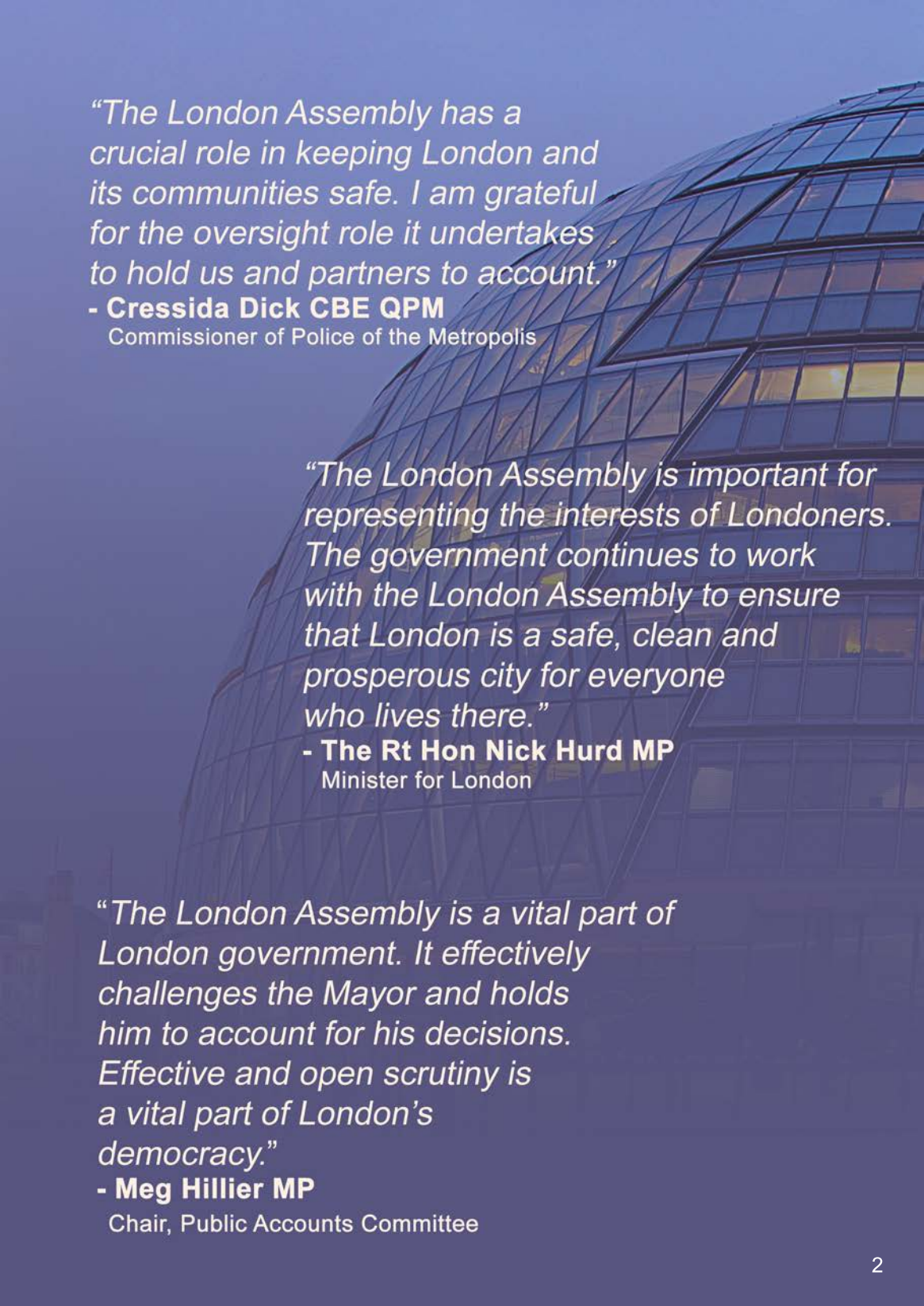


How the
London Assembly
works for you



LONDON ASSEMBLY

Annual Report 2018/2019



"The London Assembly has a crucial role in keeping London and its communities safe. I am grateful for the oversight role it undertakes to hold us and partners to account."

- Cressida Dick CBE QPM

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

"The London Assembly is important for representing the interests of Londoners. The government continues to work with the London Assembly to ensure that London is a safe, clean and prosperous city for everyone who lives there."

- The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP

Minister for London

"The London Assembly is a vital part of London government. It effectively challenges the Mayor and holds him to account for his decisions. Effective and open scrutiny is a vital part of London's democracy."

- Meg Hillier MP

Chair, Public Accounts Committee

Why I work for the people of London



Tony Arbour AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Jennette Arnold AM
Labour Group

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



Gareth Bacon AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Shaun Bailey AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Sian Berry AM
City Hall Greens

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



Andrew Boff AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Leonie Cooper AM
Labour Group

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



Tom Copley AM
Labour Group

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



Unmesh Desai AM
Labour Group

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



Tony Devenish AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Andrew Dismore AM
Labour Group

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



Len Duvall AM
Labour Group

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



Florence Eshalomi AM
Labour Group

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



Nicky Gavron AM
Labour Group

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



Susan Hall AM
GLA Conservatives

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



David Kurten AM
Brexit Alliance Group

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



Joanne McCartney AM
Labour Group

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



Steve O'Connell AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Caroline Pidgeon AM
Liberal Democrat

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



Keith Prince AM
GLA Conservatives

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



Caroline Russell AM
City Hall Greens

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



Dr Onkar Sahota AM
Labour Group

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



Navin Shah AM
Labour Group

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



Fiona Twycross AM
Labour Group

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



Peter Whittle AM
Brexit Alliance Group

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



Welcome to the Annual Report from 2018/19

Chairman Tony Arbour AM

The Annual Report is always a great opportunity to remind you of what we do and what we have done throughout the past year.

The role of the London Assembly is not only to hold the Mayor to account – but to investigate issues that matter to Londoners. With that in mind, we have focussed on the important questions.

- It's imperative that we understand the root causes of violence in order to stem the tide of violent crime across the capital – so we're keeping a close eye on the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit.
- And we continue to ask some very serious questions about the Crossrail delay – in an attempt to get to the bottom of what went wrong.

We have also championed some very important campaigns.

- The Assembly is lobbying the government to introduce a Domestic Abusers Register. It would work in a similar way to the Sex Offenders Register to target serial domestic abusers.
- We also asked Londoners to nominate 100 women who deserve the recognition of a Blue Plaque. Only 14 per cent of the capital's Blue Plaques honour women. The response was overwhelming – and we have handed a list of over 250 names to English Heritage.
- I also had the pleasure of hosting an event to celebrate the brilliant work of the thousands of people who keep the River Thames running. These unsung heroes undoubtedly make the river the landmark it is today.

If you want to understand what an average day is like for an Assembly Members, we have made a film showing you just that. 'A Day in the Life of a London Assembly Member' is a fly-on-the-wall style documentary which follows 5 Members around for a day. I hope you find it enlightening!

It was a busy and most fulfilling year for the Assembly and as we move towards elections in May 2020, I'm sure that this coming year will be even more eventful.

I hope this report gives you an insight into why the work of the London Assembly is so important and relevant to Londoners.

Contents

P3	Why I work for the people of London
P6	Welcome
P8	Achievements
P10	Motions
P12	The Assembly in the Media
P14	Your safety
P18	Your health
P20	Your home and community
P24	Your travel
P26	Your environment
P28	Brexit
P30	Your cash
P34	Your prosperity
P36	Your education
P38	Your future
P40	Campaigns
P42	Events
P44	The coming year
P45	Our Committees
P46	What does the London Assembly do?

Achievements



We recommended cutting the use of **single use packaging** in our ‘*Bottled water*’ report and the Mayor has committed to supporting that, as well as to work to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles through installing **water fountains**.



We questioned the Mayor, the TfL Commissioner and the former Chair of **Crossrail** about the delay to the project to find out who was to blame, having summonsed correspondence and reports that had not been available to the public.



Following our report on **healthcare in police custody**, which called for a reduction in the number of children and young people detained in custody, a pan-London protocol for the detention of children is being developed.



We commissioned a survey into attitudes towards **organ donation among BAME communities** in London, raising awareness of this critical issue in an open mic forum and at a gala event for organ donors and their families.



We uncovered just how much the **London Stadium and West Ham** had spent fighting each other in court (£4m) and we had both sides before us to present their case.



We called for an investigation into the Met Police role in the **Tower Hamlets electoral fraud** investigation. In March this year, the final report from the police inspectorate was published, identifying lessons learned and best practice for the future.



The Mayor's **winter rough sleeping** campaign addressed our recommendation in '*Hidden homelessness in London*': 'to promote the use of existing homelessness advice and support services using the London.gov.uk website and TfL advertising space'



We broke the news about how much the **Crossrail delay** was going to cost TfL in lost passenger income (£200m).



In our '*Unflushables*' report we said, 'make **labelling on wet wipes** products consistent, clear and easy to understand'. Water UK has since unveiled the new quality mark 'Fine to Flush'.



We published the **Affordable Housing Monitor** which reported that less than 5,500 new homes were delivered through Mayoral funding in 2017-18, but that 12,555 were started on site.



We campaigned for more female **Blue Plaques** and asked Londoners to suggest names. 250 suggestions were sent to English Heritage and they have agreed to consider a plaque for Diana, Princess of Wales.



Our investigation into the **Garden Bridge project** led to TfL revealing that the failed initiative cost taxpayers £43 million.



Following our investigation into the precarious situation of property guardians, government guidance is now under review. As **property guardians** are not currently defined in law, the Government is also considering how to ensure that they "have a bedrock of rights in all situations."



We set up the first ever **London Youth Assembly** to bring together representatives from different youth forums across London to create positive change for young people.

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:



Grenfell

Londoners are still living in homes at risk of fire because they are clad in a similar 'highly combustible' material as Grenfell Tower. We urged the Secretary of State to reconsider the use of combustible and limited combustibility cladding and insulation on high-rise residential blocks, schools and hospitals. We also want to ensure that dangerous cladding is removed and replaced where it already exists on all buildings whether council, housing association or private.



Police pay rise

The Assembly called on central government to fully fund a pay rise for the police which was awarded from September 2017. It also called on the government to fully fund the 2018/19 pay rise to give the MPS the confidence to fairly remunerate police officers for their outstanding work keeping London safe, without the need to compromise other parts of the Service.



Climate Emergency

We urged the Mayor to declare a Climate Emergency, supported by specific emergency plans with the actions needed to make London carbon neutral by 2030. We also called on government to give him the powers and funding to make this possible and, as vice chair of the C40 Cities network, to be a leader on this agenda.



The Assembly in the Media



He told the London Assembly Transport Committee that the weekly briefings were "cleared" by TfL before reaching the mayor.

**Warnings over Crossrail delay were
'deleted from briefing notes'**

**Sadiq Khan says Crossrail
boss 'misremembered'
telling him about £1.4
BILLION delay**



SADIQ Khan has told the London Assembly he was not informed about Crossrail delays prior to it becoming public, and accused its former boss of "misremembering" telling him.

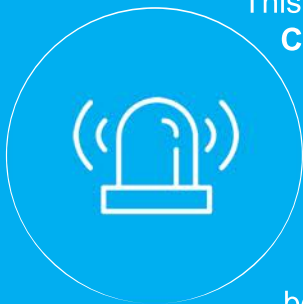


Brady defends West Ham stadium position
 West Ham vice-chairman Karren Brady has told a London Assembly committee the club would consider buying the London Stadium under the right circumstances.



The Guardian
 London's existing plan, unveiled by Khan in May, was for the city to be carbon neutral by 2050. But last week the London Assembly **passed a motion** saying that target should be brought forward to 2030 and called on Khan to draw up "a specific emergency plan".

Your safety



This year has been dominated by the **Police and Crime Committee's** urgent investigation into violent crime.

In April 2018, following a sharp rise in the number of murders and knife crime offences, the decision was taken to hold an urgent briefing with the Mayor and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), to find out how the rise in violence was being addressed by City Hall and the Met.

Following that, the Committee agreed to examine what more the Mayor can do to help tackle the rise in **violent crime**, both in the short and longer term. This has included;

- Questioning the Met and MOPAC every month on the immediate police response.
- Bringing together young people, victims, former offenders, community organisations and the Met to discuss how to reduce violence in the long term. This fed into a report to the Mayor aiming to influence the development of his new Violence Reduction Unit.
- Holding the first scrutiny session with the new Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, to hear about how City Hall will contribute to a reduction in violence.
- Engaging directly with young people affected by Stop and Search, to hear about their experiences and using this to question the Met on how well it carries out Stop and Search.



Following its report on **healthcare in police custody**, which called for improvements in reducing the number of children and young people detained in custody, a pan-London protocol for the detention of children is being developed and expected in the new financial year.

The Committee criticised the availability of Appropriate Adults to support vulnerable adults in police custody. As a result, the Met said it would fully support a pan-London Appropriate Adult Scheme and has engaged with London Councils, which has agreed there is a case for change.

We published a high-profile report on **women offenders** in London, raising awareness of the challenges in rehabilitating women who offend, and calling for a London-wide service that delivers access to quality specialist provision for all women, wherever in the capital they may live.

The Committee called on the Mayor to review how he and Met intend to tackle the most **common neighbourhood crimes**, like burglary and theft, after finding that his commitment to local priority setting was having mixed results for crime levels, the police and victims.

We also made recommendations to the Mayor aimed at improving the police response to people with people with **mental health conditions**.

And held the Met and MOPAC to account on a range of issues of concern to Londoners, including Notting Hill Carnival; EU Exit; Counter terrorism; the Grenfell Tower Fire; and the closure of police stations.



Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning

The **Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee** met for the first time in March 2018. At the meeting, Members agreed the appointments of Dr Fiona Twycross AM to the office of Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and Dany Cotton QFSM to the office of the London Fire Commissioner.



The **GLA Oversight Committee** followed-up its previous work on the provision of a new communications system to support **the Emergency Services; the Emergency Services Network (ESN)**. The Committee heard from the Home Office and from TfL and MOPAC about the Government's proposals for a new strategic direction for the ESN which will involve a phased roll-out of the service, which carries potential cost implication for TfL and the MPS.



Your health



The **Health Committee** scrutinised the **Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy (HIS)** and incited him to introduce an implementation plan for the strategy.

The HIS was confirmed by the Assembly, with many of our recommendations incorporated.



A key event in the investigation was January's large stakeholder event at City Hall where families, community organisations and health professionals shared their stories and experiences with organ donation. The committee's report, ***'The Heart of the Issue'***, brought together these public testimonies and the results of the committee's #BAMEdonor attitudinal survey, and called on the Mayor, faith leaders and the government to do more to encourage organ donation in BAME communities.



We also published report into **young onset dementia**, ensuring that younger people living with the condition are fully included in the Mayor's plans for a dementia-friendly city.

The Committee launched an investigation into social prescribing, a key element of the HIS and examined how to scale up **social prescribing** across London.

In March 2019, the Committee set its sights on **Child Dental Health** in London. The Mayor has recognised children's dental health as a specific health inequalities issue in London, and tooth decay rates vary wildly across different parts of London. The meeting included testimony from a range of experts in the dental world.



Your home and community



Following the tragic fire at Grenfell, the Assembly **Housing Committee** investigated how well social housing residents are involved in the management decision-making processes affecting their homes.

As part of this, the Committee organised an informal meeting of social housing residents in May 2018.

Our report ***'Hearing Resident Voices in Social Housing'*** was published in November 2018 and responded to the recommendations in the Government's green paper and consultation, proposing to 'rebalance the relationship between residents and landlords, tackle stigma and ensure that social housing can be both a stable base that supports people when they need it and support social mobility'.





One of the main strands of work for the Housing Committee is looking at the delivery of much-needed new housing for Londoners, including affordable housing. The Committee has looked closely into housing delivery as one of the Mayor's key manifesto aims and at how the Mayor is spending the £4.8 billion he has secured from the Government in order to start building at least 116,000 affordable homes by March 2022. We published the '**Affordable Housing Monitor**' in November 2018 which reported that less than 5,500 new homes were delivered through Mayoral funding in 2017-18, but that 12,555 were started on site.

In October, the Housing Committee held a question and answer session with **housing associations**. The Committee put out an invitation to housing association residents to submit issues they wanted the Committee to ask about and were surprised by the number of responses. There was a significant demand for housing associations to be held to account for what residents felt was poor maintenance and management of their homes. The guests committed to supporting an annual report of London housing associations, including how many homes they have in London and their spending on maintenance.

The Housing Committee carried out an investigation of ***‘Temporary accommodation in the era of welfare reform’***, looking at the rising numbers of Londoners who are homeless and the problems councils are facing in trying to provide suitable temporary accommodation. The number of people in temporary accommodation has risen by 50 per cent over the last five years. The investigation drew to a close at the end of the Assembly year, concluding that there is a crisis in temporary accommodation and that the Mayor should do all he can to support imaginative pan-London projects.



The final draft of the Mayor’s new **Housing Strategy** came before the Assembly in June. A number of Assembly recommendations and concerns were addressed in this version, including support for standardisation of precision manufactured homes & a specific target to identify a pipeline of community-led schemes by 2021 with capacity to deliver at least 1,000 homes.

There were two **Plenary** meetings, at which the Assembly considered the Mayor's draft Environment and Housing Strategies. In addition, there were a further two Plenary meetings at which Members held a question and answer session with Philip Kolvin QC, former Chair of the Night Time Commission as well as Amy Lamé, Night Czar, and Kate Nicholls, Chair of the Night Time Commission, regarding London's night time economy, and Liz Peace CBE and Michael Mulhern, interim Chief Executive Officer, of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) regarding the work of the OPDC.



Your travel



After the disastrous introduction of a new **Thameslink timetable**, causing travel disruption for a huge number of Londoners, the **Transport Committee** held an urgent meeting with Network Rail and the train operator, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) in June. The meeting established the reasons for the failure, including the lack of any single accountable body to ensure the changes could be delivered. The Committee called for a rethink on plans for further timetable changes while problems were being dealt with.



The Committee's meeting in May focused on river bus services, and the Committee wrote to the Mayor with recommendations on using the river to enhance our transport network. The Mayor has pledged to increase passenger numbers. The Committee later took a trip on a river bus, to experience the passenger perspective and discuss possible improvements with the operator.

One of the biggest topics for the Committee this year was the delay to the opening of **Crossrail**. The Committee conducted an in-depth investigation into this and published its report '***Derailed: Getting Crossrail back on track***' in April 2019.

Rail in London

Following the publication of the report '**Broken Rail: A rail service fit for passengers**', the Committee continued to engage with the rail industry, through submitting the report as evidence to the Williams Rail Review. Additionally, Network Rail and TfL are now developing a joint rail strategy, which was a key recommendation in the report.

Freight

Following its meeting on freight, the Committee wrote to the Mayor and TfL with recommendations for addressing the challenges posed by freight in London. Subsequently, TfL's freight and servicing action plan contained a number of recommendations from the Transport Committee.



Crossrail

The Transport Committee's investigation into Crossrail drew significant attention to the project and the factors that have contributed to its delay. During the investigation, we questioned the Chair of the TfL Board, Sadiq Khan, analysed thousands of emails, summonsed weekly reports to the Mayor, Crossrail board and Sponsor board minutes, held evidence sessions with two former Crossrail CEOs, the current Chair of Crossrail and the former Chair, Sir Terry Morgan.

The Transport Committee was at the forefront of scrutiny on Crossrail, and the investigation's report has contributed to a large body of evidence and important lessons learned for future large and complex infrastructure projects.

Your environment



The **Environment Committee** published its report on electric vehicles (EVs). It found that the number of EVs in London is growing rapidly, multiplying tenfold since 2012, and is outstripping the growth in charging infrastructure. The report recommended that the Mayor should promote a pan-London strategic approach to EV charging.

Action has continued through the year in response to work by us and others on **single-use plastics**. There are now thousands of free public refill stations for tap water and new water fountains across London, delivered by the Mayor and others following the Committee's recommendation. After lobbying by the Committee, the Government in the 2018 Budget brought forward a plastic packaging tax and is also reforming producer responsibility requirements, which is already having an impact with hard-to-recycle packages like black plastic trays being replaced by more sustainable equivalents.

Following the Environment Committee's work on **unflushable** products, the first certified flushable wet wipe has come onto the market, and the Mayor's Healthy Schools London programme and national guidance on personal, social and health education have increased their emphasis on period positive education so that students can talk and learn better about period products.



The Mayor's **Environment Strategy** was improved, between the previous year's draft and the final version in 2018, according to Environment Committee recommendations. Targets were added on weather and climate resilience, and the proposals on reducing waste and increasing recycling were strengthened. Also, a policy was added to the London Plan promoting space in new flats for separating recycling.

The Environment Committee, working with the Health and Economy Committees, secured improvements to the Mayor's **Food Strategy**, including a target to halve childhood obesity and measures to support this target, better actions on food insecurity, and a stronger emphasis on the environmental benefits of food growing spaces.

Ahead of questioning by the Committee, the Mayor and Transport for London released a long-awaited report on **Tube dust**. It showed that in an hour commuting underground, Londoners could breathe in as much particulate pollution as in a day above ground on London's streets. The Committee's investigations are continuing in 2019-20.

The Environment Committee and the Assembly as a whole have continued to oppose **Heathrow expansion**, hearing and reporting testimony from Londoners severely affected by the noise from aircraft overhead, and lobbying the Government and Heathrow.

Brexit



As the prospect of a no-deal Brexit increased in likelihood through the autumn of 2018, the **EU Exit Working Group** began a series of meetings to discuss the effects on London. These meetings included a public session with the Mayor and John Barradell, Deputy Chair of the **London Resilience Forum**, who updated Members on the contingency planning that is taking place across different sectors, including health and social care. Further discussions took place with the London Resilience Forum and with representatives of the NHS.

The Working Group also heard from a wide range of business organisations as to how they were planning for a **no-deal Brexit** and the likely consequences on supply chains and business resilience. These discussions were followed up with the Mayor's **London Enterprise Action Partnership** to check on the support they are able to give London's Businesses.

Following up on our work last year in creating a public space for **EU nationals** living in London to raise their concerns about their status post-Brexit, the Working Group reviewed the proposals from the Home Office for how they can apply for settled status. The discussion highlighted the risks to some groups who might not be as easy to engage as those in settled employment.

The Working Group and other Committees have had significant success in ensuring that key issues are fed into the Mayor's representations to Government on Brexit.



Your cash

In October 2018, the **Economy Committee** held a public meeting with London & Partners (L&P).



At the end of the session, the Committee issued a rare summons for more information to help establish how L&P made its claims for success.

The summons came after much cross-Committee and London Assembly wide concerns over a lack of transparency from L&P.

Following the summons, L&P responded and disclosed information that the company has been historically reluctant to share. In April the Assembly released L&P documents as part of ongoing efforts to improve transparency.



Over the course of 2018-19, the **GLA Oversight Committee** questioned many of the Mayor's advisors including Matthew Ryder, the Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement on the thinking behind the Mayor's Strategy for social integration "*All of Us*". The Committee also put questions to Leah Kreitzman, Mayoral Director, External and International Affairs and Emma Strain, Assistant Director, External Relations on the Mayor's marketing expenditure. Patrick Hennessy, Mayoral Director of Communications, and Nick Bowes, Mayoral Director of Policy, were also quizzed about their respective roles in the Mayor's office.

Finally, the Committee checked in on preparations for the **2020 GLA elections** with a briefing from Mary Harpley, the GLA's Chief Officer, who will act as the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) and will be responsible for overseeing the three GLA contests, including the preparations for the poll and the counting of the votes.



Spending

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

GLA Key Performance Indicators

Members questioned why a full suite of performance measures had taken nearly two years to compile and were critical of how GLA officers had rated the majority of indicators as performing well, implying that the targets set are too easy.

TfL Finances

The Committee published its investigation into '***Transport for London's (TfL) finances***'. The report sounded a sceptical note about TfL's plans to break even by 2021-22, and this scepticism turned out to be well-founded when TfL pushed back its return to surplus by a whole year in its December 2018 business plan.

Annual budget scrutiny

The Committee published the 'Response to the Mayor's draft consultation budget 2019-20' document which called on the Mayor to;

- Increase the transparency around Crossrail by publishing the agenda papers and minutes for the Crossrail Board and Crossrail Sponsors Board
- Consider how Crossrail 2 will be funded
- Instruct the Met to assess how many officers it needs to deliver its current policing model
- Commission value for money assessments of GLA funded housing schemes

Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee

Housing Infrastructure Fund/LLDC

The Committee continued its scrutiny of the **London Stadium** and spoke to Baroness Karren Brady CBE, Vice Chairman of West Ham Football Club, her appearance at the Committee attracted significant media coverage.



TfL Road Maintenance

The Committee challenged TfL's decision to pause pro-active road maintenance.



Your prosperity



The Economy Committee published its report '**What Works for Microbusinesses**' in August 2018. The report looked at challenges faced by microbusinesses in London. It found that the three top concerns were attracting new customers and/or expanding into new markets; the cost of doing business in London; and dealing with income volatility. The report was welcomed on release by key stakeholders including the Federation of Small Businesses and the East End Trades Guild.



The Mayor has responded positively to the Committee's requests and has accepted most of the recommendations made.

The committee will continue to press for the Mayor and the LEAP to increase transparency, ensure value for money and provide support to microbusiness owners.

In March 2019, the Committee published online its snapshot report **‘Tackling London’s disability employment gap’** alongside a letter to the Mayor with recommendations. The Committee also published an easy read version of the report for those with learning disabilities. The report made five recommendations to the Mayor to close the gap in London, including the constitution of a Disability Employment Taskforce; the creation of a distinct space on its Growth Hub website offering guidance to disabled entrepreneurs; and the requirement for employers to have an action plans to increase disability employment to gain accreditation for the Mayor’s planned Good Work Standard.



In June 2018, the Economy Committee submitted a response to the Mayor’s **draft Culture Strategy**, drawing on a body of work undertaken by the Committee during 2017/18. The response welcomed the Mayor’s emphasis on inclusion, access and good growth but called for a strong delivery framework, clearly stating what will be delivered and when, and how success will be measured.

Your education



Over the past year the **Education Panel** has focused on how the Mayor can best support the educational well-being of our most vulnerable young people.

In July, we published the findings from our investigation on London's young people with **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**.

We proposed a number of recommendations to the Mayor where he could intervene to support young people with SEND as they move through education and into their working lives.

In response to the report, the Mayor committed to engage with stakeholders and review training programmes and support networks to help young people with SEND make full use of the public transport system.

The GLA has now agreed to provide a number of supported internships for young people with SEND from the local area as a way of giving them experience of the work environment.

The Panel has also investigated the rise in **exclusion rates** across London, as some mainstream schools struggle to deal with some pupils' increasingly complex needs.

Pupils requiring the most support are more likely to be excluded and denied education alongside their peers. There is also growing concern that young people who are excluded are more likely to become involved in criminal activity. A summary of the Panel's findings was published in April.

In 2017, 14 per cent (around 204,000) of children and young people in London were assessed as having some level of Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND); 41,000 of these children and young people had high needs and had either a special educational statement or new Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). As London's school-aged population continues to grow, there will be more children and young people who need additional support to reach their full potential.



The panel recommended changes to the **Adult Education Budget** (AEB) to address the challenges identified in its report and the SEND review. It identified career progression and aspiration as a particular challenge facing Londoners with SEND. With a growing population of young people with SEND in London, it is absolutely essential that this issue is addressed now.

Your future



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

In June 2018 the Committee met to discuss the growth of applications for tall buildings and their implications for the draft London Plan policy. The meeting was set in the context of a number of recent trends:

- The number of tall buildings in the 'pipeline' rose to 510 – a 12% increase from the previous year;
- A record 115 new tall schemes are now under construction;
- It is estimated that approximately 106,000 new homes may be built in tall buildings.



The discussion added to the evidence base on tall building policy to enable the Committee to argue for policy change at the forthcoming **London Plan Examination in Public** particularly in relation to the Mayor adopting a specifically 'residential' tall buildings policy.

In May 2018 the **Regeneration Committee**, held a meeting to discuss how employment opportunities created through regeneration programmes can benefit local people, and why certain groups are underrepresented in the London labour market. The meeting focused on the construction sector.

In June 2018, a site visit took place to the Royal Docks regeneration area, as part of the Committee's investigation into the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone. Members saw the key sites to be developed, visited a creative workspace and heard a presentation from the developer of the Royal Albert Dock business district.



Campaigns



Domestic Abusers Register

In 2017 the London Assembly launched its first ever cross-party 'campaign' for the introduction of a **Domestic Abusers Register**, following a unanimous motion calling for the register. The motion was proposed by **Len Duvall AM**. Since then, the need to tackle the scourge of domestic abuse has only grown. Deaths in London relating to domestic abuse increased from 8 in 2017 to at least 23 in 2018.

It is our belief that a Domestic Abusers Register would be an effective measure to better manage the risk posed by serial domestic abusers and there is evidence to suggest that it would be a cost-effective one based upon a 2009 report by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), now National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

(The National Police Chiefs' Councils should commission an update to its 2009 study into the costs and benefits of a Domestic Abusers Register.)



We were disappointed that a Register has not been included in the Government's draft Bill despite calls for one by the Home Affairs Select Committee (Chaired by Yvette Cooper MP). However, we are continuing to engage with the Government on this issue to take it forward.

Blue Plaques

Following the 100th anniversary of when women first voted, the London Assembly conducted a campaign to redress the gender balance of London's Blue Plaques.

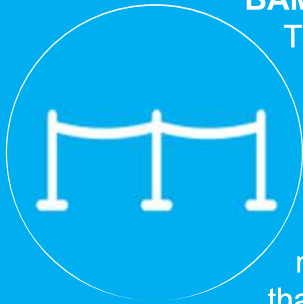
- Only 14 per cent of the capital's Blue Plaques honour women.
- Of the 944 Blue Plaques - only 132 recognise the achievements of women.

Deputy Chair, Jennette Arnold OBE AM and Assembly Members urged Londoners to suggest 100 names of women who deserve the recognition of a Blue Plaque.



We were overwhelmed with suggestions and submitted 250 names to English Heritage on International Women's Day.

Eventful times



BAME Organ Donor Gala

The Assembly began a drive to reduce inequalities in rates of **organ donation** between Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME), and white Londoners. Londoners of BAME heritage are more likely to need an organ transplant, but less likely to get one. The longer average waiting times to find a donor mean that BAME people suffer higher mortality rates that could be avoided.

The Health Committee held a BAME Organ Donor Gala, hosted by Chair of the Health Committee, **Dr Onkar Sahota AM**, which attracted some great celebrity guests and proved to be an effective way to release the results of a survey into organ donation in Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

It also raised awareness of the issue and helped to dispel many myths about organ donation.



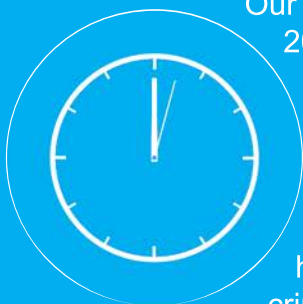
Chairman's event – River

The annual Chairman's event this year celebrated the brilliant work of the thousands of people who keep the **River Thames** running. **Chairman Tony Arbour AM** hosted the event, commenting that these unsung heroes undoubtedly make the river the landmark it is today. To mark the centenary of the end of WW1, the first floor viewing gallery in City Hall was renamed the London Remembrance Gallery where semi-permanent exhibitions will pay tribute to Londoners who lost their lives in the two World Wars. The Gallery was suggested by **Len Duvall AM** and the official opening by the **Mayor** and the **Chairman**, took place before the Remembrance Service in November.

The London Assembly jointly hosted an **Armed Forces' Day** Flag Raising Ceremony with the **Mayor, Sadiq Khan**, with opening remarks given by the **Chairman, Tony Arbour AM**. The Ceremony showed the GLA's support and respect for those who serve in the Armed Forces and the event was attended by military representatives from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, Air Cadets, charities and members of the Royal British Legion, including many from the City Hall branch.



The coming year



Our work holding the Mayor to account continues into 2019-20. It's an election year, so we have our eyes on a whole range of issues including:

The **Police and Crime Committee** will focus on the rise in hate crime, looking at the Mayor's progress in protecting Londoners from hate crime, how effective the Met Police's response to hate crime is, and how the third sector can help to reduce this type of crime.

The **Transport Committee** will look at the accessibility of London's transport network, tram and bus safety, and the use and management of the river Thames. We will also look at completing follow-up work on previous investigations, such as Crossrail.

The **Environment Committee** will pursue its questions about the high levels of potentially toxic particles in the air Londoners breathe on the Underground.

The **Health Committee** will look in to the effects of children raised in households where the interacting factors of parental mental health, domestic violence and alcohol and substance abuse co-exist.



Our committees

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

Keep in touch

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

www.london.gov.uk
[@LondonAssembly](https://twitter.com/LondonAssembly)

enquiries 020 7983 4100

What does the London Assembly do?

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

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

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



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

The Mayor must also consult Assembly Members before producing statutory strategies and the multi-billion-pound budget for the GLA Group. The Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies and amend the draft budget if a majority of two-thirds agree to do so. Assembly meetings are open to the public so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly can publicly review their performance.

As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital - from the implications of Brexit to the increases in knife and gun crime in London.

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



