

How the London Assembly works for you



LONDON ASSEMBLY

Annual Report
2021-2022

YOUR LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBERS 2021-2022



Marina Ahmad AM
Labour



Shaun Bailey AM
Conservatives



Elly Baker AM
Labour



Siân Berry AM
Greens



Emma Best AM
Conservatives



Andrew Boff AM
Conservatives



Hina Bokhari AM
Liberal Democrats



Anne Clarke AM
Labour



Léonie Cooper AM
Labour



Unmesh Desai AM
Labour



Tony Devenish AM
Conservatives



Len Duvall OBE AM
Labour



Peter Fortune AM
Conservatives



Neil Garratt AM
Conservatives



Susan Hall AM
Conservatives



Krupesh Hirani AM
Labour



Joanne McCartney AM
Labour



Sem Moema AM
Labour



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Liberal Democrats



Zack Polanski AM
Greens



Keith Prince AM
Conservatives



Nick Rogers AM
Conservatives



Caroline Russell AM
Greens



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Labour



Sakina Sheikh AM
Labour

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Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly 2021-2022



It has been another difficult and tumultuous year. London emerged from lockdown and went into recovery mode following the pandemic, we moved to a new City Hall, and then the war in Ukraine began and we all watched it unfold in horror.

COVID-19 may almost be behind us but we will continue to ensure the rebuilding of the London we all know and love. The city and Londoners have been through incredibly tough times, and we should all pause and reflect on how resilient it has been.

Now we are in our new home and I would like to thank all the support staff, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the relocation happen. It has not been an easy task with construction workforce issues and disrupted supply chains delaying the move a number of times. Change can also take time getting used to but having a place to call home first and foremost gives us all security. We have a building that brings together staff in an invigorated and positive way. The former City Hall played a great role in regenerating that part of London and our move will do the same in the Royal Docks.

With Assembly and Mayoral elections planned for 2020 and pushed back by a year because of COVID-19, they were finally able to take place in May 2021. We saw many of our longstanding Assembly Members move on and I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks for their tireless work. We also saw a large group of Assembly Members elected for the first time and it is

wonderful to have new blood and to see these politicians taking their place in London government.

Throughout the recovery, we have continued to hold the Mayor to account at Mayor's Question Time, asking sometimes difficult questions and making sure that Londoners' concerns are put to him directly. If you have not seen Mayor's Question Time yet, I would urge you to come along to one of our meetings in person to see us in action. We also met virtually and in-person with Londoners this year at People's Question Time to discuss the issues that really matter.

Our committees continue to scrutinise the Mayor of London's key organisations - Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the London Fire Brigade (LFB), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Assembly Members championed causes and issues that matter most to Londoners, like reducing violent crime, building safety, air pollution, access to public toilets, rebuilding the night-time economy and the importance of river crossings. It has been an immense honour to chair the London Assembly in this challenging year.

The Assembly has shown its collective spirit on a number of key issues that face Londoners and we look forward to doing more of the same in the upcoming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Boff', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Boff AM



YEAR AHEAD

2022-23 priorities – our focus for the year ahead

Our work holding the Mayor of London to account and investigating the issues that matter to Londoners continues in 2022-23 with an emphasis on four key priorities.

Cost of Living

The cost of living will be at the forefront of the minds of many Londoners this year – and will rightly be at the forefront of the Assembly’s work. Committees will assess the impact of the increase in the cost of living on London’s communities and its services, with a particular emphasis on housing, food, energy and travel. The Assembly’s newly established Cost of Living Working Group will hear directly from Londoners, understanding and articulating London’s distinct challenges and reviewing how we measure the cost of living and poverty.

Safety

The Assembly will continue to place a particular emphasis on holding the Mayor and key service providers to account for the safety of Londoners. The recent decision by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to place the MPS into special measures, on-going concerns about building safety (marked so recently by the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire) and key developments in the future operation of the London Fire Brigade are just some elements of a wide ranging programme designed to shed light on where action is needed to rebuild public trust and confidence in some of our key services.



COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on London's people, economy and our way of life continue to be felt. The Assembly will continue its work to understand potential long-term impacts of concern on both London's population, and service provision and to identify where action can be taken to support a strong recovery.

Climate Change

A range of aspects of climate change and the green economy will come to the fore this year, including the 'green transition' and how London can move to a more sustainable economy in a way that is fair to everyone.

Alongside this, the Assembly will place a particular emphasis on older Londoners, recognising the impacts of the pandemic on this particular group and significant shifts in London's demographic brought to the fore in the 2021 Census.

The Assembly will continue to fulfil its wide-ranging statutory duties, including holding Mayor's Question Time and People's Question Time. A large part of our work goes into scrutinising the Mayor's GLA Group budget, which will get underway in the autumn with a number of bodies including the Met and TfL questioned about their financial plans. Following line-by-line detailed analysis of the proposed budget, the Budget and Performance Committee will respond to the draft budget with a series of recommendations. The full Assembly will come to vote on whether to approve the budget and the political groups have the opportunity to put forward their budget amendments and also budget-related motions for agreement.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22



Unveiling of Blue Plaque to honour Diana, Princess of Wales

Princess Diana's Blue Plaque at her flat in Earls Court was unveiled at a ceremony in September 2021. This unveiling by English Heritage followed the London Assembly's campaign asking Londoners to suggest 100 women who should be recognised with a Blue Plaque.

Topical updates from the Metropolitan Police Service

The MPS has had a challenging year and the Police and Crime Committee has consistently raised policing issues that matter to Londoners.

Dame Cressida Dick (now former) Commissioner of the MPS took the opportunity of a question and answer session with the Committee to announce that an investigation would be launched into parties at Downing Street. Sir Stephen House, acting Commissioner, also announced to the Committee that he had called for an investigation into the process of the removal of Dame Cressida as Commissioner.

Reviewing the Mayor's draft Budget 2022-23

The Budget and Performance Committee reviewed and reported on the Mayor's £19 billion spending plans for 2022-23 and closely examined an additional £556 million in the GLA Group budget that was added after the budget consultation was carried out. The Committee also questioned the Mayor's senior team on the impact of his 250 election manifesto commitments on the finances of the GLA.

London's ageing river crossings

The Transport Committee highlighted a number of issues with London's river crossings and their resilience as ageing assets. Its report made recommendations to avoid another Hammersmith Bridge scenario and focused on maintenance, collective funds, and conditions to deal with London's £241 million bridge maintenance backlog.

Improving London's loos

Our public toilets survey asked how easy it is for people to find a public toilet, and received a staggering 3,500 responses from Londoners. The report 'The Toilet Paper: The London Assembly Health Committee's three principles for improving public toilet provision in London' highlighted the importance of provision, directions and better data. It was widely covered in the media across broadcast, print and radio.

Engaging with high-profile campaigners

The Environment Committee report on air pollution was launched at Trafalgar Square, with pollution readings taken by Imperial College London during a major air pollution alert. The report launch was supported by a number of campaigners, including Rosamund Adoo Kissi-Debrah.

Rebuilding London's night-time economy

A roundtable discussion on London's night-time economy was well attended by representatives from a range of businesses such as nightclubs, casinos and theatres with evidence gathered for the report 'Night Vision: Rebuilding London's Night-Time Economy'. The report underlined the importance of attracting more people to work in this important sector and it was launched at the Southbank Centre.

Surveying Londoners on housing post-pandemic

The Housing Committee survey on housing and financial health in the wake of the pandemic gained national attention, including being retweeted by Martin Lewis to his 1.4 million followers. The survey found that 13 per cent

of participants who own or rent their property felt more at risk of losing their home in January 2022 than they did before the pandemic.

Trade missions

The GLA Oversight Committee questioned Jennifer Arcuri, other beneficiaries of London & Partners (L&P) activities and senior L&P officers on the governance procedures at the GLA and L&P following allegations that Boris Johnson overruled GLA officials to take Jennifer Arcuri on Mayoral trade missions.

Reviewing the 2021 London elections

A review of the 2021 GLA Elections recommended to Government that any changes to the Mayor of London and London Assembly voting system should be subject to a London-wide referendum, in the same way as the current system was established in 1999.

Examining plans for railway transformation

The Transport Committee questioned Keith Williams, joint author of the 'Great British Railways: Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail', and gathered passenger groups to hear their views on issues such as ticketing and fares, accessibility and Crossrail. The Committee made recommendations to the Department for Transport, including the need for robust consultation with passengers and railway staff ahead of any changes to the railway industry.

Scrutinising the City Hall move

An investigation into the relocation of City Hall concluded that the Mayor had overstated the level of savings. The GLA Oversight Committee established that staying at old City Hall on a new lease would have saved £24 million compared to the original lease terms. This revises downward the anticipated savings from the relocation from £61 million to £37 million over five years.



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...

Urgent call for Building Safety Bill amendments

Assembly calls for a strategy to tackle anti-Semitism

End the domestic HIV epidemic in London by 2030

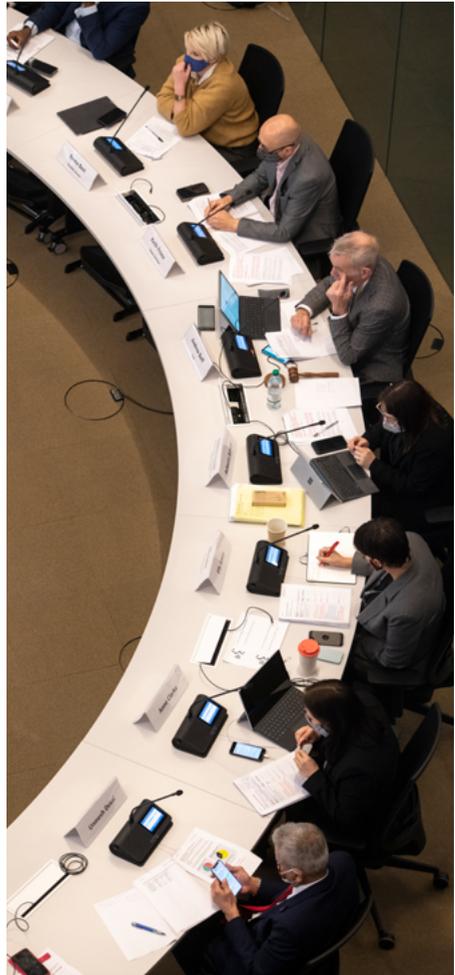
Assembly wants 'temporary' travel restrictions removed

Time to recognise the impacts of air pollution from wood stoves

Assembly urges Met to stop sharing knife images

Assembly wants more support for women leaving prison

Assembly calls for National Living Wage increase



TOXIC AIR

Treat toxic air in same way as smoking, says mother of girl killed by pollution (The Times)

Treat toxic air in same way as smoking, says mother of girl killed by pollution



Parliament Advisor Rose Odeh's daughter Ella was exposed to high levels of pollution on the South Circular Road in London when she was 10 years old (BBC)

Crossrail opening could be delayed by Omicron, London Assembly fears



CROSSRAIL DELAYS

Crossrail opening could be delayed by Omicron, London Assembly fears (Evening Standard)

NEWS

Home World Climate UK World Business Politics Tech Science Health

Politics Parliament London

Police to investigate Downing Street lockdown parties

10h ago



UPDATES FROM THE MET

Police to investigate Downing Street lockdown parties (BBC News)

News 10h 10m ago

Cressida Dick says Met Police will now investigate Downing Street parties held during lockdown

'I can confirm the Met is now investigating a number of events that took place at Downing Street and Whitehall in the last two years'

Security Lockdown Political Crime Reporter • Tuesday 26 January 2022 15:16 • 1 Comment



NHS failing trans patients across the board – not just in gender-affirming care, report finds



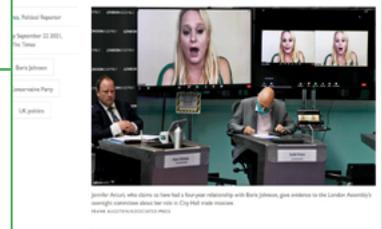
TRANS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

NHS failing trans patients across the board – not just in gender-affirming care, report finds. (Pink News)

TRADE MISSIONS

Jennifer Arcuri: officials knew about affair with Boris Johnson (The Times)

Jennifer Arcuri: officials knew about affair with Boris Johnson



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London's public toilets a serious concern, report finds

02/19 September 2021



PUBLIC TOILETS

London's public toilets a serious concern, report finds. (BBC News)

REDUCING DRUG DEATHS

London Assembly suggests installing drug-testing facilities at nightclubs (Mixmag)

LONDON ASSEMBLY SUGGESTS INSTALLING DRUG-TESTING FACILITIES AT NIGHTCLUBS

The Health Committee believe it is the best move after positive feedback from drug testing trials

4:08PM GMT+0 | 17/09/2021



OUR COMMITTEES

- Audit Panel
- Budget and Performance Committee
- Confirmation Hearings Committee
- Economy Committee
- Environment Committee
- Election Review Working Group
- Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee
- GLA Oversight Committee
- Health Committee
- Housing Committee
- Planning and Regeneration Committee
- Police and Crime Committee
- Transport Committee



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 controls, 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. The 2020 election was suspended until 2021 due to the pandemic. There are 11 Assembly Members who represent the whole capital and 14 who 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 agrees to do so.

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

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

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



KEEP IN TOUCH

City Hall

Kamal Chunchie Way

London E16 1ZE

Website: www.london.gov.uk

Phone: 020 7983 4000

Follow us on social media:



