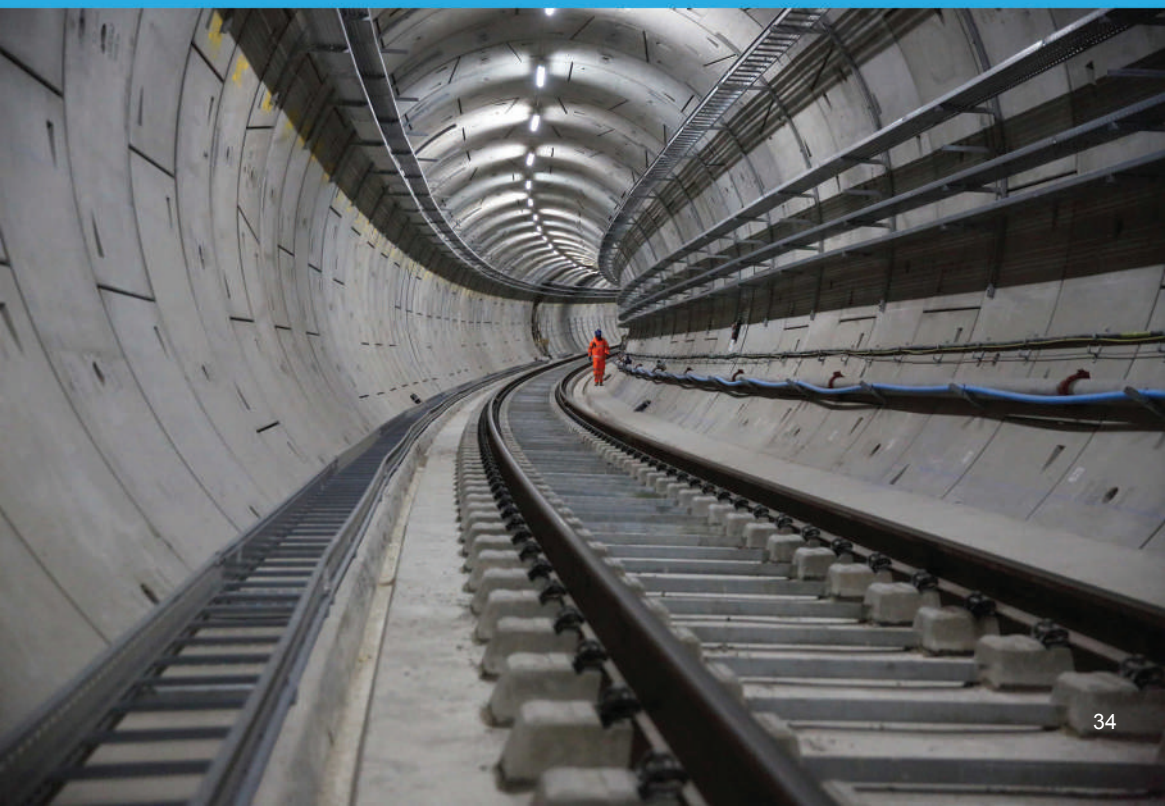


## Spending

The **Budget and Performance Committee** has the responsibility of examining the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by the whole of the Assembly. It is supported by the specialist **Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee**.

As part of this scrutiny, the Committee published a Pre-Budget Report. The report set out the key financial issues facing the Mayor as he prepares the budget for London. In its report, the Committee highlighted:

- concerns over the need for an action plan to address the London Stadium's financial pressures
- calls for the Mayor to publish the detail of his proposals to fund half of Crossrail 2 during construction
- the need for clarity on how far the Mayor's funding programmes would go towards meeting London's housing need of 66,000 new homes a year, 65 per cent of which are to be affordable.





The '**Police funding – who's paying the Bill?**' report was published in October 2017 by the **Budget and Performance Committee** – a major investigation into the finances of the Metropolitan Police Service. In July 2017, the Committee spoke to expert guests about how the Met is responding to funding pressures, including its need to save £443 million by 2020-21.

Guests described a Met under severe pressure: locked out of special grants, lacking the level of funding needed for policing an international capital city and unsure of what next year's funding settlement will bring. They also highlighted the Mayor's powers to divert funding from other areas of the GLA Group towards the police service.

The **Budget Monitoring Sub Committee** held two meetings on the London Legacy Development Corporation, one of which looked specifically at the Moore Stephens review of the Olympic stadium. The day-to-day operation of the stadium is expected to make a £20 million loss this year, and about £15 million a year in future years. This is clearly unsustainable, and the **Budget and Performance Committee** has called for the Mayor to put in place a plan to address this situation as a matter of urgency.



# Your prosperity



The **Economy Committee** published its report '**Short changed: the financial health of Londoners**' in January 2018, which was well received by stakeholders and the media.

Over 50 guests attended the report's launch event in London's Living Room which featured on the evening news. There has been a positive response from the Mayor to several of the Committee's recommendations and Caroline Russell AM, will continue to press for further progress over the coming year.



In February 2018, the Committee published its report on London's night time economy. '**Rewrite the night: the future of London's night time economy**', highlighted the future potential of London's night time economy, an overriding need to ensure the welfare of workers in the night time economy, and to ensure residents' views are at the heart of discussions for future.

The report also formed the basis of the Committee's response to the Night Time Commission's consultation on the night time economy.



At meetings in January and February 2018, the Committee discussed the Mayor's draft Economic Development Strategy with a range of expert guests including Rajesh Agrawal, the Deputy Mayor for Business, Economist and UCL Professor, Marianna Mazzucato, and representatives from the Tech, Construction, Life Sciences and Engineering sectors.

Following which, the Committee submitted a formal consultation response to the Mayor, setting out its views on the approach and high-level aims of the draft Strategy, its ability to deliver the Mayor's ambitions for the London Economy, and on the importance of defining what success should look like and how it should be measured.



# Your education



The **Education Panel**, a working group of Assembly members, continued its investigation into Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in London.

In November 2017 the Panel held its second meeting on the topic and heard from a range of expert guests including the Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare and representatives from Education, Health and Social Care services.

The discussions examined the effectiveness of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the lessons learned so far; the implications of London's rapidly changing SEND population; and the required collaboration between Education, Health and Social Care professionals. The Panel also heard about potential ways the Mayor, the GLA and wider local government could support children and young people with SEND.





The Panel visited Swiss Cottage School, Development and Research Centre, a state-maintained specialist provision. The Chair met with the school's leadership team as well as a group of Parent Council Members.

The discussions considered the ways the school was working with parents to meet children's needs and how the school was pushing for more involvement from health and social care services. The Chair also heard the parents' concerns about ambitions for their children after they finished school and preparation for adulthood, as well as the lack of suitable services in the community.

The **Education Panel** also visited Eastlea Community School as part of the investigation. The Panel met with the school's leadership team. The discussions considered the ways the school supported children with SEND to access the curriculum in mainstream classes for at least 50 per cent of the time, and how they felt national league tables needed to account for pupils with SEND.



# Your future



The **Planning Committee** leads the Assembly's response to the Mayor's London Plan consultation with many Committees contributing to the consultation response.

The Committee held three meetings on 22 and 30 January and 14 March 2018 to consider various aspects of the Mayor's proposals, specifically issues surrounding density; design; the role of small sites in meeting housing targets; tall buildings; London's relationship with the wider south east; the Thames and strategic waterways; London's heritage; and open space.

The Committee submitted its response to the **London Plan** consultation in March 2018. It represents a substantial and comprehensive assessment of the Mayor's proposals, with contributions from all the Assembly Committees. It has cross-party support and will be used as the basis for the next stages of the London Plan review process - the Examination in Public that is expected in the Autumn 2018.





In his response to Nicky Gavron AM's report into offsite manufactured housing, the Mayor issued a strong and positive endorsement of the report's call to diversify London's residential production techniques to embrace offsite manufactured homes. He recognises his important role in influencing the move in this direction, through leadership, strategic direction and direct funding support for the sector.

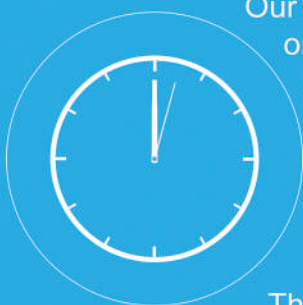
On 17 January 2018, the Committee received a response from the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP. The letter expressed support for the report's approach and the Government's ambition to use offsite manufactured housing to increase housing delivery.

The **Regeneration Committee** released a report in November 2017, **'Relighting the torch: securing the Olympic legacy'**, which examined the efficacy of the plans put in place to give a lasting benefit after the Olympics.

The report showed significant areas of concern including the lack of positive change on the gap between the quality of life indicators in the six host boroughs and the rest of London; a deterioration in sports and physical activities; and a growing earnings gap - greater in 2015 than 2009. Still areas of the host boroughs have the highest proportions of children living in deprived households in the country.

In March 2018, the Regeneration Committee published the report, **'Centres for Excellence? Good growth through town centre regeneration'**. The report reviewed evidence from various meetings and site visits carried out by the Committee making recommendations to the Mayor to ensure that town centre regeneration will benefit residents.

# The coming year



Our work continues into 2018-19 and we have our eyes on a whole range of issues including soaring violent crime, which is the focus of an urgent investigation by the **Police and Crime Committee**.

The Taxi and Private Hire industries will receive further scrutiny from the **Transport Committee**.

The **Economy Committee** is looking at micro-businesses, firms that employ up to nine people.

The **Health Committee** is looking at the future of the London Ambulance Service.

The **Environment Committee** is examining a range of issues including farming in the greenbelt.

The **Budget and Performance Committee** is looking at TfL's finances as it struggles to deal with a large deficit.

Tall buildings and detailed work on the London Plan will occupy much of the work of the **Planning Committee**.

The **Regeneration Committee** is looking at the Royal Docks development proposals.







# 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



# Keep in touch

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# 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 London **Assembly Members** are elected every four years 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 ten 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 - from the implications of Brexit to the increases in knife and gun crime in London.

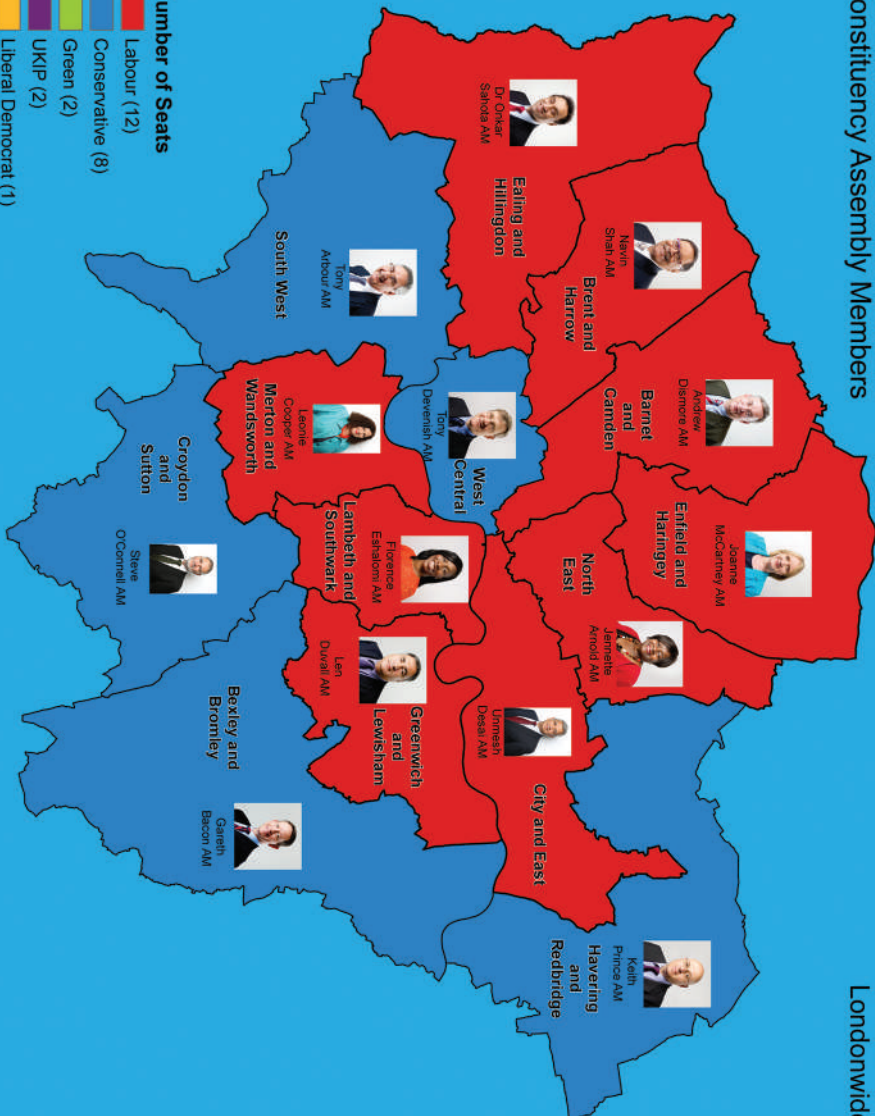
Assembly investigations are carried out by cross-party committees which cover vital areas like transport, policing, housing and planning, the economy, health and the environment. The Assembly can press for changes to national, Mayoral or local policy.



# London Assembly - as of June 2017

## Constituency Assembly Members

## Londonwide Assembly Members



Liberal Democrat



Caroline Papeo AM

UK Independence Party (UKIP)



Peter Whittle AM



David Kurien AM

Green Party Group



Siân Barry AM



Caroline Russell AM

GLA Conservatives



Shaun Bailey AM



Susan Hall AM



Andrew Barr AM

Labour Group



Tom Copley AM



Nicky Gavron AM



Fiona Twycross AM