

16th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 17th November 2022

This is my sixteenth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 30 September – 3 November 2022.

Please note that the information in the Mayor's Report is accurate at the time of publishing.

Executive Summary

Interim findings of the Baroness Casey Review

On 17 October, Baroness Louise Casey published an interim report of findings arising from her independent review of the culture and standards of behaviour in the Met.

When I asked the Met to establish this independent review a year ago following a series of shocking scandals involving serving police officers, I was concerned that a serious cultural problem had developed within the Met which was allowing racist, sexist and homophobic behaviour to be downplayed or left unchallenged. The interim findings of this review not only confirm my concerns, but reveal a situation even worse than feared.

It's clear the Met's misconduct system is simply not fit for purpose. I now expect nothing less than every single recommendation of this review to be implemented in full, and quickly. All misconduct allegations must be acted upon, cases must be resolved much faster and the disproportionality in the way allegations are dealt with must be eliminated. The majority of those serving in the Met will be appalled by these latest findings and the decent officers who want to speak out – who have clearly been let down for far too long – must be properly supported.

I've ensured the Met is now set on a path of far-reaching systematic and cultural reform, with a new Commissioner who acknowledges the scale of the problems within the Met. I want to assure Londoners that I will continue to hold the Met to account as I support Sir Mark Rowley in taking urgent action to address the findings of Baroness Casey's Review and the HMICFRS PEEL inspection which has seen the Met placed into the Engage process - reforming the culture and systems of the Met and to root out all police officers found to be responsible for sexism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, bullying or harassment.

Report shows nearly as many Londoner support ULEZ expansion

Tackling toxic air in London is a top priority for the Mayor, which is why he is proposing to expand the ULEZ London-wide. The proposed expansion would come into effect in August 2023 and would improve air quality for five million more Londoners and help tackle the climate emergency. On 10 October, polling shows 51 per cent of Londoners believe the ULEZ expansion should go ahead, compared to 27 per cent who do not. Almost two thirds of Londoners without access to a garden or private outdoor space are keen for the ULEZ to expand and half of these want it to be implemented sooner.

The 8th C40 World Mayor's Summit- Buenos Aires, Argentina,

From the 19-21 of October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and I participated in the C40 World Mayor's Summit. The Mayor led the Summit in his capacity as Chair of the C40 Cities Network. The Summit brought together city leaders, businesses, the youth movement, civil society and others around the theme "United in Action" to keep the climate crisis at the top of global agendas and highlight the need for a Green New Deal to tackle the current cost of living, climate and ecological emergencies. I participated in one-to-one meetings with other city leaders, open plenary sessions, closed door roundtables and met with regional convenings of C40 mayors to discuss global climate priorities and urban action. The Summit had three main areas of focus:

1. Delivering an inclusive, sustainable, and job-creating recovery
2. Ensuring the wellbeing of their residents
3. Advocating for increased green financing to cities now

Announcements I made included -

- C40 Cities, United in Action will **create 50 million new, well-paid, and meaningful green jobs** by 2030, research suggests that the number of green jobs in London could more than double by 2030 to just over half a million.
- A record investment for climate projects in the Global South through the multi-donor **C40 Cities Finance Facility** which is supporting 35 projects in the Global South, projected to access over \$1 billion of finance for implementation.
- **A pioneering approach to fossil fuel free electricity in 3 cities including London** working with Google to pilot a 24/7 approach to carbon free energy.
- **A partnership with Minecraft (through C40 Cities) to** improve youth engagement on the climate emergency by using the world's most popular video game to solve some of London's most pressing challenges and drive young people to imagine a city that is net zero and climate resilient. Microsoft will provide licenses for free to ensure digital inclusion as access for all Londoners.

Bond Street's new Elizabeth line station now open

On 24 October, the doors to the brand-new Bond Street Elizabeth line station opened, marking the completion of the last new station on the transformational new railway. Bond Street station is set to further radically improve travel across London and the South East by providing a new link to one of the busiest shopping districts in Europe ahead of the festive period.

I was delighted to join London's Transport Commissioner, Andy Byford, and Transport Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, Katherine Fletcher MP, to welcome some of the first customers at the new station. The opening of Bond Street completes the central section of the Elizabeth line as the last of the 10 new stations to open. As with the other central section stations, Bond Street has its own distinct character that reflects the environment and heritage of the local area in addition to architectural forms and materials that are consistent throughout all the new Elizabeth line stations.

The opening of the Elizabeth line by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Paddington in May was a landmark moment, not just for London but for the entire country. It is playing a crucial role in our recovery from the pandemic and delivering a £42 billion boost to the UK economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs. The Elizabeth line is helping to build a better London - a fairer, greener and more prosperous city for all and I'm so proud of this new line.

Docked e-bikes launched as part of London's record-breaking Santander Cycles scheme

Transport for London and Santander have announced the addition of e-bikes to the scheme. These new bikes have been distributed across key central London locations and can be docked at any of the scheme's 800 docking stations. Initially, the new e-bikes will be available to registered users only, for a fare of £3.30 per 30-minute ride or an additional fare of £1 per 60 minutes for monthly and annual members.

TfL has also introduced changes to the Santander Cycles fare tariff to support the introduction of e-bikes and to secure continued investment in cycle hire.

The changes, which are the first since 2013, include:

- . A flat rate of £1.65 per 30-minute ride, the same as a bus fare
- . A £20 monthly membership option, allowing customers unlimited 60-minute rides in the month
- . Annual membership has increased to £120, reflecting increased running costs and inflation since it was last changed in 2013

These new e-bikes will have an important role to play in breaking down some of the barriers that prevent Londoners from getting on a bike, whether that be fitness, age or length of journey. I'm determined to make cycling as accessible as possible as we continue building a safer, greener, more prosperous London for everyone.

Diwali on Trafalgar Square

On Sunday 9 October 2022, I attended and took part in the opening ceremony at Diwali on Trafalgar Square alongside the Indian High Commissioner and members of the Diwali in London committee.

Over the course of the day, nearly 30,000 Londoners, visitors and tourists enjoyed a vibrant stage programme of performances from across the Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities. The event saw a brilliant line up of comedians in the comedy tent – a collaboration with Soho Theatre - and an array of activities, community stalls and delicious vegan and vegetarian food, and ended on a real high with the guru of contemporary dance Shiamak Davar and his UK dance team on the main stage alongside a dazzling light show.

Diwali on the Square is a wonderful and timely opportunity for Londoners to join together, celebrating our diversity and demonstrating the strength we draw from our many and varied communities.

Black History Month

Marking the 35th anniversary of Black History Month, I hosted a reception at City Hall on Thursday 6 October to pay tribute to the significant contribution London's Black communities have made to our city and emphasise the theme 'Time for change: Action not words'.

The event brought together members of grassroots organisations, community leaders and youth groups and showcased an exhibition of London winners of the 40x40: Black Cultural Archives Chair's Awards.

Celebrating the achievements of Black Londoners throughout the year, not just in Black History Month, I have announced a new partnership with the Black Cultural Archives, where around 100 young Black leaders will benefit from masterclasses to help develop their futures. These masterclasses will not only recognise these talented leaders but encourage young people to follow in their footsteps.

Black History will always be London's history, and in support of this, my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm has funded 19 Black history walks, talks and activities across the capital to help Londoners learn more about our history as part of London Unseen. This programme is running between July-November, with five of the events taking place during October as part of Black History Month.

People's Question Time

On Wednesday 2 November, I was pleased to hold my 13th People's Question Time, at Sir James Hawkey Hall. Chaired by Keith Prince, Assembly Member for the London borough of Havering & Redbridge, this was the 45th People's Question Time delivered by the Greater London Authority.

This was our second hybrid style of event with 370 audience members attending in-person on the night and livestream peak views of 362.

I was joined by Assembly Members in answering questions impacting Londoners from both the live chat function and attendees in-person on a range of topics including transport, policing and safety, air quality and the environment, housing and London's economic recovery.

Supporting the #AskAboutAsthma Campaign

This year between the 3 and 9 October I helped to launch the NHS England (London) #AskAboutAsthma 2022 campaign with a supportive [video message](#) and a [media quote](#) highlighting the importance of including a conversation about air pollution and its impact on lung health as part of every child's asthma management plan.

This was a chance to once more raise the urgency of action on London's toxic air, and to highlight some of the work I'm doing to tackle this issue head on – from raising awareness of the dangers and risks posed by our city's poor air quality through air quality alerts to the huge strides we've made to cleaning up our city's air through the expansion ULEZ.

I was proud to support the campaign, which is now in its sixth year, as I'm keenly aware that the health of our communities is inextricably tied to the health of our city's air – and this is especially true for those living with asthma. This includes a quarter of a million children in London, who may find that their condition is triggered or made worse on days with high air pollution levels.

Policing, Crime and Security

A new Cyber Resilience Centre for London

On 25 October, Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, launched a new Cyber Resilience Centre for London at an event at City Hall. The new Centre is comprised of industry experts who will work with the Met Police, City of London Police and British Transport Police to enable it to support the capital's small and medium businesses and help them be best prepared against a cyber-attack and support them when they have been targeted.

With London businesses increasingly targeted by phishing, hacking and ransomware attacks, industry leaders are warning that every organisation and business is a potential target for cyber criminals. Small and medium businesses are often hit harder by a loss of funds. Over the next three years, the Centre aims to help support around 20,000 London businesses most vulnerable to attacks, providing small business owners with practical online safety advice and face-to-face visits. I am investing £200,000 to support the Centre's Community Outreach programme which includes the development of self-help toolkits for businesses and 'How-To' Video Guides on improving their resilience against cyber-attacks. Businesses can sign up for a free London Cyber Resilience Centre membership online and get instant access to safety advice, monthly cyber threat reports from the National Cyber Security Centre, latest guidance from the Met Police and City of London Police's dedicated teams and a monthly newsletter with hints and tips on improving cyber resilience. They can also contact the Cyber Resilience team with any urgent questions and receive training for staff.

I encourage SMEs in London to visit www.londoncrc.co.uk to find out more about how the Cyber Resilience Centre could help protect your business, and welcome the support of Assembly Members in raising awareness of this important new resource with your business networks.

Violence reduction

I visited King's College Hospital in Camberwell on 7 November to announce my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and City Hall is investing £7.8 million in a programme that embeds youth workers in hospital emergency departments to support young people affected by violence.

New funding from the VRU will mean that youth workers will continue to be embedded in eight A&E hospitals and four Major Trauma Centres.

The investment will also enable specialist youth workers to support young victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence in the four Major Trauma Centres.

It comes as initial data shows that over the last two years, nearly 800 young people have engaged and worked with youth workers based in A&Es, supporting them away from violence and helping with mental health support, access to education and housing, as well as training and employment opportunities.

Transport

TfL to restart work on schemes to make London's streets healthier and safer

Transport for London (TfL) has announced that it will restart work on paused schemes to make the capital's roads safer and more attractive for those walking and cycling, following vital investment being secured as part of the latest funding agreement with Government.

TfL was forced to pause some of its investment in walking and cycling schemes due to successive short-term agreements. Following negotiations, in August TfL reached agreement with Government on a funding settlement until 31 March 2024. It can now resume spending on vital projects, with £80m per year to be spent directly by TfL on walking and cycling schemes as part of its Healthy Streets Programme.

In the last two years we've seen more Londoners than ever choosing to walk and cycle around the capital, but successive short-term funding agreements from Government forced TfL and boroughs to pause spending on some permanent walking and cycling schemes. With the funding now agreed, I'm delighted that we can now restart work on these vital schemes - as well as beginning the design work for the next generation of new projects.

Next phase of vital upgrade of Bank station completes, with the opening of a new interchange route between the Northern line and DLR

The completion of the major upgrade of Bank Tube station moved a step closer following the opening on 13 October of a new interchange route between the Northern line concourse and the DLR concourse and platforms.

Three new escalators will take customers between the spacious new Northern line concourse and the DLR concourse and platforms. This new interchange route makes moving around the station quicker and easier, with journey times saving of up to nine minutes as a result. TfL estimates that around 40 per cent of customers using Bank Underground station are changing between lines.

The upgrade of Bank station will see its capacity increased by 40 per cent when the complex project is completed. Improvements still to come include a new interchange route between the Northern and Central lines, with two new 95-metre moving walkways and three new escalators. There will also be a new station entrance on Cannon Street, step-free access to the Northern line for the first time via two new lifts, and improved step-free access to the DLR.

New sponsorship underway for IFS Cloud Cable Car

Customers using London's only cable car will see a major change as technology company IFS became its new sponsor on 20 October.

Now officially known as the IFS Cloud Cable Car, the newly rebranded cabins and terminals, renamed IFS Cloud Greenwich Peninsula and IFS Cloud Royal Docks, feature a new eye-catching design inside and out, ready to welcome customers onboard.

Ten years after opening, the IFS Cloud Cable Car continues to be a success with both Londoners and visitors. Initially popular for journeys between London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games events at The O2 and ExCeL London, it is now a top London attraction for leisure and sightseeing trips, as well as being used for travel between the north and south of the River Thames. The proximity of both cable car terminals to a multitude of hotels, restaurants and services opens the city up for people to explore both sides of the river.

TfL and London Councils to extend London's trial of rental e-scooters following national trial extensions

TfL and London Councils have announced an extension to the capital's trial of rental e-scooters in response to recently updated Department for Transport guidance, which allows local authority trials to continue until 31 May 2024.

This extension follows the recent government announcement of plans to create a new vehicle category in legislation, in which e-scooters would be included. Continuing the trial of rental services will ensure that London can continue to learn about e-scooters and the role that they can play in London's transport offer.

A competitive procurement for operators to run the next phase of London's rental e-scooter trial has now launched and operators will be chosen on their ability to meet strict safety requirements and high operating standards.

The e-scooter trial has proven to be popular, with more than two million trips already taken. This next phase of the trial will build upon this, replicating the high safety requirements and high operating standards, and continuing to learn through testing newer technology to ensure that these vehicles work for everybody. With the right regulations that prioritise safety, rental e-scooters can help ensure a green, sustainable future for London.

New rapid, wireless bus charging technology introduced as part of the capital's journey to zero emission

Innovative pantograph bus charging technology providing fast, high-power top-ups is now in operation at Bexleyheath bus garage.

This is the latest chapter in TfL's transformation to a zero-emission bus fleet, which has seen a commitment to deliver a fully zero-emission bus fleet in London by 2034, as outlined in its Bus Action Plan. TfL has already committed to ensuring all new vehicles entering service are zero-emission, and subject to additional funding could bring forward the target for the whole fleet from 2034 to 2030.

There are now more than 850 zero-emission buses in London, most of which are only able to be charged in garages overnight. The new technology uses a pantograph, an arm-like structure, that attaches itself to the roof of the bus to deliver a quick, high-power charge. Wireless technology is used to allow the bus to communicate with the pantograph. It is the first time this technology has been used in London and is being used to power the all-electric route 132.

The buses receive a high-power current through the pantograph multiple times throughout the day for a power boost; this is known as 'opportunity charging'. Each top-up takes less than 10 minutes, allowing buses to travel further each day. The short top-up time and longer distance each bus can cover means fewer buses are needed to provide the same high level of service, allowing resources to be reinvested into other areas of the network.

With the varying length and requirements of London's bus routes, the introduction of this new technology ensures that infrastructure is in place to support TfL's zero-emission ambitions. Last year, TfL launched 20 double decker hydrogen buses on routes 7 and 245, to test longer range technology in the urban environment.

Fire and Resilience

Winter Summit and preparedness

On 12 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, hosted a workshop attended by members of the London Resilience Forum and London Resilience Programme Board to discuss winter preparedness. On 20 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a briefing for the GLA Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayors on winter preparedness

Nazir Afzal OBE, Chair of the Independent Review of Culture at London Fire Brigade

On 25 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and I met with Nazir Afzal OBE to discuss progress of the review.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Chiefs and Chairs Event

On 25 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended an event hosted by HMICFRS.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Improving access to adult education for migrant Londoners

In October, I expanded access to adult education and training for migrant Londoners and their dependents. This change benefits new arrivals who have permission to stay in the UK long term, including Hongkongers, Ukrainians and Afghans.

Adult Learning Awards

On 5 October, I opened the first Mayor of London Adult Learning Awards taking place at City Hall. The Awards celebrated the important role of learning in the capital and the achievements of Londoners, employers and training organisations across nine award categories, including Inspirational Adult Learner of the year and Distinguished Provider of Adult Education. Over 200 nominations were received as part of the selection process, with winners being chosen by a judging panel including adult skills stakeholders and learner representatives.

The Adult Learning Awards will take place annually, as part of my commitment to raise awareness of adult learning in the capital and champion London's skills sector.

Skills for Londoners Board

My Skills for Londoners (SfL) Board met on 19 October 2022. As I am deeply concerned about the impact that growing cost of living pressures are having on Londoners, with inflation at its highest level in 40 years, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills and co-Chair of the SfL Board led a discussion on how the institutions SfL Board members represent were managing rising inflation and the cost of living crisis. The Board discussed ways in which the GLA could, together with member organisations, help Londoners manage this crisis, and ensure they can continue to access high quality learning. The Board received presentations from the East London, London City, and West London Institutes of Technology and a separate presentation from the Local London 'No Wrong Door' integration hub.

Jobs and Skills Business Partnership

My Jobs and Skills Business Partnership met on 2 November 2022. The Partnership received a presentation on London's Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). BusinessLDN, the lead partner in London's LSIP, provided an update on the first plans that have been submitted to the Department for Education. The Partnership were presented with the main findings of research commissioned by the GLA to better understand under-representation of Londoners in my Skills Academy sectors and identify good practice in addressing this.

Mayor's Infrastructure Advisory Panel (IAP)

I am pleased to have appointed the second cohort of my Infrastructure Advisory Panel. I welcome 32 practitioners and technical experts from diverse backgrounds—56 per cent of my panel are women and 38 per cent come from BAME backgrounds. They bring a strong mix of skills across the infrastructure sector including expertise in utilities, urban planning, civil engineering, data, construction, policy and EDI. Their ambitious thinking will feed into my Infrastructure Co-ordination Service (ICS) that works to improve coordination of infrastructure planning and delivery across London, helping to build resilience and addressing decarbonisation. Their diverse views will also push my London Infrastructure Group to think innovatively about the future of the sector.

Finally, this new cohort inspires others by celebrating the highly skilled but often under-represented women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) professionals in the sector.

Opening of The Blue Market

On 30 September, I opened The Blue Market in Bermondsey, which received £2m from my Good Growth Fund (GGF). Markets like the Blue have a long history in the capital, and throughout the pandemic has played a crucial role in providing local people with access to affordable goods and services. My investment supported local people and organisations to work together to design a new market space that will support community activities, events and local businesses, and will ensure that the market thrives and builds on The Blue's identity as the 'Larder of London'.

Launch of the Second London Markets Board

On 30 September, I announced the appointment of my new London Markets Board – 19 experts from across the sector, to support and inform my Street and Covered Markets Programme. I am proud that 47% of the experts are women and 32% are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, reflecting the diversity of London's communities and markets. Members of the London Markets Board will work with me to ensure that London markets flourish as places of entrepreneurship that provide important routes into employment, offer affordable options for people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, are at the heart of their communities, and a key part of London's cultural identity.

Launch of Open Markets London – a new website supporting traders to access market pitches across the capital

On 30 September, I also launched openmarkets.london a platform that lets markets traders apply to trade at markets across the capital with one click of a button. It also supports local authority markets to fill vacant pitches maximising the vibrancy of their markets as diverse communities of trade and shopping. The initiative was enabled by my Resilience Fund which supported partnerships between London's tech innovation sector and the markets community to address long standing challenges and build resilience in the capital.

Reigniting the Festival Church, Waterloo

On 2 October, the Good Growth Fund supported 'Reigniting the Festival Church' project in Waterloo, in the London Borough of Lambeth, officially opened its doors to the community. I invested £760,000 in the transformation of the crypt into a set of welcoming, accessible and inclusive spaces which support the 'Bridge at Waterloo' training and skills programme for local people as well as cultural and community events. This project forms part of the wider successful restoration and renovation of St John's Church.

Housing

Affordable Homes Programme – regulatory standards

On 26 October, I publicised new communication with GLA Investment Partners setting out the actions City Hall may take if the Regulator of Social Housing issues either a non-compliant grade or a Regulatory Notice against a housing provider indicating that they have breached a consumer or economic regulatory standard. The new standards clarify that in extreme circumstances, the GLA may limit access to funding to a specific set of projects and that we are also introducing additional scrutiny around housing management track-record for newly qualifying Investment Partners. This is because while Parliament is currently debating new legislation on strengthening consumer protection in the Social Housing Bill, I want to ensure that Londoners have access to high housing standards immediately. I have also repeated my calls to government for additional affordable housing funding and reforms, such as a Commissioner for social housing residents, to drive better conditions.

Social housing rents consultation

Responding to the government's social housing rents consultation, I stressed that the current economic crisis demands the same focus that saw government and housing providers collaborate during the pandemic, ensuring the most vulnerable in society were protected and supported and that social landlords receive appropriate investment to ensure that affordable housing supply and repairs and maintenance work is not paused. I also highlighted that the benefits system is failing to provide a proper safety net to help tenants afford rising rents in an inflationary environment and that the benefit cap is cruel and unfairly catches larger families. In my response, I expressed conditional support for the principle of capping the rent increase from April 2023 to 31 March 2024 to offer some protection to households whose rents are not covered by housing-related benefits. I stated that government should go beyond this and implement a rebate scheme for social tenants that are not in receipt of benefits and shared owners who will be having to cover rent rises themselves. This is feasible as capping rent rises presents cost benefits to the government itself. I called on government to re-route the funds it would have spent through housing-related benefits under the current rent settlement to tenants who pay social rent from their own wallet. I also called on government to bring forward an equivalent rebate scheme for shared owners to prevent housing costs rising to a point where they are no longer affordable.

Support for low-income homeowners

On 2 November, I published new calls to help low-income home-owners. The UK is currently facing an unprecedented cost of living crisis with inflation at a 40-year high and interest rates being raised to the highest level for 14 years. This is having a significant impact on low-income homeowners who are increasingly at risk of losing their homes because of rising mortgages. I called on government to act quickly to protect these homeowners by putting in place mortgage support schemes similar to those implemented as a response to the 2008 financial crisis.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Investment Zones

On 14 October, I submitted London's bid to Government to create up to six investment zones at Old Oak West; the Upper Lea Valley; inner East London, around the Royal Docks, Beckton, Canning Town and Thamesmead; Euston; London Riverside; and Croydon town centre. Collectively these areas could host over 2.6 million m² of new commercial development, over 138,000 new jobs and over 80,000 new homes.

Centre for London Conference

On 1 November, I spoke at the Centre for London's London Conference on the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the city and my vision for making London work for everyone. The London Conference is an event for senior businesses, third sector and local government leaders addressing the most pressing issues facing London.

Reuters IMPACT

On 3 October, I spoke at Reuters IMPACT, setting out my ambitious plan for London to reach Net Zero 2030, setting out my vision to tackle the climate emergency, reduce air pollution, and cut congestion to create a greener, healthier city fit for the future.

Opening of Battersea Power Station

On 14 October, I participated in the opening ceremony for Battersea Power Station, a major milestone of one of London's iconic buildings of the 20th Century. This redevelopment will support London's reputation as an innovative and exciting global city for tourism and overseas investment. This site is a Living Wage Employer and efforts are being made to support small and independent businesses who want to rent spaces within the building.

Business engagement

On 18 October, I met with a delegation of 16 international retail brands as part of London's efforts to attract innovative retailers to the city. The brands were visiting London on a three-day trade mission hosted by London & Partners (L&P) to explore investment and expansion opportunities in the UK's capital.

Environment

Rewild London

On 3 October, I opened the second round of funding for Rewild London. £850,000 funding is available to managers of London's 1,600 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, to ensure that London's wildlife network is resilient in the face of climate and ecological emergencies. This is on top of the £600,000 I awarded last year. This round could include creating new habitats such as meadows or heathlands, restoring waterways or linking up the capital's last remaining ancient woodlands to provide new homes for wildlife such as butterflies as well as birds like tawny owl, swift and skylark. The fund is open to applications until 28 November.

Trees for London

In October, I launched two elements of my Trees for London tree planting package. My new £3.1 million Trees for London programme was set up in response to the extreme temperatures London experienced in July, planting more trees will help cool the city and provide welcome shade.

On 6 October, I announced that we're partnering with Trees for Cities, to fund up to 1,000 new street trees in priority areas across the city. Through the national tree sponsorship scheme, Trees for Streets, this will green the grey in some of London's most deprived neighbourhoods. For every tree sponsored by a resident or local business, I will sponsor one further tree.

On 10 October, applications opened for free tree planter packs. Community groups, charities and schools can apply for trees to plant in local green spaces, housing estates and playgrounds. 31,000 trees are available this tree planting season. Groups can apply here: <https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/mayor-london-community-tree-packs/>

Meeting with Nigel Topping, High Level Champion COP26

On the 6 October, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities and I met with Nigel Topping, High Level COP26 Champion. At the meeting we discussed the forthcoming C40 World Cities Summit, setting out the important role cities are playing in tackling the climate crisis. We also discussed C40 plans for COP27 and explored ways in which C40 could support the important work of the Champions.

Meeting with Alok Sharma, COP26 President

On the 10 October, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities and I met COP26 President, Alok Sharma. At the meeting we discussed the upcoming C40 World Cities Summit in Buenos Aires, C40 and UK government plans for COP27. I thanked Alok Sharma for his leadership during his Presidency and set out the key focus for C40 at COP27, where cities will demonstrate the best way to protect people everywhere from rising prices, polluted air, and extreme weather, and to secure good jobs in fairer societies, is to invest in cleaner, greener cities, not fossil fuel in our cities.

Milan Pact Awards

In October, London was awarded a Milan Pact Award as winners in the tackling Food Waste category due to work on several successfully delivered projects that demonstrate my dedication to reduce food waste in London. Projects I launched such as TriFocal project helped citizens to eat sustainably and tackle food waste; the Food Wave campaign supporting young people (aged 15-35); and Food Connect, streamlining food redistribution across a network of community fridges in Southwark.

Meeting with Ofwat's Chair Iain Coucher and Chief Executive, David Black

On 24 October, I met with Ofwat's Chair and Chief Executive to discuss water company performance in London. We discussed Thames Water's welcome turnaround plan and leadership changes. My ask of Ofwat was that they support this through enhanced water company scrutiny, through tough but supportive regulation. I want to see further urgent improvements in increasing the resilience of London's water infrastructure, which must include reversing the slow decline of the system and setting out clear investment plans for meeting the future challenges posed by climate change and to accommodate growth. This investment must be balanced with keeping bills at an acceptable level. I also called for more support for London customers in the short term during the cost of living crisis. I agreed with Ofwat that London specific performance in key areas must be monitored closely.

Community and Social Policy

Black Future Season Launch- Black Cultural Archives 40 x 40 Future Leaders Awards

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weeks-Bernard attended the Black Cultural Archives 40 x 40 Future Leaders Awards and campaign event as part of Black Future Season Launch. Hosted by Black Britain and Beyond in partnership with Black Cultural Archives (BCA), the awards recognise 40 young exceptional black future leaders.

Debbie presented a special award to Dawn Hill CBE at the event, attended by approx 200 people including the Chair of BCA, Dr Yvonne Thompson. In her speech, Debbie noted the £10,000 funding my Children and Young Londoners Team are providing to the BCA, to offer leadership masterclasses to young black leaders in entrepreneurship, filmmaking, finance, tech and digital.

Debbie also spoke about how under my leadership we have taken concrete action to tackle structural inequalities, improve representation and increase opportunities for Black communities in London. This commitment spans across all my programmes, from the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm to our work with the Black curriculum to ensure our history is better reflected in learning, to our work with the Workforce Integration Network (WIN) initiative which aims to improve pathways for young Black men aged 16 to 24 into living wage employment in both construction and digital sectors.

London Child Poverty Summit

On Thursday 20 October, I was pleased that my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, gave the opening address at London Child Poverty Summit as part of London Challenge Poverty Week. The Deputy Mayor and I have been long-term supporters of London Challenge Poverty Week and the role it plays in drawing attention to the great work that so many organisations do to support lower-income Londoners and what more needs to be done. I also used my own social media challenges at the start of the week to promote what was happening.

This year's event came at a particularly important time for Londoners with inflation remaining high and heading into the colder months. The Deputy Mayor was able to draw attention to the difficulties many lower-income families were already facing before the current crisis and the extremely weak position we were in going into this crisis. She was able to draw on our Advice in Community Settings Programme as an example of how services can reach people who struggle to access mainstream services by going to places they already know and trust. She was also able to call on national government to commit to increasing benefits in line with inflation, as previously committed to, and remove the benefit cap and two-child limit. The week's events are an important opportunity for organisations across sector to come together, learn from one another and speak up with one voice for Londoners.

Somali Week Festival Launch- 14th Edition

On 21 October my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard launched the 14th edition of the Somali Week Festival at the British Library. The event was attended by 175 participants including Somali professionals from across London, the UK and diaspora, visiting performers and speakers and guests from across the Horn of Africa heritage including Djibouti, Somaliland, Somali region of Kenya, Somalia, and Somali region of Ethiopia.

In her speech she reflected on hers and my commitment to tackling inequalities and building a fairer and inclusive London where we can celebrate All of London's rich diversity, heritage, and culture. A London where everyone can be seen, heard and thrive. She also shared condolences message to the family and friends of Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame, one of Somali's greatest poets, who died recently.

Under my leadership, the London Recovery Board is developing an action plan to identify and track progress against key actions aimed at addressing the structural inequalities that contributed to the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, and new inequalities that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. The work is being overseen by a sub-group of the Board chaired by Kim Wright, chief executive of Lewisham LBC.

Children and Young Londoners

New Deal for Young People Funding Opportunity

I have been working in partnership with key public and independent funders, equity infrastructure organisations and London Funders to develop a long-term collaborative fund offering grants to London's civil society groups.

On 6 October this new initiative, PROPEL, opened for grant applications building on the priorities of the New Deal for Young People mission, alongside two other missions, Building Stronger Communities and Robust Safety Net. New Deal for Young People grants will support organisations working with disadvantaged young people aged between 10 and 24, and will:

- Increase the quantity and quality of mentoring for high numbers of disadvantaged young people.
- Empower system change and sustainability within the youth sector.

Funded projects will help progress my priority that 100,000 disadvantaged young people have access to a mentor by 2024.

Examples of mentoring projects already in delivery include: Headstart Action, Mentoring Leaders and STEAM Mentoring programmes – these projects enable employers to provide mentoring and work experience, open doors in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths; and deliver targeted support for young people most in need.

I will also be launching my new Mentoring Quality Framework and accompanying Support package in November, which I hope will help drive the improvement of mentoring quality across the youth sector. The support package will ensure that organisations of all sizes can access the Framework and are supported to develop, improve and share their mentoring practice.

Culture

London Film Festival

On 15 October, I spoke at my Gala screening of the film, 'Till' for the BFI 66th London Film Festival at Royal Festival Hall. The film is directed by Chinonye Chukwu, an American, Nigerian director and produced by James Bond producer Barbara Broccoli. I fund the gala as part of my Creative Economy Growth programme to create inward investment and showcase diverse talent.

London Borough of Culture, Mass Dance

On Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October, Close to Home: Mass Dance, a flagship event as part of Lewisham's London Borough of Culture programme took place at Sedgehill Academy. A partnership with IRIE! Dance theatre and Dance Umbrella, London's International Dance Festival this performance involved 150 participants from a range of organisations across the borough. The piece was choreographed by Alleyne Dance and wove together real-life stories of migration, community, activism, history and the people of Lewisham through movement and music.

Civil Society and Sport

NFL

On 30 October I was invited to attend the Jacksonville Jaguars vs Denver Broncos game at Wembley Stadium by the Jacksonville Jaguars. During the match I was able to speak with Ambassador Jane Hartley about the importance of sporting events such as NFL and MLB taking place in London as well as discussions around trade, tourism and culture. I also had the chance to meet the Mayor of Denver Michael B. Hancock to discuss the opportunities for further collaboration between Denver and London across business and tourism.

Major Events volunteers

The 2022 London Marathon was the 42nd running of the annual London Marathon, on 2 October 2022. 19 of my major events volunteers supported the TCS London Marathon mass participation event which attracted 42,000 participants. Volunteers supported with wayfinding for participants and members of the public, and at crossing sites where road closures were in place.

On 6 October my Black History Month reception was hosted at City Hall. My volunteers supported the event which welcomed approx. 150 people; tasks included welcoming guests, ushering, supporting management of the digital screen, staffing the information point and helping with artists.

My annual Diwali on Trafalgar Square festival took place on 9 October 2022. This year's event hosted music and dance performances on the main stage, food and drink stalls, market stalls and an array of activities for the whole family to enjoy. 14 of my volunteers supported the event across a number of roles such as supporting the information point and answering questions from the public, working in teams as community researchers engaging with event attendees, and supporting the accreditation point at the VIP and Production Entrance.

A team of 9 of my volunteers supported People's Question Time in Redbridge on 2 November 2022.

Health

Public Health Response: COVID-19, Monkeypox, Poliovirus

I continue to receive regular briefings from my new GLA Group Public Health Unit based on the latest data from NHS London, UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID),.

There are early signals that COVID-19 is on the rise again. The number of hospital patients in London testing positive for COVID-19 is rising with more than 1,400 COVID-19 patients in London hospitals. It is therefore important that we do all we can to protect ourselves and Londoners who are vulnerable.

On Monkeypox, we are continuing to see numbers in London decline. The UK has now received more vaccine supply and reviewed how these are administered so the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has announced a programme of second doses.

The JCVI has also advised that a polio vaccine booster dose should be offered to children between the ages of one and nine in all London boroughs, following the discovery of poliovirus in sewage in north and east London. This represents a cohort of around 900,000 children. I strongly encourage all London families to take up this vaccine for their eligible children.

Supporting the NHS's COVID-19 & Flu vaccination campaigns - 11 October

On 11 October I [supported the NHS England \(London\) campaign](#) urging eligible Londoners to get their COVID-19 and Flu vaccines across London media and my social media platforms, in order to help reduce the threat of a 'twindemic' this winter.

While receiving my COVID-19 autumn booster and flu vaccine at my local pharmacy, I called on Londoners to get vaccinated to help protect themselves, their loved ones and the NHS. It was an opportunity to remind everyone of how simple and accessible it is to get vaccinated, with the NHS rolling out appointments at more than 400 locations around the city. It was also important to show Londoners that the NHS's offer to receive both vaccines at once was safe.

I'm aware from my meetings with OHID, the NHS and UKHSA that COVID-19 hasn't gone away. In fact, cases have been increasing in London with over 1,400 people currently in hospital. It was also important to ensure that eligible Londoners were aware that the flu vaccine is something they should get every year, because the viruses that cause flu change every year.

Ultimately, both diseases can be life-threatening, and it's clear that both viruses could increase pressures on already stretched hospitals and other healthcare services. Therefore, it was important for me to remind Londoners that getting vaccinated could save their lives.

Public Health briefing for Community, Voluntary and Faith sector Partners

On 4 October, my Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard hosted my quarterly health briefing with communities. Over 80 community groups joined the virtual event to hear presentations from the NHS's Martin McCray, and from Professor Kevin Fenton from the Office of Health Disparities and my statutory health advisor.

The topic of the briefing was the cost-of-living crisis and preparing for winter. Attendees heard about some of the support communities can access, like the warmer homes grants, and the importance of encouraging eligible Londoners to get their free flu vaccinations and COVID-19 boosters. The discussion also covered tips for keeping well this winter, social prescribing and mental health support. I was pleased that Debbie was able to thank these community groups for the incredible work they continue to do, supporting Londoners during these challenging times. [A recording of the event can be found here.](#)

World Mental Health Day 2022

On the 10 October I was pleased to support World Mental Health Day at a time where it has never been more important to protect, support and build up Londoners' mental health and wellbeing.

I was proud that City Hall played host to London's fifth annual World Mental Health Day festival, called *Access All Areas*. The event was designed and created by young people, for young people – whose mental health we know has been disproportionately impacted by recent events. The event featured performances, panels, art workshops and a marketplace with some of London's mental health and wellbeing organisations. The *Access All Areas* festival was an opportunity to empower young people with information and build their confidence around accessing mental health and wellbeing support services in London. Joanne McCartney, the Deputy Mayor for Children and Families was delighted to attend the lived experience panel discussion and meet some of the young attendees.

The festival was delivered in partnership between my Health & Wellbeing and Children & Young Londoners teams, working with Thrive LDN and Living Proof. Importantly, the festival programme was produced by the Youth Board, which was made up of six young Londoners from diverse community backgrounds aged between 16 and 25 years old. The Board is made up of representatives from 2.8 Million Minds, the Living Proof Youth team and my Peer Outreach Team.

This year, the festival was also supported as part of Thriving Through Culture, a partnership between Thrive LDN and my Creative Industries and Culture Unit (CCI), which is match funded by the Baring Foundation.

London Ambulance Service (LAS) London Lifesaver training

On the 4 October I became an LAS London LifeSaver! Along with Will Norman, The Walking and Cycling Commissioner and other GLA and TFL staff, I undertook London Lifesaver training at City Hall. Here I learnt how to recognise a heart attack and cardiac arrest, perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator. I would urge all Londoners to learn these skills, anyone can save a life. You can find out more about the LAS London LifeSavers campaign [here](#).

London Ambulance Service (LAS) VIP AWARDS –

On the 11 October I had the pleasure of attending the LAS VIP Awards at City Hall, it was a great evening hosted by GLA Assembly member Caroline Pidgeon. These awards celebrate the achievements of LAS staff and volunteers. The ceremony featured 10 different award categories, judged by a panel of experts which included public and patient representatives. I was very pleased to present the Respect Award to Metin Halil, Clinical IT Services Manager and to meet the winners and those who were highly commended in each award category.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Memorandum of Understanding

On 18 October, the Leader and Mayors of Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, representing the Growth Boroughs Partnership (GBP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at City Hall with the Deputy Mayor of London Jules Pipe, and LLDC. The MOU outlines the shared commitment between all parties to continue to drive transformational change across east London, building on the opportunities presented by the London 2012 Games to deliver inclusive growth and build strong and resilient communities.

Plenary

At the start of October, LLDC chair Sir Peter Hendy and chief executive Lyn Garner appeared in front of the London Assembly for the annual Plenary meeting at City Hall. They were joined by former LLDC Board member and Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz, Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe and author Dave Hill.

Sir Peter Hendy

I was pleased to see that Sir Peter Hendy has been nominated as a crossbench peer. I appointed him as chair of LLDC in 2017 and I believe his latest recognition is a fitting reward after so many years of dedicated public service.

Pudding Mill Lane

An outline planning application to transform Pudding Mill Lane into a new residential and commercial neighbourhood was approved on Tuesday 25 October. Of the 948 homes due to be built, 45 per cent will be affordable. Overall, LLDC will deliver 50 per cent affordable housing across Stratford Waterfront, Pudding Mill and Rick Roberts Way using a portfolio approach. Over half of the homes at Pudding Mill Lane will be family-sized and there will be 52,000sqm of retail, employment, community and leisure space.

Roach Point Bridge

LLDC is inviting local residents to have their say on plans to improve walking and cycling between Hackney Wick Station and Fish Island. An upgrade to Roach Point Bridge is part of the plans that will be put forward for planning consent. A public consultation, which was launched on Friday 14 October, will run until Sunday 20 November. Two drop-in sessions were held to give people more information. Further details can be found [here](#).

Chobham Manor wins award

I'm pleased to share that Chobham Manor, which was the first of the neighbourhoods on the Park to be completed, has been named best large development at the Evening Standard New Homes Awards. You can read more about the award win [here](#).

Planning

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

I have sent a letter in response to the following statutory stage 2 referrals. I have informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that I am content for them to determine the cases themselves.

GLA Reference number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2021/0305	Edmonton Green Shopping Centre	Enfield	03/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0051	Marlowe Road Estate redevelopment scheme revised Phases 2B and 3	Waltham Forest	03/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0293	The Ledbury Estate	Southwark	03/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2020/6262	Plot 22, Albright Industrial Estate	Havering	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0425	Montgomery's Wharf	Hounslow	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0053	Land at Legacy Wharf Phase 2 and Land at Legacy Wharf Phase 3	London Legacy Development Corporation	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0249	52 Tottenham Street	Camden	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0174	Burrige Gardens St John's Hill	Wandsworth	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1113	Canada Water Dockside	Southwark	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1114	Canada Water Dockside	Southwark	24/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0663	33-41 Masons Hill	Bromley	31/10/2022	Allow LPA to refuse
2022/0654	Abbey Co-Op Phase 3	Camden	31/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/1153	St George's House 5 St George's Road	Merton	31/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, under powers delegated to him by me, sent a letter in response to the following statutory stage 2 referrals. The Deputy Mayor informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that he was content for them to determine the cases themselves.

GLA Reference number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision
2022/0530	The Harefield Academy	Hillingdon	07/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0157	Credon House	Southwark	13/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0512	Tustin Estate Redevelopment	Southwark	13/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0567	Pocket Living Ossory Road	Southwark	13/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0178	60-70 & 100 The Highway and 110 Pennington Street, London E1W 2BX	Tower Hamlets	13/10/2022	Allow LPA to refuse
2021/1137	Waterloo Hub Hotel	Lambeth	13/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0432	Crystal Palace Park	Bromley	31/10/2022	Allow LPA to approve

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

GLA reference	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Comments/decision
2022/0638	Calverley Close	Bromley	03/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0605	The Steyne Estate	Ealing	07/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0611	Land at Singapore Road and Green Man Lane	Ealing	03/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0675	Hayes Bridge Retail Park	Hillingdon	13/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0645	Waterloo Central	Lambeth	07/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0628	Aylesbury phase 2B	Southwark	13/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0609	92-94 High Street and 1B Throwley Way	Sutton	03/10/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0674	Former Croydon College of Art	Croydon	24/10/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan

2022/0377	Brookhill Estate	Greenwich	31/10/2022	Does not comply with the London Plan
2022/0629	Ludgate House	Southwark	31/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0719	74 Long Lane	Southwark	31/10/2022	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0728	Euro House	Brent	26/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0748	Peel Precinct S73 application	Brent	01/11/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0682	Padnall Lake	Barking and Dagenham	13/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0670	100 New Bridge Street	City of London	07/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0723	Crown Trading Estate	Hillingdon	13/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0707	Surrey House	Kingston upon Thames	10/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0572	Travelodge London Docklands	Tower Hamlets	07/10/2022	No Strategic Issues
2022/0650	Marylebone Lane Hotel	Westminster	30/09/2022	No Strategic Issues

Key Engagements

Among my additional engagements since my last report were the following:

- I officially opened The Blue Market in Bermondsey on 30 September
- I spoke at the Reuters IMPACT Conference on 3 October
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 3 October
- I chaired a meeting of the LEAP board on 3 October
- I took part in the new London Ambulance Service Lifesaver Training on 4 October
- I met with the Director General & Regional Director for London of the IOPC on 4 October
- I spoke at the London Adult Learning awards on 5 October
- I officially launched the new TfL E-Cycles on 6 October
- I met with the CEO of the Ikea Group on 6 October
- I met with Nigel Topping on 6 October
- I hosted the GLA Black History Month Reception on 6 October
- I visited King's College Hospital to announce further violence reduction funding on 7 October
- I spoke at Diwali on the Square on 9 October
- I met with the COP President, Alok Sharma on 10 October
- I received my Flu and COVID Booster on 11 October
- I met with the London Fire Commissioner on 11 October
- I met with the CEO of Bloomberg Associates on 11 October
- I spoke at the London Ambulance Service Awards on 11 October
- I chaired the TfL Board on 12 October
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 13 October
- I attended the HMICFRS Policing Performance Oversight Group on 13 October
- I joined the official opening of the Battersea Power Station development on 14 October
- I attended the London Film Festival Screening of "Till" on 15 October
- I met with new businesses moving to the west end on 18 October
- I chaired the C40 World Mayor's Summit in Buenos Aires from 19-21 October
- I joined the official opening of the Bond Street Elizabeth Line Station on 24 October
- I met with the Chair and CEO of Ofwat on 24 October
- I met with the Mayor's Infrastructure Panel on 25 October
- I met with Nazir Afzal OBE as part of his review into the London Fire Brigade on 25 October
- I met with the CEO of Neurodiversity in Business on 25 October
- I made Diwali Temple visits on the afternoon and evening of 26 October
- I joined the Met Police Commissioner for a recruitment outreach event on 28 October
- I joined the Mayor of Denver at the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars vs Denver Broncos at Wembley Stadium on 30 October
- I held my regular planning meeting on 31 October
- I opened the Centre for London Annual London Conference on 1 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 1 November
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 1 November
- I attended People's Question Time on 2 November