

LONDON ASSEMBLY WORKS FOR YOU



The London Assembly Annual Report 2014-15

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Chair's welcome

This has been a fantastic year for our city and for the London Assembly. We were hard at work scrutinising the Mayor's policies – providing a strong voice for London's residents and commuters, as well as its millions of visitors.



In the following pages you can read about who we are, what we've done for you in the last year, and what we're going to do for you in the coming year.

On page 42, you can also see our accounts for this year. We've continued to deliver value for money savings, and now our direct budget totals just £7.2 million – down from £8.7 million in 2010/11.

That equates to £1 per year for the average Band D taxpayer – a small sum for having a champion for Londoners over the Mayor's £17 billion budget.

During my year as Chairman, the Assembly exercised real clout on a number of issues: influencing the Mayor to introduce flexible ticketing arrangements to help part-time workers, examining the Met's proposals to introduce body cameras and securing the commitment for two major football clubs to pay the Living Wage. Turn to page 3 for some more examples of our achievements.

At the annual general Meeting in May 2015, I stood down as Chairman and Jennette Arnold OBE was voted in as the new Chair for the coming year. It was a privilege to serve and I know the work of the Assembly can make a real difference to our capital's communities.

But with continued pressure on London's key public services, alongside rapid population growth, and the passing-on of more powers to the Mayor, the work of the Assembly is more vital than ever in the coming year. This work will include:

- investigating whether TfL should take over suburban railways inside and outside London
- holding the Mayor to account on the application of the Government's anti-extremism strategy in London
- looking at London's jobs market
- uncovering the capital's hidden tuberculosis crisis
- examining what the Mayor could do to stabilise rents.

You can read more about our upcoming work on page 43. And of course, we'll continue to hold the Mayor to account at Mayor's Question Time, which you are most welcome to come and watch. All our meetings are open to the public and we enjoy seeing full seats in the Chamber.

2016 will also see elections to the Assembly and a new Mayor, as Boris Johnson steps down.

I hope you find this Annual Report enlightening – and please don't hesitate to get in touch via roger.evans@london.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Roger Evans – Chairman of the London Assembly 2014-2015

What have we done for Londoners lately?





About us

The London Assembly is your voice at City Hall – holding the Mayor to account.



A full Chamber at City Hall for Mayor's Question Time.

Who we are

The London Assembly is one part of the Greater London Authority (GLA), based at City Hall – the other part being the Mayor of London.

The Assembly is made up of 25 Members elected by Londoners at the same time as the Mayor. Eleven represent the whole of the capital with 14 elected by constituencies made up of two or three London boroughs. A full list of your representatives is available on page 44.

The Assembly consists of twelve Labour, nine Conservative, two Green and two Liberal Democrat Assembly Members.

Assembly Members are supported by staff that provide administrative, scrutiny, communications and committee services support, as well as receiving wider assistance from staff and functions across the GLA group.

The next elections for the Mayor of London and London Assembly will take place on 5 May 2016. In the run up, we will help engage Londoners in our work and explain what the Mayor and Assembly do.

Our role

We hold the Mayor of London and their advisers to account by publicly examining their policies, activities and decisions.

We question the Mayor's plans and actions directly at Mayor's Question Time and we also examine how the Mayor's policies will affect London through our various committees.

The Mayor is also required to consult Assembly Members ahead of producing statutory strategies and the £17 billion a year budget, which includes the GLA portion of your council tax.

In addition to City Hall duties, some Assembly Members also represent Londoners on the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

Mayor's Question Time

The most visible example of our scrutiny is [Mayor's Question Time](#), when the Mayor answers questions from Assembly Members ten times a year. In addition to the cross-examination during these sessions, Assembly Members submit written questions to the Mayor, often at the suggestion of their constituents. This year, 4,414 questions were asked of the Mayor. Like all Assembly meetings, these sessions are held in public to ensure the maximum level of transparency and accountability. All the questions – and the Mayor's answers – are published [on our website](#).

Motions and petitions

Assembly Members propose and vote on [motions](#) about issues of importance to the capital at Assembly meetings, and can agree to petition the Mayor or organisations within the GLA group on behalf of Londoners. Examples of Assembly motions this year include calling for full transparency from London and Partners, further expanding the Oyster Card to Stansted and Southend airports, better enforcement of the National Minimum Wage, supporting a Nature and Wellbeing Act and reducing the stigma of dementia.

Our committees

The Mayor has to answer to Londoners at the ballot box every four years; the London Assembly's job is to ensure the Mayor is held accountable every day.

Assembly Members are champions for London, investigating issues that affect everyday life in the capital to find ways of improving our city. The Assembly publishes reports recommending action by the Mayor, the GLA Group (Transport for London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, the London Legacy Development Corporation and London & Partners), central Government, local authorities and others.

All London Assembly meetings are held in public and broadcast on the GLA website so Londoners can see and hear what is being done on their behalf. The BBC Parliament channel also regularly broadcasts our meetings. The Assembly has an active programme of engagement with schools, colleges and universities encouraging students, as well as interested community groups, to come to City Hall to learn about London government and watch it in action at meetings like Mayor's Question Time.

In addition to our main committees looking at the Mayor's work – see page 11 – we also explore the internal work of the GLA:

- The **Audit Panel** contributes to good governance at the GLA. It is concerned with ensuring the security and monitoring of financial systems, ensuring that there is an anti-fraud culture in the organisation and promoting probity and good practice within the core GLA. It liaises with the external auditors over their annual programme and with the Mayor, as appropriate, to approve the annual internal audit programme.
- The **Confirmation Hearings Committee** examines Mayoral appointments. The Mayor must notify the Assembly when making important staff appointments and the Assembly has three weeks to respond with a recommendation as to whether the appointment should be confirmed. The Assembly may request that a candidate attends a Confirmation Hearing to answer questions about the appointment before making a recommendation.
- The **GLA Oversight Committee** is responsible for a range of matters, including responding on the Assembly's behalf to formal staffing consultations from the Head of Paid Service, monitoring scrutiny expenditure, approving rapporteurship proposals, and recommending to the Mayor a budget proposal for the Assembly for the financial year and then allocating that budget. In addition, the GLA Oversight Committee has responsibility for scrutinising any actions or decisions taken by the Mayor on matters relating to education. The Committee usually meets ten times a year.

Mayoral Development Corporations

Through the Localism Act 2011, the Mayor gained the power to designate any part of Greater London a Mayoral Development Area. This gives the Mayor power to determine local planning and development policy within the area's boundaries, with the aim of accelerating regeneration. The Mayor presented proposals to designate a Mayoral Development Area covering Old Oak and Park Royal to the Assembly, at its meeting on 17 December 2014.

The Assembly may reject the Mayor's proposal by a two-thirds majority of Assembly Members present and voting. The Assembly did not agree by the requisite majority to reject the proposal, but it did agree a motion which called on the Mayor to formally respond to concerns raised and to develop an MDC proposal which addressed these issues.



Assembly Members visit Old Oak and Park Royal to inspect the Mayor's plans for a Development Corporation.

Equalities

In order to ensure that a variety of perspectives inform investigations and that our work reflects the diversity of Londoners, Assembly committees aim to attract a diverse range of guests to appear at formal meetings. Committees also strive to ensure that guests have a positive experience of the Assembly and are able to contribute fully to its work.

This year, the Assembly piloted a new survey of committee guests to collect information on diversity characteristics and to invite feedback on the experience of appearing at a committee meeting. From May 2015, the survey has been sent to all guests appearing before all Assembly committees.

As part of our commitment to equalities, we have also undertaken committee-specific work to improve equalities in London's public services. For instance, our Health Committee undertook a rapporteurship, led by Andrew Boff AM, into access to health services facing d/Deaf people, using innovative techniques to engage the d/Deaf community.

You can see further examples of the Assembly's work on equalities issues as part of [the Mayor's Annual Equalities Report for 2014-15](#).

Events

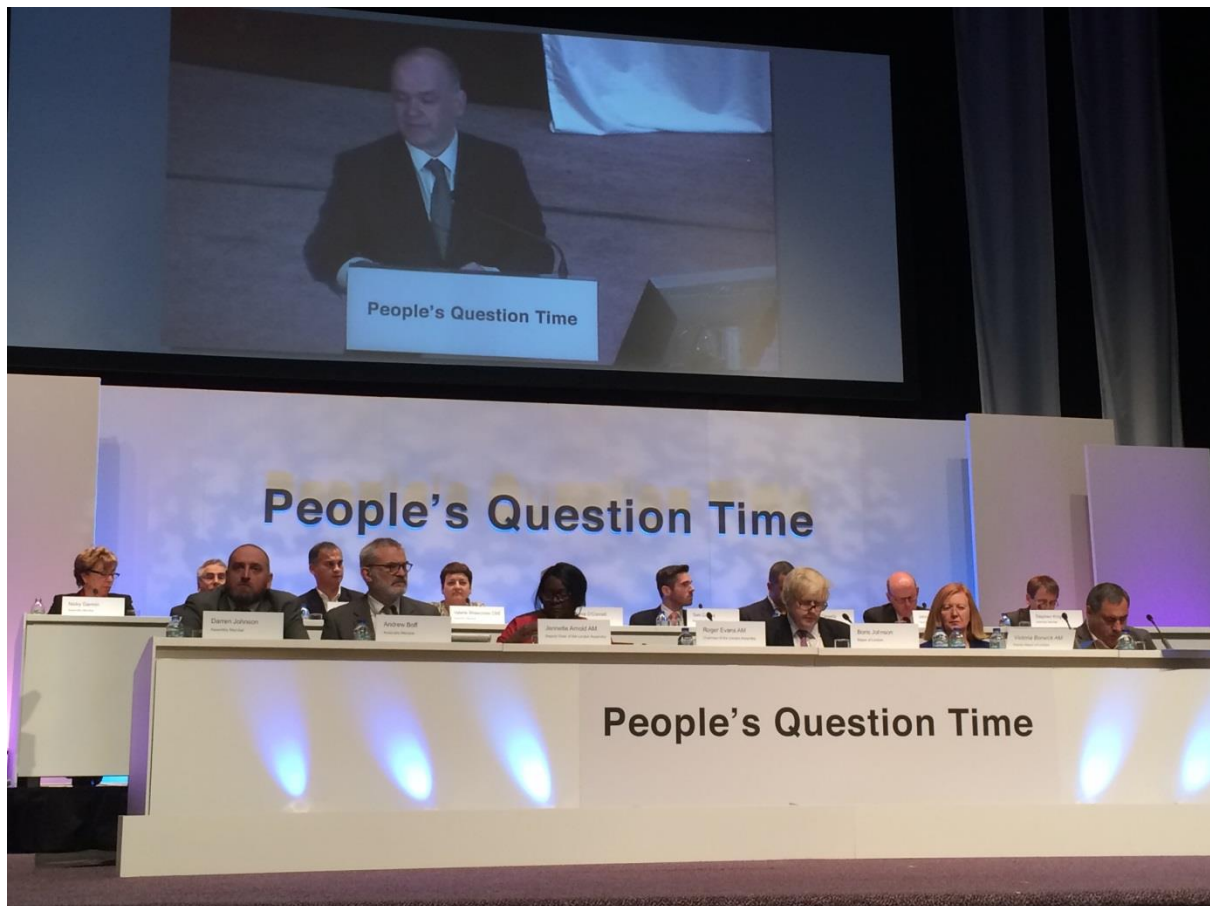
As well as our formal committee work, the London Assembly also puts on a range of events and produces publications to engage, celebrate and remember.

Engaging

Twice a year, Assembly Members and the Mayor hold People's Question Time. This evening event is open to all and gives Londoners an opportunity to ask their elected representatives what they are doing to improve life in their area. This year's events took place in Haringey and Waltham Forest.

In Waltham Forest, 981 Londoners attended the event and the most discussed topics on social media on the night included policing and immigration policy; the proportion of the London road traffic budget being spent on cycling; the London Living Wage and affordable housing. You can read the [transcript here](#).

Later in Haringey, 620 Londoners came along, with the most discussed topics on social media on the night being the Mayor's purchase of water cannon, affordable housing and transport – fares, funding and black cab driver concerns about Uber. You can read the [transcript here](#).



Twice a year at People's Question Time, the Mayor and your Assembly members face the public to take questions from you. This year, we visited Haringey and Walthamstow.



Celebrating

The Chair of the London Assembly, elected by the whole Assembly each year, is given the opportunity to host an annual reception to raise the profile of an issue of their choosing.

The 2014/15 Chairman of the Assembly, Roger Evans AM, hosted an evening reception in March 2015 to celebrate the work and commitment of London's diverse police volunteers. Police volunteers act as advocates for the police, increasing understanding and building relationships in the communities they live and work in. The reception brought together more than 200 police volunteers from across the whole of London.

The Assembly also co-hosted a reception open to all London's new local councillors, following the 2014 London borough elections.

Remembering

The London Assembly has an important formal role in commemorating significant occasions.

This year the Assembly helped to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War through a joint exhibition with the Mayor at City Hall and Trafalgar Square, commemorating the 1,067 London government staff who gave their lives in service of their country.

In addition to the exhibition, the Mayor of London and the London Assembly hosted an Act of Remembrance to give staff the opportunity to reflect upon the 100 years since Britain joined the war and to remember Londoners who lost their lives. Representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Fire Brigade and the Royal British Legion gathered along with organisations that contributed to the exhibition. Every year, we also mark Armed Forces Day jointly with the Mayor of London.

In addition, the London Assembly jointly hosted an annual Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony in partnership with the Mayor, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the Holocaust Educational Trust.



Holocaust survivor Freda Wineman tells her story at Holocaust Memorial Day.

Committee work

In this next section, you can read in more detail about the 2014-15 work of our committees, which scrutinise the Mayor's policies and priorities.

Some committees, such as the Transport Committee, have a clearly defined role looking at an area where the Mayor has specific, statutory powers. Others, such as the Health Committee, look at some of the less formal powers of the Mayor, including the ability to influence Government.

Information on the GLA Oversight Committee, the Audit Panel and the Confirmation Hearings Committee can be found on page 7.

You can find a summary of our achievements this year on pages 3-4 and our ideas for the next year on page 42.



Prior to committee meetings at City Hall, Assembly Members spend time exploring and discussing in detail what the Mayor's plans will mean for you and your community.

Balancing the Mayor's budget

The Budget and Performance Committee examines the Mayor's £17 billion budget, across the five main areas of spending: the Greater London Authority (GLA), Transport for London (TfL), the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade and the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). It is supported by a Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee.

Mayor's Budget for 2015/16

The Budget and Performance Committee scrutinises the Mayor's draft Budget. Every year, the Committee publishes a [Pre-Budget Report](#) to inform the Assembly budget debates and to make recommendations to the Mayor for the draft consultation budget.

This year, the Committee persuaded the Mayor to accept a number of recommendations to improve the quality of the budget document and to provide further information on issues such as housing, policing and apprenticeships to help the process of Assembly scrutiny.

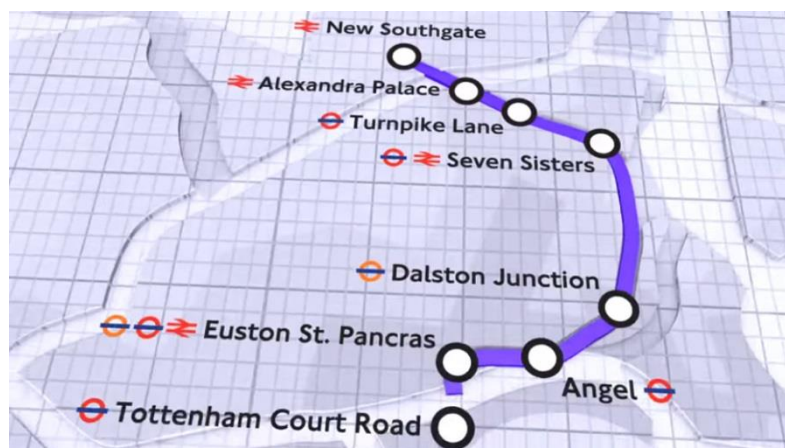
As a result of the Committee's work, the Mayor agreed to significant improvements in London & Partners' transparency – including improving its working with the Assembly to show how it is spending GLA money.

The Mayor also agreed that TfL should review the impact of the introduction of the Pay As You Go daily cap after six months.

The Mayor's Budget eventually passed in March 2015, following a vote by the whole Assembly – which has the power to reject the Budget if two-thirds of Members vote against it. Budget amendments proposed by the Assembly party groups failed to gain the required support.

Funding Crossrail 2

In March, the Committee examined various funding options for Crossrail 2. It reviewed reports prepared by London First and PwC which considered how half of the cost of Crossrail 2 could be met by private sources. Representatives from both organisations gave evidence alongside the Mayor's Advisor on Crossrail 2 and Aviation.



Click on this map to watch a fly-through of the proposed route – or visit www.crossrail2.co.uk Image credit: TfL

With a draft Bill expected during the new Parliament, all parties agreed it was crucial to maintain the momentum of the project to ensure that it is brought to fruition, delivering numerous benefits to those living and working in London. The Committee also heard evidence from the Chairman of the Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group (IIPAG) who discussed the role of advising TfL on its investment programme. The Chairman noted that IIPAG was fulfilling its existing remit but that

consideration would have to be given to providing additional resources should its role be expanded in the future.

Sponsored transport schemes

The Committee published its report [The Viability of Sponsored Transport Schemes](#) in November 2014. This examined the performance and value for money of the cycle hire scheme and Thames cable car, and the contribution made by the scheme sponsors.

The final report made a number of recommendations about the forecasting, business case appraisal and decision making for new transport schemes. It also examined plans for the Garden Bridge, and asked the Mayor to make guaranteed public access and transparency conditions for TfL's funding.

The report also found that the cycle hire scheme would be improved, and made more cost-effective, by increasing the density of bike docking points in central London. One month after the report's publication, TfL announced plans for a further 1,000 docking points within the scheme's current footprint, in line with the report's conclusion.



Monitoring the Met

The Met will need to find further savings of up to £800 million by 2020; the Committee meets with Met and MOPAC representatives regularly to discuss how the Met can meet this challenge while delivering the service that Londoners expect.

As part of its role to scrutinise budgeting and spending, the Committee discussed the Met's

medium-term plans to change the organisation. The Met is currently developing a target operating model for 2020 to guide further reforms, which the Committee expects to include a further rationalisation of the Met's estate, greater use of technology and changes to the ranking structure and the number of police officer ranks. The Committee also looked at how the Met can maintain and improve on levels of public confidence in the police.

London Overground

Is TfL running the Overground effectively? This Committee looked at this question in October. This was an opportunity for Members to discuss a success story for TfL, and to recognise the improvements that TfL has made for passengers since it took over operations in 2007.

Representatives from TfL and London Overground Rail Operations Ltd, together with rail industry experts, discussed performance on the network since it was established, and how the concession model (rather than a franchise model) has contributed to the improvements made so far. Members reiterated their support for the Mayor and TfL to take control of more suburban rail services over the coming years: the Transport Committee will conduct a Rail Devolution investigation into this issue in the first half of the 2015-16 political year.

Cycling investment

Also in October, the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee considered TfL's progress in implementing the Mayor's cycling investment programme. Members questioned the Mayor's Cycling Commissioner and representatives from TfL on the delays to the investment programme, and how TfL was maximising value for money. This meeting allowed Members to maintain the pressure on TfL to ensure the cycling investment programme remains a top priority, and that the allocated budget is spent effectively and without unnecessary delay.

During the discussion, Members asked TfL to improve the maps available for its cycling network. In a written response, TfL committed to developing and publishing an interactive map of the network for its website. This will be the first time that such information will be publicly available, and will help cyclists plan their journeys across London.

TfL fares advice

The Mayor published the fares advice received from TfL for five of the previous six years in May 2014, in advance of the annual fares decision. This was the result of sustained pressure from the Budget and Performance Committee, including recommendations in the Pre-Budget Reports published in 2012 and 2013, together with a Freedom of Information Act request from John Biggs AM following his rapporteurship on transparency in the GLA Group.

In June, the Mayor agreed that TfL's advice would, in future, be published as part of the relevant Mayoral Decision form. By obtaining this commitment, the Assembly has helped to establish an important precedent for future Mayors. This is a very positive outcome after a great deal of work by the Committee and the wider Assembly, and will help the Assembly to assess the fares decision in more detail in the years to come.

London Legacy Development Corporation

The Committee has continued to ask questions of the LLDC regarding the escalating costs of renovating the Olympic Stadium roof. In September, Members questioned the outgoing Chief Executive, Dennis Hone, to determine the scale of the cost increase and who would be liable for these costs.

Transporting London – from A - Z

The Transport Committee examines the Mayor of London's transport priorities – which is the largest part of the annual Budget. The Committee particularly looks at Transport for London's (TfL) role in delivering the Mayor's priorities across all forms of transport, including Underground, Overground, rail, bus, taxi and private hire vehicles, as well as encouraging cycling and walking.

Taxi and private hire services

How is TfL supporting the taxi and private hire industries to respond to the rise of new app-based technology?

In December 2014, the Committee published [Future Proof](#), its report on taxi and private hire services in the capital. The Committee called for a comprehensive new strategy for the taxi and private hire industries, making specific recommendations to the Mayor and TfL on passenger safety, the availability of licensed taxi ranks, accessibility and many other issues.

This followed an extensive investigation into the situation from all sides of the debate:

- listening to groups representing passengers, including safety and disability campaigners, business representatives and international regulators
- hearing from taxi and private hire trade associations, boroughs, the Met and TfL
- inviting trade associations and phone app companies to 'pitch' to the Committee on their ideas for improving these services in the future
- issuing a publicised call for evidence, distributing hundreds of consultation flyers (see right) directly to taxi drivers and private hire firms, which resulted in more than 170 responses
- commissioning a survey of 1,000 passengers and holding focus groups with taxi and private hire drivers to gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting the trades.

Stakeholders welcomed the final published report, with supportive statements from drivers, operators, trade associations and Transport for All, the organisation representing disabled passengers. The report also received a large amount of media attention.

TfL wrote to the Chair of the Committee to confirm its support for many of the recommendations. One immediate reaction from TfL was to announce the removal of advertisements for the minicab firm Uber from its website.

DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T ASK YOU!



The London Assembly is investigating how Taxi and Private Hire services can better meet the needs of London passengers.

Taxi and Private Hire drivers – we want your input.

We will look at a wide range of issues including:

- Availability of Taxis and Private Hire vehicles
- Safety and security, including touting
- Fares and payment options
- The performance of TfL's Taxi and Private Hire Unit

We need your thoughts by 30 September 2014.

Please email us at transportcommittee@london.gov.uk

Or write to:
Transport Committee, London Assembly,
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA.

#beepbeep

LONDONASSEMBLY

Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

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The Committee followed up its work by meeting with the then TfL Commissioner, Sir Peter Hendy, in February 2015, in front of a packed public gallery, to discuss how TfL would be implementing the report's recommendations. The Committee also wrote to the Mayor to urge him to open up this process to scrutiny, with Sir Peter stating he would also recommend this step. Work on this controversial topic continues.



How many cabbies can you fit in the Chamber? So many an overflow room had to be set up! They came to hear Assembly Members question TfL's Sir Peter Hendy about the taxi and private hire report.

Rail disruption at London Bridge

Frustration at the extensive delays at London Bridge was a key issue for Londoners this year.

The Committee met Network Rail in January 2015, to hold it to account on its Thameslink plans and how these were affecting passengers. A number of steps were taken to improve performance, including greater co-ordination between staff based at London Bridge and changes to the rail timetable.

However, service disruptions continued to affect passengers so, in March, the Committee called in Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railway for an urgent meeting to discuss the ongoing problems. During the meeting, it was admitted for the first time that there had been issues with equipment which was installed over Christmas. After the meeting, the Committee received previously undisclosed information about levels of passenger compensation and regular updates on service performance. The Committee continues to monitor the situation closely.

TfL's customer service

Is TfL's customer service good enough? In March, the Committee published a rapporteurship investigation led by Valerie Shawcross CBE AM into the service passengers are receiving. The investigation found that TfL had made improvements to its customer service in recent years, by developing its social media presence, for instance. However, there was still a need for an overarching customer charter to set out what passengers can expect. [TfL Customer Service: Next Steps](#) also recommended TfL make it easier for passengers to complain, improve the transparency of its customer service performance measures and designate responsibility for customer service to a member of the TfL Board. TfL's response to the report confirmed that it would be introducing a new customer charter covering all of its services and modifying its customer helpline to make it easier to complain.



Click on the above image to see Val Shawcross introduce her report – or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMxioTMrRKE>

Door to door transport services

Many disabled and elderly Londoners depend on 'door to door' transport to get them to meetings and appointments – but are these services good enough? In January, the Transport Committee published its report [Improving Door-to-Door Transport in London: Next Steps](#) on the quality of these services. This followed a meeting in late 2014, with guests from TfL, London Councils, user groups and Joan Hunt, an older service user. The report recommended a number of short, medium and long-term steps toward the greater integration of door-to-door services. TfL has since responded to the Committee to confirm its support for almost all of the recommendations, and these will feed in to TfL's ongoing Social Needs Transport Review, which is examining provision of these services. One specific result was the suspension of TfL's planned closure of the Capital Call service, as recommended by the Committee, until the outcome of the review.

Cycling and pedestrian safety

Cycling fatalities hit the headlines too often – and the Committee continues to push the Mayor to make London's roads safer for cyclists.

The Committee received a response from TfL Commissioner, Sir Peter Hendy, to its consultation response on the draft Cycle Safety Action Plan; this noted that TfL agreed with the Committee recommendations to measure cyclist casualties per mile travelled, and to monitor public perception of safety. The Committee met the Mayor's Cycling Commissioner, Andrew Gilligan, in both October and December to discuss major cycling schemes such as the Cycle Superhighways, Quietways and Mini-Hollands.

At the latter meeting, a range of experts also joined the panel, including the former Olympic cycling champion, Chris Boardman MBE, with the focus on ways to increase the safety and diversity of cycling in London. Chris Boardman endorsed the work of the Transport Committee and following the meeting, the Mayor's Cycling Commissioner committed to reviewing the proposed pedestrian crossing times on new Superhighways.



Pedestrian safety also needs stepping up. In September, the Committee wrote to the Mayor, following up its report [Feet First: Improving Pedestrian Safety in London](#), to express concerns that pedestrian safety issues were not receiving adequate consideration in TfL's road safety policies. The Committee also responded to the TfL consultation on the Safer Lorries scheme, arguing for safety equipment to be compulsory on heavy goods vehicles.

Mayor's Draft Infrastructure Plan

How should London prepare for an estimated population of 10 million by the 2030s? The Committee discussed transport aspects of the Mayor's draft Infrastructure Plan at its meeting in October, with representatives from TfL, Crossrail, Abellio, Intelligent Transport Systems and University College London. The discussion focused in particular on funding mechanisms for new transport infrastructure. Subsequently, the Committee prepared a response to the draft plan, which also formed part of the wider Assembly response. The Committee's response proposed a shift away from the emphasis on radial transport links, to opportunities to develop infrastructure outside of London, greater focus on improving surface transport access to London's existing airports and more detail on how new infrastructure will be funded.

Crossrail and HS2

The HS2 route and any compensation packages are a real concern for many Londoners. The Assembly suggested various amendments to the Mayor's draft petition to Parliament regarding the High Speed (London – West Midlands) Bill 2013-14 to 2014-15 including that it should cover the need for Londoners directly affected by HS2 to receive adequate compensation. These amendments were taken into account by the Mayor in the final petition.

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In June, the Committee noted progress in its calls for step-free access at all Crossrail stations. The Committee has argued for the provision of step-free access at all 40 Crossrail stations. The Department for Transport and TfL confirmed their aim to make the entire Crossrail route accessible and published options to make the seven remaining stations step-free.



Site visits help us see what's happening 'on the ground' – and beneath it. Assembly Members Victoria Borwick, Caroline Pidgeon and Navin Shah burrow underground to see Crossrail's progress.

Policing the capital and keeping Londoners safe

The Police and Crime Committee investigates the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and reviews the Police and Crime Plan for London. The Committee can also examine anything which it considers to be of importance to policing and crime reduction in Greater London and make recommendations for improvements. The Committee regularly questions the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime at City Hall.

Policing the police

The Police and Crime Committee conducts regular question and answer sessions to hold the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to account. A senior Metropolitan Police Service representative also attends.

This year, the Committee has focused particularly on the Met's role in counter terrorism. In January 2015, for example, the Committee examined what lessons the Met learned from the responses to the terrorist attacks on the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris. In March, the Committee looked at the Prevent strategy, aimed at tackling radicalisation, in preparation for an investigation in the new municipal year. The Committee also used its question and answer sessions to follow up on past investigations. In December 2014, the Committee examined the Met's provision of its detention service, following on from its 2014 report [Falling short: the Met's healthcare of detainees in custody](#). Members heard from Lord Victor Adebawale, Chair of the Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing, about how the Met supports people in custody who may be in a state of distress, violent or vulnerable.

Other topics considered during the year included neighbourhood policing; violent crime; stop and search; taser; the policing of protests; and the ethics of policing in London.

Youth reoffending

How can young offenders be stopped from reoffending? The Committee commenced its investigation into youth reoffending in January 2015 to assess what more the Mayor

could do to address the problem. As well as hearing from a range of academics and practitioners, the Committee spoke to young former offenders who have experience of the youth justice system in London. The ex-offenders, who work with the charity User Voice, came from a variety of backgrounds: some had been placed into custody, others were in the early stages of working with Youth Offending Teams in the community. Members heard about their



Joanne McCartney (Chair, left) and Jenny Jones (Deputy Chair, right) hear directly from young people about improving the youth justice system.

experiences of the support they received both in prison and in the community, and discussed with them what they wanted to see from an effective youth justice system. The final [report](#) was published in the 2015/16 session.

Online crime

The London Assembly hit national headlines when its survey of 1,000 Londoners found that a greater proportion were more likely to have been a victim of online crime than property crimes like burglary or muggings.

[*Tightening the net: the Metropolitan Police Service's response to online theft and fraud*](#) published in March, examined trends in online theft and fraud and assessed how the Met is dealing with the threat to businesses and the public. The report recommended that the Met should appoint a senior ranking officer responsible for ensuring the whole force is prepared to tackle online crime. It also said that the Office for National Statistics should introduce specific questions into the Crime Survey for England and Wales to measure online victimisation; and that the Mayor should lead a London-wide campaign during 2015-16 to draw attention to the threat of online crime and raise awareness of Action Fraud.



Roger Evans, Chairman of the Online Crime Working Group, visits the Victim Support call centre to hear about the experiences of victims from staff on the front line.

The report was launched at the London headquarters of Victim Support, where the Chairman met with the charity's London Director, the Head of National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and spoke to call handlers who deal with calls from members of the public who have been victims of online crime.

Safeguarding children

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) scandal in Rotherham revealed the importance of an effective plan to protect children. This year the Committee published its report into London's approach to safeguarding children from CSE – [*Confronting Child Sexual Exploitation in London*](#). The report explored the capital's approach to protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation. It recommended that MOPAC set out a clear performance monitoring framework for CSE and asked all London Local Safeguarding Children Boards to ensure robust mechanisms are working to monitor the effectiveness of CSE strategies and procedures. The report is being used by local authority scrutiny committees to ask questions about strategies to tackle CSE in their local area.

The report followed on from the Committee's investigation on safeguarding children. [*Keeping London's children safe*](#), published in July 2014, examined the Met's role in safeguarding

children and the strategic oversight of MOPAC. While the report recognised significant improvement in the way the Met approaches child protection, including improved cooperative working with many other agencies, it called for an increase in the number of officers dedicated to tackling the rise in reported cases of sexual abuse of children in London.

Met Police diversity



Credit: British Tourist Authority

The Met's frontline is significantly less diverse than the city it serves.

Before it began recruiting in 2013, only 11 per cent of its officers were from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background, compared with approximately 40 per cent of the population in London. The lack of BAME officers is particularly evident at senior levels in the Met, where only six per cent of its officers are ranked Inspector or above. Women make up just a quarter of the Met's frontline, but at senior levels they are even less well represented: only 18 per cent of officers ranked Inspector or above in the Met are women. Arguably, the Met's biggest concern is its representation of BAME women, who make up only three per cent of its frontline. In December, the Committee published its report, [The Diversity of the Met's Frontline](#). Based on evidence heard from officers at all ranks in the Met, the report identified the steps the Met needed to take to improve the diversity of its workforce.

These included: targeting BAME women as a specific group and creating 'champions' to increase diversity; supporting flexible working to plug the rising number of female officers leaving the force; and to consider the legal implications of introducing schemes like those used in New York and Northern Ireland to increase diversity, if in the next two years other efforts prove unsuccessful.

Keeping water cannon in focus

Through its Q&A sessions, the Committee continued to contribute to the debate about MOPAC's decision to purchase water cannon on behalf of the Met. This followed on from the Committee's [investigation](#) in the 2013-14 session which concluded that the Met had not set out a convincing case for why water cannon were needed in London by summer 2014. Issues discussed included the ethical framework for the use of water cannon, and the reasons why water cannon were purchased without the Home Secretary's agreement to license them.

Stop and search follow-up

Is the Met using its stop and search powers correctly? The Committee used its Q&A sessions to follow up on its [review](#) of the Met's new approach to stop and search – known as Stop It – during 2013. The Met and MOPAC agreed to carry out a number of the report's recommendations, including improving confidence in the recording of stop and search by evaluating the impact body-worn cameras could have on stop and search as part of its pilot,

and ensuring young people have an opportunity to influence stop and search policy in the future. The Committee will continue to monitor the Met's use of this power and MOPAC's role in overseeing it.



Chair Joanne McCartney and Deputy Chair Caroline Pidgeon inspect holding cells.

Making London a better place to be

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee scrutinises the Mayor's role and record in delivering the homes London needs.

Regeneration of housing estates

Councils and housing associations face tough choices when considering whether to refurbish or demolish run-down housing estates. In February, the Housing Committee published [Knock It Down or Do It Up?](#) which aimed to improve the regeneration process.



Our report found that 8,000 social homes were lost in a decade as a result of redesigning housing estates

It included a guide for community groups, councillors and housing professionals to some of the best ways to work together to regenerate estates and it was provided to all London councillors and others, including community groups. It received very favourable reviews, was cited in the Financial Times and referenced extensively in an Institute for Public Policy Research report on estate regeneration.

Rough sleeping

What is the Mayor doing to protect rough sleepers - and to improve their health? The Committee published its report on Rough Sleeping and Single Homelessness in July 2014. The report, [No Going Back](#), focused on why one third of the rough sleepers who have been picked up by the Mayor's 'No Second Night Out' programme find themselves back on the streets.

It highlighted how appropriate support to rough sleepers could be impeded by the fragmentation of provision, both geographical and functional, and made recommendations to the Mayor, the Government and the London Health Commission on how to rectify this. It also noted the need for earlier intervention to prevent Londoners from ending up on the streets. The health-related recommendations were taken forward in the London Health Commission's report and the Mayor's new Commissioning Framework for rough sleeping has prevention as one of its priorities.

Gypsy and traveller sites

The issue of providing gypsy and traveller sites was tackled when, in October 2014, the Housing Committee followed up on site visits undertaken in September, with a formal meeting on the Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites in London.

The first part of the meeting was an open public discussion on the impact of a lack of London sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community. The meeting was attended by gypsies and

travellers who actively contributed to the discussion. The Committee also heard from a range of expert guests. Topics covered included the use of temporary and unauthorised sites, the operation of waiting lists, the conditions applied to Mayoral funding and an innovative negotiated stopping arrangement in Leeds.

The Committee then [wrote](#) to the Mayor with its concerns on this issue in January 2015.

Affordable home ownership

Is affordable home ownership slipping out of the reach of ordinary Londoners? The Committee took evidence over the winter on how the Mayor's affordable homes programme, particularly the shared ownership plans, were working. The Committee held sessions with experts and surveyed shared owners. The [report](#) was published and follow-up work will be undertaken on its findings during the 2015-16 year.

Impact of investor buyers

The phenomenon of 'buy-to-leave,' whereby properties are bought purely as an investment and left vacant, has attracted considerable attention this year. In March, the Committee considered the impact of investor buyers on the market for new-build properties in London. The Committee heard conflicting views on the size and geographic extent of the problem.

All were agreed that the lack of robust data on this topic is hindering our understanding of the significance of investor buyers in the London new-build market. Accordingly, the Committee has written to the Mayor to ask him to consider whether he could support some research into this matter.

Homes and welfare reform

The last meeting of the 2014-15 year provided an opportunity for Committee Members to question the Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property on a range of issues, including tackling and preventing rough sleeping, the impacts of welfare reform in London and the number of affordable homes built between 2011 and 2015.

During the meeting, the Deputy Mayor suggested consulting the Committee on the commissioning framework for the forthcoming rough sleeping programme. The Committee has now responded to this outline document, in consultation with external stakeholders, and awaits further detail.



Top: Housing Committee members explore what estate regeneration means for residents.

Below: Darren Johnson, Andrew Boff and Tom Copley investigating gypsy & traveller housing.



Planning Committee

The Mayor of London has a significant strategic role in planning – setting the London Plan and making a final decision on large-scale developments. The Planning Committee’s role is to scrutinise the detail of the London Plan and the Mayor’s use of planning powers.

London skyline



London’s skyline is rapidly changing. Around 600 applications for tall buildings have been referred to the Mayor since 2008 and more than 200 of these are being built or are likely to be built. 80 per cent of these buildings are intended to be residential.

At a meeting in June, the Committee sought to clarify why London is seeing an unprecedented increase in the number of tall buildings, what purpose these new developments serve and what advantages

and disadvantages they present for London and Londoners. Discussion also covered the different actions the Mayor could take to manage this trend more effectively – and to ensure tall buildings contribute positively to the city’s future skyline.

The Chair of the Committee [wrote to the Mayor to follow up](#), noting developments that have taken place since the Assembly approved a unanimous motion urging the Mayor to adopt new policies to control and protect London’s skyline from the negative effects of tall buildings. The Mayor responded in May.

Infrastructure

The Planning Committee co-ordinated a response on behalf of the Assembly to the Mayor’s consultation on the [London Infrastructure Plan 2050](#). This drew on its October meeting which centred around three questions:

- What infrastructure is needed to accommodate London’s growth sustainably?
- How can the Mayor maximise London’s available space by unlocking land for development, and what are the implications for the city’s infrastructure?
- How can the necessary infrastructure be delivered? Will the Mayor’s proposals for a London Infrastructure Delivery Board accomplish this?



Nicky Gavron chairs a Planning Committee meeting about London’s infrastructure needs – with guests including Lord Andrew Adonis.

Accommodating London's growth

London's population is set to reach 10 million by 2036 – but where will all these new Londoners live and work? In January, the Committee met with a number of experts to discuss options for accommodating London's forecast population growth. The Mayor's existing approach is to ensure growth takes place within the current boundaries without encroaching on the Green Belt, or on London's protected open spaces. Members discussed a range of options for amending this approach in the future including building more densely on brownfield sites, building more in the suburbs, working with councils outside of London to build more homes there, and whether greenfield and green belt development should become an option.

A recurring theme in relation to accommodating London's growth is the need to increase housing density. In March, the Committee discussed the role of different housing typologies – such as high-rise tower blocks of flats or traditional houses – in increasing density. The discussion focussed on how to help accommodate a range of individuals and families, without sacrificing residential quality or sustainability.

Mayor's use of call-in powers

The use of the Mayor's powers to call in and determine planning applications of strategic importance has been increasing in the past year. In November, the Planning Committee met with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and a number of external experts to discuss the exercise of the Mayor's strategic planning decision powers.

Planning – in numbers

- There will be **10 million** Londoners by 2036...
- **600** applications for tall buildings have been referred to the Mayor since 2008...
- Redeveloping **950 hectares** of industrial land in Old Oak Common could create **24,000 homes** and **55,000 jobs**...

Mayoral Development Corporation

At its meeting in July, the Committee discussed the Mayor's proposals for a Mayoral Development Corporation at Old Oak and Park Royal and the implications for the Park Royal Opportunity Area. The Mayor laid the final proposals before the Assembly at an extraordinary plenary meeting in December. See page 7 for details.

Alterations to the London Plan

The Mayor's London Plan is the blueprint for London's development – and technical changes can have a real impact on buildings in the capital. The Examination in Public of the [Mayor's Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan](#) commenced at the beginning of September. The Committee was represented by the Chair and two other Committee Members. The Assembly was invited to participate on six of the matters for discussion: housing targets; housing density; waste; economy; retail; and transport. Over the course of August, the Planning Committee submitted 13 further written statements on these matters and the questions posed by the Inspector.

Improving the capital's economy, skills and neighbourhoods

Economy Committee

The Economy Committee examines how the Mayor promotes London's economy, including the work of the London Enterprise Panel (LEP).

Economic impact of climate change

Is London prepared for climate change? In December, the Committee launched its interim report, [The impact of climate change on London's economy](#). The launch took place at an engagement event at City Hall, organised in partnership with Team London Bridge, the business improvement district for London Bridge. The event was attended by business and climate change stakeholders, with presentations from the Environment Agency, Centre for Cities, Share Action and PwC.

The report, based on contributions from a range of business and environmental experts, emphasised the importance for businesses, and London more broadly, to fully assess risks to their businesses posed by climate change. It included a climate change stress test for the London economy and the Committee wrote to the Mayor and a number of stakeholders to seek their views on the questions covered in the test.

The Committee published [a final report](#), which took these views into account, and made several recommendations for the Mayor and others, in the summer.

Problem personal debt

Around half a million Londoners are currently in financial difficulty and the estimated cost of London's problem debt could be as much as £1.4 billion. In March 2015, the Committee published [Final Demand](#), its report into personal problem debt. The Committee recommended a number of actions be taken by the Mayor, London boroughs, central Government and the Money Advice Service, to address problem debt and promote affordable savings options. The Mayor has now agreed to act on some of the Committee's recommendations; particularly those relating to public awareness and the risks posed to young people by illegal money lending.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are an important way for young people to balance earning money with training. In 2014, the Economy Committee published [Trained in London](#), its report on apprenticeships in the capital. In support of its launch, the Chair spoke about the Committee's report at Aon UK's insurance sector apprenticeships network. The report proposed that the Mayor produce an Apprenticeships Action Plan, which would bring together all relevant Mayoral initiatives. The Mayor accepted this recommendation.

Internships

It's an essential step into many industries – but this year the Economy Committee discovered that only 4 in 10 current and former interns were paid the National Minimum Wage. In December, the Committee [published](#) the findings of its survey and wrote to the Mayor making a number of recommendations to examine the issue and develop a policy. The Mayor accepted the Committee's recommendation to carry out more research on the issue and made a public statement in support of paid quality internships.

LEP and the Mayor's Economic Development Plan

Scrutinising the role of the Mayor, as Chair of the London Enterprise Panel, is a key part of the Committee's work. The Panel is the body through which boroughs, business and Transport for London take a strategic view of the regeneration, employment and skills agenda for London.



Stephen Knight meets apprentice chefs at Brigade Restaurant

The Committee provided proposals for the new Economic Development Plan being developed by the LEP. It also met LEP representatives in June to discuss the emerging themes of the plan and to discuss concerns about its relationship to the Mayor's statutory Economic Development Strategy.

The future of financial services

The Mayor regularly champions London as the world's leading financial centre – but a number of factors will influence its future evolution. In February, the Committee hosted a seminar to explore the future of financial services in the capital. A panel of experts presented their varied perspectives. The event was attended by guests from business groups, think tanks and academia. A number of factors which could challenge London's financial services were discussed, including new regulatory frameworks, competition with other global financial centres, the relationship with Europe, growing public scrutiny and changing investment trends. In March 2015, the Committee produced a [podcast summary](#) of the event.

London's role in the European Union

What is London's role in Europe? In September, the Committee met with the Mayor's Chief Economic Adviser to discuss his report assessing the impact on London of potential changes to the UK's relationship with the EU. The Committee explored the modelling of the impact of different scenarios used for the report and whether other indicators had been taken into account during the modelling, including: poverty; income and wealth inequality; greenhouse gas emissions; 'subjective wellbeing'; or other economic indicators.

LONDONASSEMBLY



Above: Economy Chair Jenny Jones alongside the Financial Services event panel representatives from the media, academia, industry and government.

Below: Jenny chairs a conference event on the impact of climate change on London's economy.



Regeneration Committee

The Regeneration Committee was established in May 2013 to examine the Mayor's regeneration plans, with particular reference to the power given to the Mayor to establish Mayoral Development Corporations.

Stadium-led regeneration

March saw the Committee publish its report, [The Regeneration Game](#), on stadium-led regeneration. The report found that the potential benefits could be enhanced if the Mayor introduced a charter for stadium-led regeneration. The charter would include commitments to pay stadium employees the London Living Wage, support the Mayor's housing targets for mixed and balanced communities and establish a community forum to involve local groups in a new stadium before it is built.

The publication of the report contributed to securing commitments from two London football clubs to pay their staff the London Living Wage.

The Committee also recommended that all stadium expansion schemes are included within the categories of development that are referable to the Mayor, and that the Mayor publishes details of the claw-back arrangements between the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and West Ham United FC, should the club be sold.

In addition to meeting with football clubs, the Committee heard the views of people living and working near new or proposed stadiums. A survey for members of the public was launched on Talk London, the GLA's forum for the public to both have their say on policy, alongside a focus group with representatives of local businesses operating near the Emirates Stadium, to discuss the impact the stadium has had on their trading.

Mayor's Regeneration Fund

The Mayor introduced the Mayor's Regeneration Fund to support regeneration in a number of town centres following the August 2011 riots. On the third anniversary of the riots, the Committee published the report [Out of the Ashes](#) which expressed concern at the delays in spending the money – just 16 per cent of the Fund was spent over this time.

The report recommended that the Mayor improve communication with Londoners about how and when the Fund is being spent. It also called on the Mayor to both ensure effective local leadership is in place when allocating funds and to work with the London Enterprise Panel to support boroughs in their engagement with the private sector.

Major regeneration projects

Visiting major regeneration schemes and seeing what lessons there are for the whole of London is an important part of the Committee's work.

The Committee visited Smithfield Market in February 2015. Members received a briefing from the City of London about its objectives for the Smithfield and Farringdon area, before touring the market with representatives of Smithfield Market Tenants' Association. Members heard about proposals for redevelopment of the market, why recent plans were rejected and potential alternative options for the site.

Also in February, the Committee followed its site visit to the Royal Docks (December 2014) with a meeting to discuss the Mayor and the London Enterprise Panel's (LEP) role in regeneration of the area and lessons from the redevelopment of Canary Wharf. The meeting provided a robust debate on the challenges facing the Mayor in leading regeneration of the Docks, such as land management, balancing commercial and residential development and maximising investment through the Enterprise Zone. Following the meeting, the Committee wrote to the Mayor, calling for the GLA to learn from the experience of Canary Wharf in supporting local employment and to devise a strategy for management of the area, including the GLA's exit strategy. The Mayor has since responded to the Committee, and has committed to conducting a management review of the Royal Docks later in 2015 and to update the Committee accordingly.

The Regeneration Committee returned to the Olympic Park in October 2014, to follow up its review of the work of the LLDC from December 2013. Members visited the stadium conversion works and the Aquatics Centre, as well as sites in the south of the Park where the LLDC is developing an educational and cultural quarter.

After this, in November the Committee held a formal meeting to discuss the delivery of the Olympic regeneration legacy and progress towards achieving convergence between east London and the rest of the capital. At this session, the Committee received an update from the new LLDC Chief Executive, David Goldstone and spoke with representatives from the London boroughs of Newham and Hackney. The discussion covered a range of topics from the stadium works, to employment and skills in the Growth Boroughs and new housing at the Park - informing debate as part of the Assembly's scrutiny of the Mayor's Budget.



An early rise for Regeneration Committee Chairman Gareth Bacon, (centre) Murad Qureshi (left) and Navin Shah (right) to view the City of London's regeneration of Smithfield Market and the surrounding Farringdon area.

LONDONASSEMBLY



You're hired! Gareth Bacon, Murad Qureshi and Navin Shah meet Karren Brady, West Ham Vice-Chair.



The Regeneration Game: Navin Shah, Murad Qureshi, Gareth Bacon and James Cleverly looking at lessons learnt from the regeneration of Manchester City football club and the surrounding area.

Our health and the wellbeing of our environment

Health Committee

The Health Committee examines the Mayor's role in reducing health inequalities, strategic pan-London health coordination and the London Health Board.

Access to GP services

Is it getting harder to get a GP appointment in London? In March, the Committee published the results of its [investigation into general practice care in London](#). The report highlighted the increased pressures faced by London GPs, as demand reaches unprecedented levels, due to London's rapid population growth. It also pointed to the need for better access to GP care and improved patient satisfaction by increasing the number of GPs, improving premises and raising workforce morale.

The report was launched at the Docklands Medical Centre and was warmly received by stakeholders and the media.

Access to health services for d/Deaf people

The Assembly has listened to the concerns of d/Deaf people. Deputy Chair Andrew Boff AM led a review on behalf of the Health Committee, into [access to health services for d/Deaf people](#). We used deaf with a capital 'D' to identify individuals who are profoundly deaf, who were born deaf or became deaf at an early age, while individuals with mild hearing loss, through to severe loss, were referred to with a small 'd'.

A key contributor to the investigation was a half-day seminar with health care providers and d/Deaf service users to explore the challenges health service providers face to make services

more accessible and how they might be overcome.



Mental health services for young people and BAME communities

To inform its investigation into mental health service provision, the Committee held a second evidence-gathering session in January with

expert guests from the national mental health charity Mind, a mental health trust and a community support organisation. The discussion explored the contributing factors to poor mental health for Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, the barriers they face in accessing mental health care and support and how the Mayor could help improve access to services and support. The Committee [published](#) its findings in July 2015.

Tuberculosis (TB) prevention

London is the TB capital of Europe. In March, Members of the Committee visited a TB Unit at Whittington Hospital in preparation for the launch of an investigation into TB in London. Members toured the facilities and met with clinical and nursing staff to talk about the challenges of managing and controlling TB in London. Members also met patients undergoing

treatment at the unit to discuss their experiences. The visit highlighted a number of areas of focus for the Committee's forthcoming investigation.

Sexual health

Sexual health matters. The Assembly last examined access to sexual health services in 2004/05, focussing on young people's access to services, information and advice on sexually transmitted infections. At a Committee meeting in June 2014, Members received an update briefing on sexual health in London. Members were briefed on the drivers for the rise in demand for sexual health services in London, the impact of changes under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to the way that services are commissioned and delivered and the future challenges. The Committee also visited the Whittington Hospital in north London to hear about its work in promoting sexual health.



Dr Onkar Sahota on a Health Committee site visit to Burrell Street sexual health centre.

London Health Commission

The London Health Commission was set up by the Mayor in September 2013 under Lord Darzi to investigate health and care services in London. It published its report in October 2014. At a meeting in January, the Committee discussed its findings and recommendations with the Mayor. Members sought the Mayor's views on the suggested appointment of a London Health Commissioner and making the case for more funds for public health and healthcare in London.



Above: Health Committee Chair Dr Onkar Sahota speaking to ITV London about the GP access report.
Below: Andrew Boff launching his d/Deaf health access report.



Environment Committee

The Environment Committee focusses on all aspects of the capital's environment by reviewing the Mayor's strategies on air quality, water, waste, climate change and energy. It also considers what additional measures could be taken to help improve London's quality of life.

Food waste recycling

With landfill sites in London nearly full, food waste must be disposed of better. In February, the Committee published its report on food waste recycling, [Bag it or bin it?](#) Recommendations included collecting food and organic waste separately across all property types in every borough, asking the Mayor to support London Councils in seeking resources from the Government to support this, and that the Mayor should support food waste reduction and recycling programmes from GLA resources.

Severe weather/climate change adaptation

London is not well prepared for the risks of severe weather – and climate change is likely to make things worse. The Committee published its report on adapting to severe weather and climate change, [Come rain or shine](#), following evidence from academics, practitioners and others. Recommendations addressed the need to update building standards and regulations, especially to keep homes cool in hot weather, to ensure the drainage network is sufficient to deal with future heavy rainfall, to promote flood-resistant buildings in flood-prone areas, and to set out an updated action plan for the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Overall, the report found a need for Mayoral and other strategies to be driven by an assessment of weather and climate risks and it outlined what needs to be done to adapt to those risks.

Ultra Low Emission Zone

Toxic exhaust pipes are by the far the biggest contributor to unclean air – but will introducing an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) help tackle this? In February, the Committee published its [response](#) to the consultation on the Mayor's proposed ULEZ. The Committee argued for the zone to be introduced sooner than 2020, for it to be extended into boroughs that wish to participate, and for the effect of the zone to be strengthened by progressively stepping up the charge for non-compliance.



Environment Committee members Stephen Knight and Jenny Jones exploring innovative food waste solutions.

The Committee's views received a great deal of attention. Since the response, the Mayor has signed an order for a largely unchanged ULEZ, but the UK Supreme Court has also ordered the Government to produce a revised national air quality strategy. The Committee may revisit its call for a faster, wider, stronger zone as part of the response to that judgment. Under pressure to improve London's air quality and to coincide with the meetings for this investigation, the Mayor announced additional resources for cleaner buses and taxis.



London's water supply

Are London's drains prepared for more water? In February 2015, the Committee met with Thames Water to discuss London's water issues, including keeping the capital's growing population supplied with water and ensuring the capital drains safely in the face of potentially heavier future rainfall. There were also discussions on reducing leakage from water pipes, keeping sewage out of London's rivers, promoting water efficiency and reducing water bills. The meeting

informed the Committee's report on adapting to severe weather and climate change, mentioned above.

Carbon reduction strategy

After an investigation earlier in 2014 into the Mayor's carbon reduction strategies, the Environment Committee [published a report card](#) in July 2014, assessing performance on different aspects of that strategy. The report card held the Mayor to account for under-delivery on some of the key programmes and for missed milestones on the overall London carbon emissions trajectory.

Biodiversity

In March, the Committee met with the London Wildlife Trust, the London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum and the GLA, to discuss the draft update to the Mayor's 2002 Biodiversity Strategy as well as practical issues of implementing the strategy at borough level. Following the meeting, the Committee [wrote](#) to the Mayor urging him to develop a London-wide ecological resource that local planning authorities can access and calling for biodiversity data to be gathered across London every ten years, surveying Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

As recommended by the Committee, a draft supplement or addendum to the statutory but dated Biodiversity Strategy has now been produced.

Educating our young and devolving more powers

Education Panel

Established to review and investigate the development and delivery of the Mayor's policies and strategies around education, the Education Panel has conducted important work on topics such as the school places crisis.

Mayor's role in the new schools system

The Education Panel published its report '[London learners, London lives](#)' in September 2014, which reviewed the Mayor's intervention in the education sector and made practical recommendations for supporting the creation of new school places. It also recommended support for children and young people to attain the high quality qualifications they need to successfully compete in London's global labour market. The recommendations were picked up in the Centre for London's manifesto for the further devolution of powers to London. The findings were also followed up at September's meeting with London Councils which reviewed the school places crisis. Further discussions with borough and third sector experts took place around the Mayor's support for children and young people with complex needs. Following the meeting, representations were made to the Mayor proposing further actions to specifically support this group of children.

In early 2015, the Mayor responded in support of the report and agreed to implement all of the recommendations made by the Panel.

Can London's schools compete?

In February 2015, the Panel met to discuss the performance of London's schools in comparison to other UK regions and other global cities. The Panel received a presentation from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which explored global performance in education and heard from a Senior Inspector from the Office for Standards in Education,



Jennette Arnold chairs a meeting of the Education Panel with an expert from Finland video-conferencing their experiences.

Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) who put forward Ofsted's view of how London's schools are performing. Questions were also put to the Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture about the role of the Mayor in supporting schools, teachers and young people and how that role could develop. In follow-up work, the Panel pressed the Deputy Mayor to reassess the cost of producing data that would allow a Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) score for London that was separate to the rest of the UK, permitting comparisons to be made with key competitor cities across the globe.

Tackling educational disadvantage

Between 3,000 and 5,000 young people in London a year receive specialist support but despite the input from dedicated professionals, educational outcomes for many of these young people fall well behind their peers receiving mainstream education. The Education Panel continued its work reviewing the role of the Mayor in supporting education opportunities for young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds. The Panel heard from a range of experts about the challenges facing alternative provision and Pupil Referral Units. Recommendations from that meeting will be taken forward in a future discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Education.

Devolution Working Group

The Devolution Working Group was established by the GLA Oversight Committee in December 2013. Its role is to look at what powers can be granted from central Government to London government to improve Londoners' lives.

The Devolution Working Group held two meetings in February to discuss how London could benefit from a further devolution of powers and resources. The Group heard initially from Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the Core Cities Group and Leader of Manchester City Council, and from Harvey McGrath, Vice-Chair of the London Enterprise Panel, to discuss how the Greater Manchester Agreement would affect governance in the city and what practical additional powers would be devolved to the city region.

A further meeting heard from Sir Edward Lister, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, Mayor Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils, and Councillor Philippa Roe, London Councils' Executive Member for Devolution and Public Service Reform, about what a London proposition for further devolution should include.

Discussions were also held with Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, about how the criminal justice system could be devolved to London government and the benefits that would bring in terms of financial savings and greater service efficiency.

The report will be published in late summer/early autumn 2015, following further meetings.

The cost and what we do with your money

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is paid for through a levy on London council tax bills – commonly known as the GLA precept, central government grants, and income from interest, sales, fees and charges.

The London Assembly directly controls a budget of £7.2 million for 2014-15, equating to a cost of £1 a year to the average Band D taxpayer. The budget fell from £7.4 million in 2013-14 and has been frozen for 2015-16. Just over half the budget (£3.9 million) funds the work of the 25 Assembly Members and their staff. Another £2.2 million is spent on officers who support the work of the Assembly by arranging its public meetings, researching and drafting its reports, publicising its work and organising events. The remaining £1.1 million is spent on London TravelWatch, which deals with specific complaints from public transport users in London.

These resources are focused on scrutinising the Mayor's budget of £17 billion.

	2014-15 £m	2015-16 £m
Assembly Members	1.8	1.8
Member Services	2.1	2.1
Scrutiny & Investigations	1.2	1.5
Committee Services	0.5	0.5
External Relations	0.3	0.0
Director/Business Support	0.3	0.2
London TravelWatch	1.0	1.1
Net revenue expenditure	7.2	7.2

What's next? The Year Ahead

2015-16 will be another busy year for the London Assembly, particularly as we prepare for the Mayoral and Assembly elections on 5 May 2016. Here is a taste of the Committee work we'll be carrying out over the next year:

- The **Transport Committee** will investigate the possible role of Transport for London in rail devolution, the impact of commercial traffic and solutions for our crowded roads, as well as continuing to focus on the taxi and private hire industry.
- The **Budget and Performance Committee** and the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee will hold the Mayor to account on the proposed Budget and help identify ways to save money and deliver quality services – such as looking at the use of outsourcing in the Met Police.
- The **Police and Crime Committee** will continue examining the work of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with particular interest in performance of the Met, rape case handling and professional standards.
- In the next year, **the Housing Committee** will continue to examine the Mayor's record on the housing delivery programme. It will also look specifically at the subject of student accommodation in London.
- Meanwhile, the **Planning Committee** will examine alterations to the Mayor's London Plan, look at estate regeneration from a planning perspective and examine London's relationship with the wider South East.
- The **Economy Committee** will examine the role of the third sector in employment and skills programmes in London, flexibility in London's labour market, and childcare provision.
- The **Regeneration Committee** will investigate transport-led regeneration in London and also look at the role Business Improvement Districts have in supporting regeneration, alongside further scrutiny of the London Legacy Development Corporation.
- The use of solar panels on residential properties will be investigated by the **Environment Committee**, as well as the environmental pressures of London's growth.
- The **Health Committee** will investigate how to tackle rising cases of tuberculosis in London, maternity service provision and issues surrounding end of life care, along with continued scrutiny of the Mayor's role in promoting health equality.
- As the government prepares to devolve powers to the nations and England's major cities, the **Devolution Working Group** will publish its report on what powers government should devolve to the Mayor/boroughs.
- Finally, the **Education Panel** will continue to look at how London's schools fare in comparison to those in other global cities and explore how to better prepare our young people to compete in a global labour market.

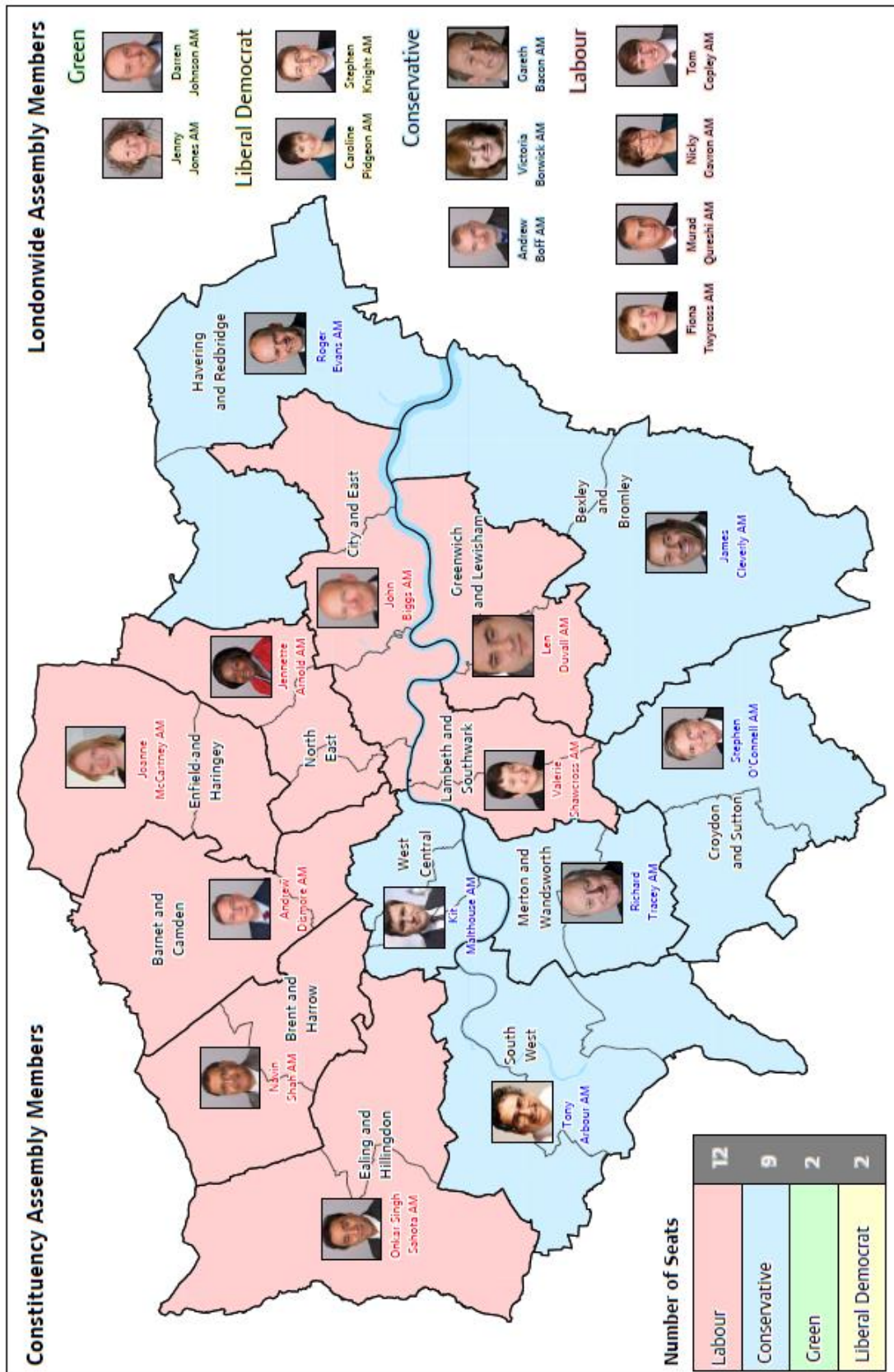
Who are your representatives at City Hall?

In this section you can read more about your 25 London Assembly representatives at City Hall.

Meet your AM....

				
Jennette Arnold OBE AM	Tony Arbour AM	Gareth Bacon AM	Mayor John Biggs AM	Andrew Boff AM
				
Victoria Borwick AM MP	James Cleverly AM MP	Tom Copley AM	Andrew Dismore AM	Len Duvall AM
				
Roger Evans AM	Nicky Gavron AM	Darren Johnson AM	Jenny Jones AM	Stephen Knight AM
				
Kit Malthouse AM MP	Joanne McCartney AM	Steve O'Connell AM	Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM	Murad Qureshi AM
				
Dr Onkar Sahota AM	Navin Shah AM	Valerie Shawcross CBE AM	Richard Tracey AM	Fiona Twycross AM

Map of AM constituencies



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Chinese

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请电话联系我们或按上面所提供的邮寄地址或
Email 与我们联系。

Vietnamese

Nếu ông (bà) muốn nội dung văn bản này được dịch sang
tiếng Việt, xin vui lòng liên hệ với chúng tôi bằng điện
thoại, thư hoặc thư điện tử theo địa chỉ ở trên.

Greek

Εάν επιθυμείτε περίληψη αυτού του κειμένου στην γλώσσα
σας, παρακαλώ καλέστε τον αριθμό ή επικοινωνήστε μαζί
μας στην ανωτέρω ταχυδρομική ή την ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση.

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinize çevrilmiş bir özetini
okumak isterseniz, lütfen yukarıdaki telefon
numarasını arayın, veya posta ya da e-posta
adresi aracılığıyla bizimle temasa geçin.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣਾ
ਚਾਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ
ਉਪਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਡਾਕ ਜਾਂ ਈਮੇਲ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Hindi

यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज़ का सारांश अपनी भाषा में
चाहिए तो उपर दिये हुए नंबर पर फोन करें या उपर दिये
गये डाक पते या ई मेल पते पर हम से संपर्क करें।

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই দলিলের একটি সারাংশ নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান,
তাহলে দয়া করে ফোন করবেন অথবা উল্লেখিত ডাক ঠিকানায় বা
ই-মেইল ঠিকানায় আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کا خلاصہ اپنی زبان میں
درکار ہو تو، براہ کرم نمبر پر فون کریں
یا مذکورہ بالا ڈاک کے پتے یا ای میل
پتے پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

Arabic

الحصول على ملخص لهذا المستند بلغة
فجرء الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو الاتصال على
العنوان البريدي العادي أو عنوان البريد
الإلكتروني أعلاه.

Gujarati

જો તમારે આ દસ્તાવેજનો સાર તમારી ભાષામાં
જોઈતો હોય તો ઉપર આપેલ નંબર પર ફોન કરો
અથવા ઉપર આપેલ ટપાલ અથવા ઇ-મેઈલ સરનામા
પર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

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