

**London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) – 20 July 2016****Transcript of Agenda Item 5 – Questions to the Mayor**

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Can we now, please, go to the Priority Order Paper.

**2016/2754 -Strike Action**

Gareth Bacon AM

*What measures will you take to avoid public transport strikes over the next 4 years?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Bacon. Trade unions play an important role in our city, promoting fairness, equality and representing our critical public transport workers. Unlike the previous administration, I will engage constructively with the unions to develop the public transport network to the benefit of everyone in our city.

Londoners deserve a safe, reliable and affordable transport system and, as is the case in all organisations - public or private - that means we have to move with the times. This includes harnessing new technology and different approaches to meet rapidly rising demand alongside maintaining the strong and visible staff presence that sets our network apart from others around the world.

Val Shawcross [Valerie Shawcross CBE], the Deputy Mayor for Transport, and I will do something my predecessor refused point blank to do. That is to meet with the union leadership to mark the start of a new and more constructive relationship based on partnership, not division. It is vital we make an effort to explain to unions what we are trying to achieve for London through our projects and programmes and that we also try to carry them with us as Londoners.

Equally, it is important that when it comes to industrial relations and negotiations we make sure that TfL fields negotiators and employer-side teams that have the right expertise and professionalism. We may not agree 100% of the time, but I will ensure that we forge a better working relationship with the unions than the previous Mayor did over his eight years in office.

Let us not forget that there were more than twice as many strikes under Boris Johnson [former Mayor of London] than there were in the previous eight years with the previous Mayor. Let us also not forget that it was my predecessor who allowed the Night Tube to be delayed for nearly a year. I made the launch of the Night Tube a priority in my first weeks in office and, in my view, refusing to meet with the unions makes industrial action more, not less, likely.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** OK, thank you, Mr Mayor. At the first Mayor's Question Time (MQT), I submitted a written question. The reason it was written was because you had only just got your feet under the table and it would have been unfair to submit a verbal question. I asked you what you would do to ensure that there would be zero days of public transport strikes, which you had promised during the campaign. Your written response was along the lines of what you have just said:

*“There were twice as many strikes under my predecessor as there were under the previous Mayor. The best way to avoid strikes is to ensure both sides sit round the table. Unlike my predecessor, I promise to maintain a constructive dialogue with the trade unions in order to keep London’s transport network moving.”*

What you have just said sounds good. It sounds like a pledge, rather than things you have done. What have you actually done so far?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In relation to ...?

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Your industrial relations policy.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have spoken to those who represent our public transport workers.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Who have you spoken to?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I can send you a list, many of the trade unions - I think all of them - and we can send you a list. There is no problem at all.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Yes, please.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We are having regular meetings with them and the first is this week. I will also be reintroducing something that former Mayor Ken Livingstone introduced, which was to meet with the Southern Region of the Trades Union Council. That was cancelled by Boris Johnson. The good news is this and you will be pleased by this, Assembly Member Bacon: I look back at Boris Johnson and the first strike occurred in July of his first tenure; we are now in July and we have not had any strikes, which is clearly better than the previous guy.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** OK. Last week, you issued a press release rightly condemning the appalling level of service on the Southern Rail network and made the case for stripping Southern trains as a franchise and transferring control of the franchise to TfL. Today, you have issued the press release that you referred to in your verbal update.

As you know, I personally support the objective with regard to Southeastern trains and attended a meeting with the Government with you on that. We need to get underneath the detail a little bit about what you are proposing but, on the face of it, I support your initiative over Southern trains.

On the Southern train network, there is a whole range of issues: driver shortage, rolling stock issues, London Bridge, the signalling issues, etc. One of the issues that is causing significant problems is the guards’ dispute, which is very much in the court of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT). I appreciate that the Southern network is not under your control. However, tens of thousands of Londoners do use it daily and you correctly pointed that out. What contact have you had with the RMT over the guards’ dispute?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have not spoken to the RMT about what is happening with Southern. One of the reasons why the Secretary of State would be wise to take up our offer in relation to a top TfL team being put in charge of Govia is that I suspect we would be more productive in relation to unblocking any issues

that there are. Just to be clear, I have not spoken to RMT about Govia and about the issues there are between the train operating company (TOC) and the workers.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Do you plan to?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let us wait and see what Chris Grayling does. I am optimistic and, as you have said - and you made a very important point and you have been constructive - this is not a party political issue.

My offer to Chris Grayling was simply this, "Look, we understand there are issues in relation to that TOC. We are willing to get the TfL top team to go and help in relation to that in the immediate term". That is with the prospect, hopefully, of speeding up the transition to what we met to discuss with the previous Secretary of State.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I completely agree, Mr Mayor, that the issue of transferring the franchise is not a party political issue. The issue of industrial relations is not particularly party political either but it is the other side of the coin that cannot be ignored. It is all very well persuading the Government to do this, but if the RMT or any other trade union decides to cause you problems, it will not solve the problem for the commuters. I would urge you not to overlook that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To be fair, Chairman, neither of us knows the details of the dispute and neither of us knows what discussions have taken place. It would be improper for me as the Mayor with no locus to get involved in disputes elsewhere.

My point is simply this: speaking to workers and those who represent workers leads to an atmosphere of openness and transparency. As I said in my answer, we are not going to agree 100% of the time and that is not possible. However, that sense of trust and openness will hopefully lead to disputes being resolved amicably and more speedily than they have been in the past.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** That would be good. I beg to differ on one point, though, Mr Mayor. You represent the great city of London and the people who both live here and commute to work here. Londoners will applaud what you have said about transferring the franchise, but they would be surprised that you were refusing to talk to the RMT about the industrial dispute.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me give you an example of why what has been suggested is nonsense. The dispute in Paris with the airline workers causes issues for Londoners. You are not suggesting seriously that I get involved in industrial relations in Paris?

**Gareth Bacon AM:** No, I am not, Mr Mayor, and I do not recall mentioning that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Similar issues in other parts of the country affect Londoners. I have to be realistic about my locus and my mandate and that is to ensure we have a transport system fit for purpose in London.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Londoners will be quite surprised by that answer, Mr Mayor. They will be sort of half pleased with your announcement this morning, but they would be rather disappointed with the second half of that. Shortly after you were elected, a week after you were elected, the General Secretary of the RMT union issued what he called "an agenda for talks" in which he stated, and I am quoting him directly:

*“The RMT has set out the issues and the sheer scale of the financial and capacity crisis facing the capital that leaves London facing its biggest transport threat since the Blitz.”*

He then went on to threaten a wave of industrial relations. Leaving aside the ludicrously exaggerated language, the threat is very clear. In the same week that TfL announced that the long-awaited Night Tube would be launched in August 2016, the RMT announced that a ballot of maintenance and engineering staff working for Tube lines had voted in favour of strike action thanks to - and again, I am quoting here - “major unresolved issues” over pensions and performance-related pay. What action have you taken with regard to that threat?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The general threat, you mean?

**Gareth Bacon AM:** The threat to the Night Tube.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Night Tubes are on course to start on 19 August 2016, as I promised. We are on schedule and I am looking forward to being on the first Night Tube on 19 August. If you remember, there are two lines beginning on 19 August; the other three later on this year. Again, to my knowledge there are no “issues”, but I am happy to keep you in the loop about any problems we have in case you may be able to help on that. I cannot foresee any.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Thank you. That is appreciated. The Tube lines that are going to be first launched are the Victoria and Central lines. Tube line workers do not cover the Victoria and Central lines, which is why the RMT’s threat will not delay your launch on 19 August. People are very pleased about that but, of course, as you continue to roll out the Night Tube, it could have a very big effect. Have you discussed that threat directly with the General Secretary of the RMT?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, I do not usually respond to threats.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You do not respond to threats.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am willing to discuss issues with anybody to make sure we have a public transport system which is affordable, modern and fit for purpose in the 21st century. I will be speaking to the leaders of the various unions face-to-face shortly. I do not foresee a problem but of course we can never be complacent.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** OK. Trade unions do habitually make threats regardless of --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Not so far to me, you will be pleased to know.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Not so far to you. You do not think that that was a threat to you?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It was not to me. It was a press release that they released which you have seen. To start off on a negative footing with people who are doing an important job representing their workers is not constructive. I have an open mind and we can have a good relationship with trade unions.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I will leave it there, Mr Mayor. We will watch this space. Thank you.

## 2016/2538 - The single market

Fiona Twycross AM

*Do you think London's future economic prosperity is contingent upon membership of the single market?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Twycross. On behalf of City Hall, can I congratulate Theresa May on becoming our new Prime Minister. I have written to our new Prime Minister and her negotiating team to ensure that access to the single market is the first objective of any negotiation.

London will have greater economic prosperity if the United Kingdom (UK) remains part of the single market. This view is shared by London business, universities and entrepreneurs. The EU is London's largest export market, around 30% to 40% of the city's total exports, and it helps attract inward investment to the capital and the UK. It also supplies a rich pool of skilled and experienced talent, one of London's key strengths. EU nationals have contributed significantly to London's success and will do in the future. This is one reason why I have urged the Government to guarantee their status now.

London's world-leading research universities are some of the best in Europe and are in high demand. EU funding for research and innovation is a core income stream. The collaboration that this funding enables with EU and international partners is equally as important. EU nationals add significantly to university research and wider staffing, accounting for around 17% of those working in London higher education. The same is true for EU national students at London universities. Our universities are world class but membership of the single market adds value to London's higher education offer.

Membership of the single market is an important part of London's identity as a global city, but the relationship is not one-way. London's status as one of the world's leading international cities brings a lot to the single market and this is one of the main reasons why I am confident that the UK will remain in the single market. It is also why London must have a seat at the negotiating table and I will be making this case again to the Government in the days ahead.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Good. Thank you, Mr Mayor. You will be aware that at the previous London Assembly Plenary meeting [on 6 July 2016] the Assembly echoed your points about having a seat at the table. In the coming weeks and days, it is going to be really important to bring together all Londoners, business and trade unions to form a single voice for London in the Brexit negotiations. I appreciate that you have not heard back from the Government yet, but how do you anticipate making sure that London's voice is heard by the new Government?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What is encouraging is the first response from Government in relation to, for example, #LondonIsOpen. The Prime Minister and the new Foreign Secretary [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP] - and we also congratulate him on his job - and others have responded positively to the #LondonIsOpen campaign.

I am meeting with very senior members of Government this week and next week. The important thing is this: this is not a zero-sum game. London is a powerhouse for our country and, if London does well, the country does well as well. The Prime Minister has, rightly, spoken to Nicola Sturgeon [First Minister of Scotland], rightly has met with Carwyn Jones [First Minister of Wales] and is speaking to Northern Ireland representatives. It is crucial that London is involved in any negotiations with the EU.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. Given the need to prioritise exports in the years ahead, how are you planning to beef up London & Partners' remit in promoting London businesses to export goods and services globally?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The good news is that we have not left the EU yet and so we are waiting to see what happens in relation to the work taking place there. My Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, is the new Chair of London & Partners. He will be reviewing the work of London & Partners to see what it does well, what it does less imperfectly and how it can improve. That does not necessarily mean "beefing up" the resources it receives.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Have you given him the remit to try to get London & Partners to work more closely with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), which has been an issue in the past? You had different bodies not necessarily effectively working together.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If the relevant Government Minister were here, they would accept that UKTI is not perfect either and it is really important that we work more closely together. I have been really encouraged by the discussions I have had with, for example, the City of London Corporation, with London First and with others who care about London and about working together more closely. I am looking forward to, for example, Chairman, my first trip with the new Foreign Secretary, battling for our city and our country overseas. It is really important that the Government works closely with London in relation to boosting our prospects overseas.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We are all looking forward to that.

## **2016/2410 - Establishing resident support for estate regeneration options**

Sian Berry AM

*How will your new guidance establish whether residents support development options for council estates?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Berry. I know that when estate regeneration is done well, it can really improve people's lives, from mending or replacing buildings that are falling apart and full of damp to reducing antisocial behaviour where it exists. As well as improving estates, good regeneration can make the best use of existing land to build new and affordable homes. In some cases, this involves building new homes in unused areas such as underused carparks or disused garages. In other cases, it may mean rebuilding existing blocks or, particularly where there are structural issues with buildings, more wide scale rebuilding.

I have seen a wide range of different approaches to regeneration and clearly some have been more contentious than others. I want to develop guidance that will help councils work with residents on improvements we can be proud of. In my view, regeneration should only go ahead where there is resident support.

As I said, regeneration covers a wide range of approaches and it does not always include full or even any demolition of existing buildings. I want to be clear that where demolition takes place, it can only happen as a last resort with full rights of return for displaced tenants and a fair deal for leaseholders.

The principles of residents being properly engaged and having clearly guaranteed rights will guide my team's work in this area. I have asked my team to begin producing guidance on what meaningful engagement with residents looks like, with examples of what good practice looks like and gaining resident support for regeneration plans.

Although it is still early days in the development of the guidance, I will bring forward draft plans as soon as possible. I would also welcome any suggestions that you have to offer and encourage you to speak to my Deputy Mayor for Housing [James Murray] about them.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you for that answer. I wanted to ask a couple of questions for clarification in terms of the options you are looking at within that guidance. One group that is often overlooked during engagement processes is private tenants, the ones who might be renting former right-to-buy flats from leaseholders. When you talk about being properly engaged with residents, will you be including private renters in those processes?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes, but, Chairman, one of the things we are seeking to include are private tenants who rent from leaseholders. It is important to include them as well.

**Sian Berry AM:** Fantastic. I have asked you questions about that previously and you have not actually named them. It is so easy to overlook them but hopefully they will be named in your new guidance.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am hoping, as I come back again and again, there will be more information. It is difficult to nail in the first four weeks but we are now at week 10 and so I can give you that assurance which you have asked for.

**Sian Berry AM:** That is great and I will be looking forward to working with you on that.

Other questions I have asked you about estate regeneration are about whether you are considering using ballots to establish resident support. That is a key question. How do you know for certain that you have the support of residents for the options? Are you considering using ballots for that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We are looking at a wide range of consultee responses and so I would advise Assembly Member Berry to speak to the Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray. For example, the range of consultation measures could be along the planning application process consultation, involving tenants on residents' boards being involved in consultation, requiring development partners to consult with residents, going door-to-door to seek views, consultation and masterplans. What we are trying to do is to collate the best practice and what we do not want is a one-size-fits-all approach.

**Sian Berry AM:** That makes sense but your manifesto - and you have just reiterated it - is that you will only go ahead with demolition when there is resident support and so it is important to have a real measure of that. What we have seen in the past is real problems with consultations, limited levels of engagement, sometimes limited options put forward before there was consultation at all and often leading questions. We have even seen some councils ignoring the results of a consultation and dismissing it as saying, "Only the objectors responded", which does not make sense at all.

It is important to have something much more than the statutory minimum requirements for consultation and you have said that you are going to do that. How will you actually measure resident support? Are you looking at ballots for that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Some of the things we are looking into are what best practice is and how we can involve as many residents as possible. We do not simply want those who shout the loudest to be heard. What about those who do not respond? These are some of the things that we are looking into. I am not in favour of thresholds or those sorts of things. We have to recognise some people who may be affected by regeneration may not respond and so how do we get them to respond? That is why I have talked about the range of ways - whether it is door-to-door, whether it is using social media - to get more people involved in things that affect their community.

**Sian Berry AM:** We will be keeping a close eye on that. What date should we expect a draft of your new guidance?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We are working flat out and we will try to get back as soon as we can. Hopefully, you will be speaking to the Deputy Mayor of Housing and he can give you a more accurate answer as to timelines. The sooner we do the better because in the meantime there are things happening and so we are quite keen to get on with it.

**Sian Berry AM:** I will contact him about that. Once you have established the principles that you will put out in your draft, will you immediately start to apply those to schemes you have control over, for example, within the Housing Zones?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We are keen to make sure that we do not breach the law in relation to improper obligations on local authorities. I am keen to get the best practice done as soon as possible and to get it being used as soon as possible. That is the idea.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Boff?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, in preparing for your standards for consultation, will you consult with the Estate Regeneration Panel chaired by Lord Heseltine?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We should.

**Andrew Boff AM:** In many regeneration schemes, Mr Mayor, leaseholders who own full equity in their property are offered only part equity in an equivalent property in the new scheme. Is this a fair deal for leaseholders?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You raise a really important point. We need to speak to leaseholders as well because that is a concern they have because they bought it with no intention of part equity. One of the things we want to involve is leaseholders in relation to how they are better remunerated in regeneration. Again, we will be speaking to the representative bodies to get their views as well.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Could I ask you, therefore, to look at the example of the Colville estate in South Hackney where a gentleman was offered for his four-bedroomed maisonette property - in which he was bringing up his family - the sum under a Compulsory Purchase Order of £200,000. This is in Shoreditch. Is there anywhere in Shoreditch where you can get a four-bedroomed home for £200,000?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I doubt it but, in answer to the first part of the question, we need to make sure those sorts of things are anomalies. What I will do is ensure that the Deputy Mayor of Housing speaks to the Assembly Member to get the details to make sure that those views are taken on board. You are right to raise those concerns.

**Andrew Boff AM:** When do you feel that you will conclude what the definition of a fair deal for leaseholders will be?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is a similar question to that asked by Assembly Member Berry. We are moving as fast as we can because there are in the meantime regenerations taking place. Can I again suggest that Deputy Mayor Murray responds to both Assembly Members Boff and Berry in relation to timelines? I am quite to get on with this because in the meantime, regeneration projects are happening. The sooner we have a best practice, the better.

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is a helpful response. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** My pleasure.

#### **2016/2823 - Gatwick Airport**

David Kurten AM

*Will you re-iterate your support for a second runway at Gatwick as the best location for increasing air capacity for London and the South East, and what are doing to ensure that a decision is taken on building it as soon as possible?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Kurten, for your question. Yes, I am happy to reiterate my support for a second runway at Gatwick. Now more than ever, it is vital that London has the infrastructure it needs to be competitive. This is why I support new aviation capacity for London and my view is that Gatwick is the cheapest, greenest and most viable option presented by the Airports Commission.

The new Government should not delay the decision any further. The lack of a clear commitment to proceed with additional airport capacity is holding back London's economy. I was pleased to visit Gatwick last Friday where I made that case. Gatwick is the front door to London for millions of visitors to our city, and I welcome its decision to spend an additional £200 million on improvements to the airport. This will bring Gatwick's total investment over the coming five years to £1.2 billion to transform the existing facilities. Gatwick has put together a formidable plan that is a fantastic display of its confidence in London.

The new Prime Minister has a very important decision to make regarding new airport capacity and I urge her to rule as swiftly as possible in favour of a second runway at Gatwick, which would bring substantial economic benefits. It is now clear that only Gatwick can deliver the runway Britain needs to boost international competitiveness and trade links at a time when it is most needed.

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answer. When I put the question in, the world was a very different place. We were not sure who was going to be the Prime Minister - now we have a Prime Minister - and we were not sure that a decision would be made on a new runway for many months. Have you contacted

the Secretary of State or the Prime Minister to push your case, in a letter or directly, for a timetable for when they are going to make a decision?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your comments and questions. I have been in contact with both the Prime Minister's office and the Secretary of State for Transport. I was at Gatwick last Friday and I am meeting Chris Grayling shortly face-to-face. I hope to be meeting the Prime Minister shortly as well. We need to stop the dithering and the delay. With Gatwick, you can move quickly, there is no public subsidy, it is cheaper, you get the jobs and you get the growth. A better Gatwick leads to better competition, which means that Heathrow will have to raise its game as well. There is no reason to delay at all.

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you for your answer. I heard there you mention that there is no public subsidy for Gatwick. What are the benefits to the country? Do you have a figure on the advantages for Gatwick over any other runway in another location?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. The boroughs around Gatwick, the south London boroughs, have done some work in relation to the regeneration that there would be to that part of the country. There has also been work done independently in relation to the benefits to jobs and growth. Gatwick, for example, already owns the land on which the new runway would go, which means that it is going to be a lot faster as well. There would be fewer issues around air quality and around noise pollution as well if Gatwick gets the green light. There really is no good reason to delay giving the green light to Gatwick.

**David Kurten AM:** Do you also see advantages in terms of connections with the works going on in Thameslink, for example, London Bridge and the branch line up to Cambridge?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the reasons I was keen to visit Gatwick last Friday was that it confirms its confidence in London, which is really important. To give you an idea of its investment since 2009 when the current owner took over Gatwick, it has invested, between 2009 and the end of its commitment in the period we are talking about, £2.5 billion. In the next five years, it will be £1.2 billion. That has led to an improvement in links to Gatwick on both surface and public transport as well. You can use the Oyster card in Gatwick Airport, which is really important. We are trying to make sure that we can have joined on this in relation to a new runway at Gatwick and improved transport links as well.

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you. Do you also understand the plight of the villagers in the Heathrow villages who have been living under lots of uncertainty for many decades, wondering if their villages are going to be destroyed or harmed in terms of air pollution and noise and so on? It would be good to have a decision so that they can live without any more turmoil in their lives.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Were the Prime Minister to give the green light to a new runway at Heathrow, not only would it lead to, I am sure, many resignations from her Cabinet, which none of us want, but it would also lead to huge misery for tens of thousands of people living in and around Heathrow who have suffered plight, as you have said.

I predict years and years of legal challenges and obstacles, which would not lead to a new runway being built in this part of the country. A green light to Gatwick means a new runway in the next Parliament, it means jobs and growth almost immediately and it means we can address the issues about the need for increased flight capacity in this part of the country.

**David Kurten AM:** Do you also see any advantages for freight coming into the country as well? What are your thoughts about that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. Some of the numbers I have seen in relation to a runway at Gatwick are impressive in relation to the benefits to tourism, trade investment and freight as well. At the moment, for example, Gatwick, which is the world's largest single runway airport and the UK's second largest airport, goes to 220 destinations in over 80 countries. There are huge benefits in relation to jobs and growth and you mentioned freight in relation to a new runway at Gatwick Airport. Gatwick Airport is the solution to a 21st-century dilemma. A new runway at Heathrow is the solution to a 20th-century problem.

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Unusually, Mr Mayor, I will have an observation on this. Can I say on behalf of my constituents how much they will welcome your continued trenchant opposition to expansion at Heathrow.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** That is strength to your elbow.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** I will not do it again.

## **2016/2774 - Terrorist Flags at London Rallies**

Kemi Badenoch AM

*What action is the Metropolitan Police Service taking against the use of flags representing designated terrorist organisations as seen during the recent 'al-Quds Day' march in London on 3 July?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I thank Assembly Member Badenoch for a very important question. I will begin by saying I need to be clear: there is no place in London for any activity that serves to divide our communities. As the Mayor of London, I want to be a Mayor for all Londoners and I want to promote tolerance, respect and the integration of different communities. By strengthening the bonds between Londoners from different backgrounds and focusing on real neighbourhood policing, we are making it easier for people to speak out and to help root out and prevent radicalisation and extremism in all its forms.

The policing of events of this sort presents a number of operational difficulties for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). When balancing the right to peaceful protest with the risk of crime and disorder, breach of the peace or the need to preserve life or property, officers on the ground - and I am speaking generally here - need to make difficult decisions about how and when to intervene.

While it would not be appropriate for me to comment in detail about an ongoing investigation, I have looked into the issue raised by the Assembly Member. I understand that the MPS is currently gathering evidence following the event on 3 July 2016, including videos and stills of offences that may have been committed. You will appreciate why I cannot comment on the specific operational issue. I do have regular conversations

with the Commissioner [Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis] about these matters and, in the main, speaking generally, I feel that the MPS demonstrates good judgement on these difficult issues.

Whilst the right to peaceful protest is part of our constitution, there is a line to be drawn and we cannot have people supporting terrorism on the streets of London. Further to this, as I have made clear over the last few weeks, I am working closely with the Commissioner to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime and to tackle the appalling increase we have seen over the past few weeks as a result of the EU referendum.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I completely agree with that sentiment and I appreciate that on operational issues there is only so much that we can say in this Chamber. I would, however, like some clarification perhaps about your views on flags because my question was about the Hezbollah flags. What do you think of people waving these flags? Do you agree that they are incitements to hate crime?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Terrorism Act is quite clear and, if there is a criminal offence committed, the police have to act. If somebody is waving a flag, as has been alleged, then the police need to investigate that.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** Do you know why they did not confiscate them at that time? There has been a precedence set before in 2015 for immediate arrest. Do you know why that was not the case?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I can answer generally, Chairman, rather than specifically.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** Yes, that is fine.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Generally, the police make an assessment of the risk of going into a crowd and removing a flag and the public disorder issues there and gathering evidence by videos and stills and then bringing a prosecution later on. It is a fine line and it is a matter that the police take on the ground and they usually have central control with usually a gold group and others advising officers on the ground. It is a difficult assessment for them to make and it is another issue that they make in relation to other forms of protest in our city. It is difficult for them because on the one hand they respect the right for people to protest, but if there are criminal acts being committed that could be inciting, as you say, hatred, whether they step in or whether they do not step in is an operational matter.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. This is an issue that I feel very passionately about and I would urge you to do everything you can to make sure these flags are not on London streets.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I say, so do I. There are Londoners who, when they see these flags being waved, are caused terror and are scared. Many of them know how you can go from waving a flag to committing acts of violence and criminal damage against them and members of their community, which is why you are absolutely right to raise it. It is difficult for me to respond on an operational matter for operational reasons.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** That is fine.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The general principle is important that we hold the police to account in relation to these matters, but we have to make sure that we come back again and again if there are concerns that come across our desk as Assembly Members and as the Mayor as well.

**Kemi Badenoch AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Assembly Member Dismore?

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you, Chair. I have in fact raised this issue on a number of previous occasions with your predecessor and with you, Mayor. As you say, what the MPS says is often that to avoid confrontation, they let things run and then follow up with investigation and enforcement action later.

One of the concerns I have is that having received that assurance from the MPS, there seems to be very few of these prosecutions, if any, afterwards. I do not suppose you have the answer now but have you any idea how many such arrests and prosecutions there have been in the last couple of years?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, but I am now curious about that and so can I look into that issue and find out. I tell you why what you are saying is important because it is a point the previous Assembly Member was alluding to. If you can act in a way now, you can deter others from next from coming back with those flags. That is the point that the Assembly Member was alluding to.

Let me find out what the answer is to your question. Let us go back over the last few years and see how many arrests, charges and prosecutions there have been. What it may be, Assembly Member Dismore - and you will know from your community - is that if it is the case that, hypothetically speaking, there have been zero arrests, zero charges and zero prosecutions, we cannot be surprised if at the following event there is another example of a flag being used that causes huge distress to members of our community in London.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** It is not just a question of causing distress to the community when they see Hezbollah or so-called IS flags being waved about. My concern is that if there is a lack of action against those waving flags of proscribed organisations, like so-called IS or Hezbollah, it undermines the key messages of de-radicalisation and of course zero-tolerance of hate crime if impressionable people think they can get away with doing this sort of thing with impunity. It really is important that we do send a clear message by following this up with zero tolerance towards it by the police.

One of the concerns I have is just how active the police are in gathering this evidence at the time and forming a view whether in fact they can intervene at the time. Obviously, we do not want to have a riot because somebody's flag gets seized and there are insufficient officers to deal with at the time. It would be very helpful if you do investigate in a bit of detail with the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] exactly what is done to deal with this quite serious problem.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, can I through you in response to the questions raised by Assembly Members Badenoch and also Dismore agree to discuss this with my Deputy Mayor with the Commissioner to see if we can come forward with a more satisfactory explanation in response to the points you have both raised? There is illegality that is quite clearly covered by the Terrorism Act. There are also other issues you have raised. What would be useful for all of us is clarity in relation to this issue, if that is agreeable to the Assembly.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** There is not a problem with the explanation, Mr Mayor. The question is whether the explanation is actually being carried through into action. That is the key question.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I hear you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Assembly Member Kurten?

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you. Following on from Assembly Member Badenoch's question about Hezbollah flags, as far as I am aware in the UK the military wing of Hezbollah is proscribed as a terrorist organisation. The political wing is not, but they have the same flag. Could that be a reason why Hezbollah flags are allowed to fly and no action has been taken?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, the Assembly Member raises an important point. For me to get involved in public legal advice is probably not sensible but you are right. I am happy to provide an explanation about the different wings of Hezbollah. I have had a brief on it, in fact. The short explanation is that Hezbollah's military wing and Hezbollah's external security organisation was proscribed in March 2001 and in 2008. The proscription was extended to Hezbollah's military operators, including the Jihad Council. Hezbollah's political wing is not proscribed and I can go into the definitions of the Terrorism Act 2000 if the Chairman wanted me to. There is relevant case law and there are views that have been expressed publicly before by Assistant Commissioners and by the Home Office.

What is important, though, is that I take on board the concerns raised by colleagues around the Assembly and come back with answers to the questions that have been raised, rightly at this MQT.

**David Kurten AM:** There are some other countries where the whole of Hezbollah is proscribed as a terrorist organisation. Will you be making calls for the political wing of Hezbollah to be proscribed as well as the military wing?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, that is not what I have committed to do. What I have committed to do is to come back after speaking to the Commissioner in relation to the views expressed by the various Assembly Members. What is important is that nobody breaks the law but also that nobody is caused distress or alarm as a consequence of people waving flags in our great city.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Bacon?

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Mayor, following up from colleagues' questions, this is an issue that unites the Assembly and you. The offer that you gave to Assembly Member Dismore is a good one and I would like to back that up.

Would you commit to writing to all Assembly Members before the next MQT, which is on 14 September 2016, with the outcome of your discussions with the police and also, crucially, listing when there have been incidents such as Andrew Dismore refers to and how many of those had been followed up with a prosecution? That is getting to the heart of what Members want. It is to find out when the police do take action. Everyone agrees that you do not want to start a riot on the day if you can follow it up using video evidence or whatever. How many times have they actually done that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is a very reasonable request from Assembly Member Bacon and I am happy to commit to that.

**2016/2542 - A Special Economic Zone for London**

Andrew Dismore AM

*Will you consider the opportunities for London after Brexit of becoming a Special Economic Zone within the United Kingdom to give continuity and certainty to businesses within London, that would otherwise be tempted away by cities in the EU to enable London to have its own arrangements within the EU, EEA and EFTA?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Dismore. As I have made clear previously, I am determined that the UK remains in the single market. This is important for London's position as a leading global city. My priority is protecting Londoners' jobs, wealth and prosperity through the uncertainty ahead.

We have never been in this position before and at this stage, frankly, nothing is off the table when it comes to keeping London's economy moving. I repeat again that I am determined that London gets a seat at the negotiating table and in any discussions following the UK's decision to leave the EU.

London's economy already performs exceptionally compared to the rest of the UK's economy, contributing 30% of the UK's tax and 24% of its gross domestic product (GDP). The capital is one of the world's leading international cities and a global asset to the UK. In order to maintain the city's competitiveness, Whitehall has to raise its game and be more ambitious in devolving powers to London. This should start with stronger tax powers right now, which will ensure London can adjust to the UK's revised future relationship with the EU. The devolution summit I hosted on 14 July 2016 showed a united front across London government and business on this very point.

Obviously - and I am not sure if Members will be pleased or displeased - I have no intention of creating a separate city state with borders around the M25, but I must again reiterate that London must remain in the single market. This is my priority. I know that other parts of the UK that voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU such as Scotland and Gibraltar are also considering how best to protect their interests. I have spoken to representatives from those areas and I will keep in touch over the coming weeks and months ahead.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you for that answer. It is very important that London does have a voice at the Brexit negotiations and it is important that we do reassure investors that London remains open for business, which you have been doing. As you say, the single market is essential to London's economy which, if it were an EU country, would be bigger than many of the economies of our fellow EU states. It is important that we negotiate with the Government and EU partners to ensure the single market continues to apply to London, as you have said.

The EU, though, has made it pretty clear that the single market will only continue if the Four Freedoms are maintained, including the freedom of movement, which of course is also vitally important to London as part of the single market to keeping our economy at all levels functioning and also keeping the capital going. If the Conservative Government Brexit Ministers let London down in their negotiations, for example, by not giving us a seat at the negotiating table, do you think there could come a time where more radical solutions to defend London and London's economy become needed?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I very deliberately in my answer made the point that nothing is off the table when it comes to London's economy flourishing and thriving. We have to make the case more strongly that it is not a zero-sum game. London doing well is important to our country in relation to GDP, tax and the reasons people come to our country. I hope the Government would ensure that we have a seat around the table. What I have to make known and heard loudly and clearly to the Government and others is that nothing is off the table as far as London is concerned.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** I am pleased to hear that with a quarter of the country's GDP coming out of London and London supporting a lot of the projects and services in the rest of the country, but there could be a position that London is part of the UK and that having an exemption that allows us to remain in the single market and comply with the Four Freedoms would be "one country, two systems", to coin a phrase.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do not want to negotiate publicly here at MQT but nothing is off the table.

## **2016/2531 - Childcare in London**

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

*What are you doing to tackle London's childcare crisis?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question, Assembly Member Pidgeon. Access to affordable childcare is a serious challenge for Londoners and there a number of problems specific to London. The cost of childcare is 34% higher in London than outside of London, 23 of London's 33 local authorities do not have enough childcare for the three-to-four-year-olds who are entitled to it, and two-thirds of London's local authorities do not have enough places for the disadvantaged two-year-olds who currently qualify for free early education.

We need to make London's childcare offer more affordable and accessible. We are working currently with the Government to strive for childcare policy that works for London, including delivery of the new 30-hour entitlement. There is no silver bullet on this issue and we need to be creative in relation to solutions for London that take into consideration the many factors that make childcare a particular challenge in London: high costs, parents working longer or irregular hours, and lack of space.

Some of the measures that could be potentially introduced are redefining childcare workers as keyworkers, campaigning for business rate relief for childcare provider premises, incentivising London's businesses to provide family-friendly workplaces such as onsite crèches and establishing a London-wide database of approved childminders. We also need to look to help those parents who are suffering from in-work poverty and for whom childcare is a disproportionate cost relative to earnings. That is why I am supportive of the London Living Wage and other measures to improve the pay and conditions of working parents.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Lovely. Thank you very much for your response. I want to pick up some specific things that you could do here at the GLA, particularly as you have said that you want the GLA to be a model employer. The GLA already offers its staff an interest-free loan to cover an annual Travelcard, rent deposits and indeed gym membership. It is time that this benefit was extended to cover the upfront cost of childcare when somebody is returning to work, which can cost at least £1,200.

What specific steps will you take to introduce an interest-free childcare loan scheme for all GLA staff, enabling parents to spread the initial costs of childcare over a longer period of time?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am aware, Chairman, of the GLA's offer in relation to a rent deposit scheme. As part of my gender pay audit action plan going forward, one of the things we are looking at is the issue of childcare costs for GLA staff. That is part of the action plan that I will be announcing over the next period.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** By when can we expect this scheme to be up and running for staff?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have not committed to a scheme; what I have committed to do is look into this as part of the action plan to make sure that we are an even better employer than we currently are. As I said in my opening statement, I published a gender pay audit in relation to City Hall. We may be better than others in the city but we are still not where I want to be and so I will be publishing shortly an action plan and, as part of my work in relation to the action plan, I will be looking at the issue of childcare commitments of GLA staff.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** I really hope you will take this seriously because many GLA employees with young children think this is something the Mayor could easily do and is very cost-effective. Let us pick up a few other issues --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Hold on a second. I do take it seriously. I am the first Mayor in the history of the mayoralty to publish a gender pay audit. I have also set out plans and ideas to make sure we incentivise employers in relation to childcare and the London Plan as well. It is important to recognise that I will be coming back with an action plan in relation to making us an even better employer.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** In terms of the London Enterprise Panel (LEP), there is a huge issue in London where 60% of mothers with dependent children are in employment compared to 70% nationally. Something I have been calling for the LEP to do for years is to investigate this issue and prioritise maternal unemployment in its jobs and growth strategy. Will you be instructing the LEP to carry out this work?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will be aware with your long experience in the Assembly that the Mayor has no statutory powers over childcare. There are things that I can do in relation to persuasion and making sure childcare is more affordable to Londoners. The more people who are getting the Living Wage, the greater the likelihood they will be able to afford childcare costs.

We are looking to review the work of the LEP. One of the things my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, is looking into is making sure we have the best employers and businesses here in London.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** As part of that review of the LEP, will you instruct it to do this work?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Part of that will be how we can be better employers in relation to women in London and that will look into all sorts of issues, including childcare costs as well.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** That is very good to hear. I hope something concrete comes from that.

One of the other issues is around childminders in London. We have over 1 million families with children in London and it is growing. At the same time, the number of registered childminders who offer flexible childcare has fallen to around 8,000, a drop of 20%.

Will you ask the LEP to look at what more it can do to help train up childminders, particularly given a previous answer you gave to Assembly Member Duvall at your first MQT that there is an £11.5 million unallocated revenue fund at City Hall? You could put some of that towards this to help train up more childminders.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I like to think that I am a silver bullet but I am not. What I talked about in my answer to your question and also in the answer to the question from Assembly Member Duvall was a range

of measures and things that we could be doing. That includes redefining childcare workers as keyworkers in relation to allocation of homes. That includes campaigning for business rate relief for childcare provider premises, which would mean more premises opening up around the city but also reducing the costs that they have, which would help, and incentivising London businesses to provide family-friendly workplaces such as onsite crèches.

Going to your point in relation to approved childminders, could we establish a London-wide database of approved childminders? That is really important as well.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** It is training up the childminders. You could help with that with bursaries and support to make sure we have that workforce.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much, Assembly Member Pidgeon. You are out of time.

### **2016/2760 - Crowdfunding Transport**

Keith Prince AM

*Given your manifesto commitment to explore “additional sources of funding for major projects”, will you commit to introducing crowdfunding to help make desirable but stalled transport projects happen, as suggested in my report Crowdfunding Transport?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** First, Chairman, could I thank the Assembly Member for inviting me to Gallows Corner. I was pleased to be able to come and see for myself a point you raised at a previous MQT. It is clear that there are serious concerns about congestion, air quality and safety at Gallows Corner and TfL and I look forward to working with the London Borough of Havering and with you to improve that junction. It shows the fruits of a previous MQT question.

On the question you asked today, while I am generally supportive of innovative measures to make London a better place to live and work, ordinary Londoners already pay fares to get around the city and so expecting them to pay more for transport schemes is not necessarily the approach that I favour. I have frozen, as you are aware, TfL fares until 2020 to put a stop to ever-increasing transport costs and to reduce the financial burden of moving around the city by public transport.

London's continued success has led to relentless growth. It is set to reach 10 million by 2030, up from 8.6 million Londoners today. This does mean that it is vital to keep investing in our transport network, including projects such as Crossrail 2, to increase capacity on the network as well as unlock housing and economic growth in key areas.

To get that project off the ground we need continued support from the Government, and I am convinced that fiscal devolution to London represents a huge opportunity for Londoners to have more control over how taxes raised in our city are spent. The summit I hosted last week demonstrates how important this is. We are forging a new cross-party consensus on further devolution to the capital and, together, City Hall and the boroughs should have significantly more control over taxes raised here.

At the same time, I have asked TfL to explore innovative and commercial sources of funding. One example is the TfL deal signed to license contactless payment schemes to cities around the world last week. I am calling

on the Government and local councils to play their part, too, for example, by bringing forward local step-free access schemes as well.

What I would offer to you, Assembly Member Prince, bearing in mind your experience on this issue, is to sit down with my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross, to discuss how TfL should be exploring additional funding opportunities to improve transport in London.

**Keith Prince AM:** First, thank you very much, Mr Mayor, for coming to visit Zone 6. That is proof positive that you are going to be a Mayor for all London, which I welcome, as I am sure all the Assembly Members do. Thank you for agreeing and saying that the *status quo* is not acceptable at Gallows Corner. That will be very helpful.

I also agree with you, Mr Mayor, in your comments on fiscal devolution. I believe that that is cross-party. We will help and support you to fight for fiscal and other devolution of powers to you and indeed to the boroughs.

Can I just ask you again, on this question of my suggestion around crowdfunding, if you would be open to a meeting with your Deputy Mayor for me to explain perhaps a bit more fully? From the answer you gave, which was not completely dismissive, I suspect that you may not fully understand how we propose the funding to be effected. It would not mean an extra tax on people. I would welcome a meeting with you and the Deputy Mayor to explain a bit more fully. If after that meeting you do not like it, well, that is another matter.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am always very happy to agree for my Deputy Mayors to meet with Assembly Members. If you want the meeting to happen sooner rather than later, I suggest Deputy Mayor Shawcross. I say this with humility: if you want to meet with me as well, it might take a bit longer. I am happy to do whatever suits your wish. I am always keen to meet with Assembly Members if I can.

**Keith Prince AM:** That is very helpful. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

## **2016/2540- Post-Brexit Skills**

Len Duvall AM

*Businesses in London already lack the skills that they require and there is growing concern that the skills agenda will not be top of the Government's priorities following Brexit. How will you ensure that London obtains the skills required in the light of Brexit?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thanks, Assembly Member Duvall, for your question. Ensuring that London does not lose access to the single market is my top priority in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations. London needs to ensure that it has a seat at the negotiating table. In light of the EU referendum result there should be little, if any, impact on skills due to migration restrictions in the short term, but this is a concern in the longer term. The EU supplies a rich pool of skilled and experienced talent, which is one of London's strengths. EU nationals have contributed significantly to London's success, as you will be aware, and will do in the future. This is one reason why I have urged the Government to guarantee their status now.

It is also clear to me that we need more autonomy now as a city. I want devolution of fiscal and other powers to the capital, including over skills, to protect London's economy from the uncertainty ahead. I am therefore seeking a further education devolution deal from the Government to align skills provision with the needs of employers and Londoners. My new Skills for Londoners taskforce will also make sure businesses and

Londoners get the skills they need to succeed. It will develop a citywide strategic approach to the skills gaps and commission provision that meets the needs of London's economy and is of the high quality that Londoners deserve.

My new Deputy Mayor for Skills, Jules Pipe, will be starting his new role on 1 August 2016. His main focus will be on ensuring that Londoners are equipped with the skills required to mitigate the potential negative impacts of Brexit.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Do you have any timelines for when we are likely to see some of the narrative around the taskforce and about the future direction of the London skills strategy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There are number of different moving parts. One is, of course, the devolution of higher education area-based review. One is Jules beginning on 1 August. One is the desire to set up Skills for Londoners. I am afraid, because we want our partners in that to be businesses and employers, that they have been knocked off-course because of Brexit. Had that not happened, I would be able to today give you a timeline.

Once Jules begins, what I can do, Chairman, is to arrange for the Deputy Mayor for Skills to meet with Assembly Member Duvall. I know that you have long experience as a previous leader of a council and also on the Assembly. What we should do is to have him sit down with you to work out a realistic timeline. Part of this is reassurance, which is really important.

**Len Duvall AM:** In essence, in terms of the exit from the EU - and of course negotiations go on - do you think at this stage that it will be more of the same skills strategies that we have had before or do we have to think and act differently?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We have to think differently, not simply because of Brexit. I have always thought that we cannot have all our eggs in the financial services basket. We want to be a high-skilled, diverse economy in London. We should be looking at where the emerging areas are in relation to high-skilled jobs: low carbon, culture, creativity, financial technology and digital. Brexit may provide us with an opportunity to diversify London's economy.

I do not, though, want to give up our financial services market, which is crucial. That is why, for example, you know the importance of the single market but you also know the importance of the passport for financial services. There are various other competencies. Look at higher education. Look at life sciences here in London and the great development out at St Pancras. That is why I am keen to diversify London's economy, notwithstanding a sense of urgency because of Brexit.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

## **2016/2541 - House Building after Brexit**

Tom Copley AM

*Will the Brexit vote exacerbate the construction skills shortage that London already faces, impacting on housebuilding in the capital?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Copley, for your question. Britain's decision to leave the EU poses a real threat to housebuilding in London. However, I am determined that London should have a seat at the negotiating table and at Brexit negotiations I will be fighting to ensure that we remain part of the single market. I also hope that our new Prime Minister will guarantee the rights of EU nationals working in the UK so that this source of uncertainty is removed immediately. You will be aware that EU nationals have contributed significantly to London's success and will do in the future.

In relation to the specific question you asked, around 25% of the jobs in London's construction industry are held by workers born in other European Economic Area (EEA) countries. If immigration from the EEA were to fall, the capacity of the industry could be reduced over the coming years at a time when housing delivery needs rapid expansion. In the short term I believe EU workers will continue to enjoy free movement of labour while the UK remains in the EU. However, over the longer term a UK-EU agreement may affect this movement from the EU and a new visa arrangement may affect workers from outside the EU.

I also do not deny that there is a significant construction skills shortage across the capital and an aging workforce. That is why, through my Skills for London taskforce, I will work to ensure that Londoners have the necessary skills to fill the jobs that are available in the construction sector. I am also committed to working with the private sector and housebuilders on setting up a new construction academy to address this. I would like this to look at increasing apprenticeships and to train people in the new construction technologies needed.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you very much for that answer, Mr Mayor. Yes, it is a very worrying prospect, particularly given that we already have a shortage in the construction sector of skilled workers. Can I ask you if you think the Government was adequately prepared to protect the construction industry and its workers in the event of the Brexit vote?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Generally speaking, we are not in a great place in relation to the construction sector in London. If you look at the apprenticeship pipelines, we are 70,000 below what the previous Mayor wanted to have as a target. If you look at the numbers of young people coming into the construction sector, one of the reasons that they are not coming into the sector is because of the uncertainty around the *ad hoc* nature of construction. If you look, for example, at higher education, some of the courses provided are not relevant to the skills we need. These are big issues and, to be fair to the current Government, these have been failures of successive Governments that we need to come to terms with.

**Tom Copley AM:** You mentioned the previous Mayor. Only 4% of apprenticeships under the previous Mayor were in construction and that presents an enormous challenge for you in terms of getting those numbers up. You have talked about, for example, your construction academy scheme. Are you going to give us a target for what percentage of apprenticeships you want to see in construction?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What we are going to do is make sure that in our procurement powers we build in more apprentices being used by those in the supply chain. The unknown is what settlement we will get from central Government. I was having very good talks with the previous Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG), Greg Clark MP, whom I have a huge amount of respect for. I met with him three or four times in the space of seven weeks, with quite a remarkable working relationship between his civil service and mine, but the reshuffle means that we have to form a new relationship now with Sajid Javid MP [Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government].

I am afraid I cannot give a number, for obvious reasons. There are too many unknowns out there.

**Tom Copley AM:** No, I was not expecting you to give a number now. In future, once you have your settlement from the Government and once you have made an assessment of what the need is, will you have a target that we can hold you to on apprenticeships in construction?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I would like to be ambitious at some stage in the future, once we have sorted out the consequences of Brexit, once the construction sector is more stable, once employers and businesses have a better idea what is going forward, and once we know the situation in relation to our settlement. Also, you will remember, for example, in 2007 to 2009 when there was a previous financial crisis, the Government then invested hugely in relation to affordable housing. We do not know, for example, whether the fiscal stimulus talked about in the Government will involve a similar scheme in London. That provides an opportunity. I will use every opportunity I can to make sure we leverage in a new generation of Londoners having skills in civil construction.

**Tom Copley AM:** We will have to come back to you on that at some point. It goes back to what Assembly Member Boff talked about earlier: criteria for success. That is how we will judge you. I am sure that in the long term the criteria for success is having enough people being able to work in the construction industry, but in the short to medium term it helps us in terms of assessing your performance if you give us some sort of benchmark by which to do that. Thank you for your responses.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Bailey?

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Hello, Mayor. Just a quick question to continue this theme of construction workers and the lack of numbers in that field. Surely this can be an opportunity for British-based construction workers and younger people who are outside of the industry to come in? It seems to be couched in terms of a threat to EU workers but, surely, on the other side of the debate, it can be an uplift to UK-based workers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure, but in the short term, when I visit building sites, as I often do, some sites have 60% or 70% EU nationals working on the construction side of the site. In the short term, you cannot overnight train someone who can do piping, who can do bricklaying, who can do plastering or who can do wiring. This takes one to two years' apprenticeship. You are right that there is an opportunity --

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I understand that - and sorry to interrupt you, Mayor - but that situation exists now before the rules are changed. Why is changing the rules going to make it any different to what it is now? Surely you can join me in saying that this is an opportunity for UK-based workers to maybe change industry, get the right qualifications and come to work in London. If London is a powerful economic engine, surely this should be couched in positive terms for UK-based workers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Assembly Member Bailey, listen. London is open, as you will have heard from my previous answers, but let me tell you why --

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I do not want to interrupt but, please, I would like you to couch it in terms of London also being open to UK-based workers, not just the rest of the world.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me answer your question in an intelligent manner, which is this. The reality is that if a young person is thinking about an apprenticeship or thinking about a job for the future and there is huge uncertainty in that area, you can understand why they may not want to go into that area. Certainty provides the reassurance young people need in relation to choosing their careers going forward.

At the same time, we need to have high-skilled apprenticeships for those young people going into those industries. If, for example, there were to be a stagnation and our construction sector in London were to not be as flourishing as we want it to be, then a young person will not have the opportunity to do an apprenticeship or to get the jobs needed going forward. That is why it is all joined up.

If, for example, somebody who is a skilled labourer, a skilled electrician or a skilled plumber is now not sure about the future of his or her family in London because he or she happens to be an EU citizen, the ability to provide mentoring or support for a young person is diminished. If you are a construction company and you cannot get materials because of uncertainty about our place in the future, it affects your ability to start construction on a new site. That is why it is important to understand that it is all connected. I am the first person to be positive about our great city but we have to be realistic about the uncertainties created by Brexit.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** OK. It just does not quite sound like that to me, but I digress.

### **2016/2815 - Unacceptable Tube Noise**

Tony Devenish AM

*Since my election, the vast majority of the constituency casework I have received has concerned unacceptable levels of Tube noise. Does the Mayor consider it acceptable that so many London residents and businesses are having their lives blighted in this way, especially given their significant concern that the advent of the Night Tube will only make this worse?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. I understand the concerns raised in your question, which many members of the public may not have seen. Thank you for the issues that you have raised. I know that you had a meeting with TfL about this issue recently. I hope that it was constructive and has reassured you and your constituents that this is taken seriously.

As part of the preparation for the launch of the Night Tube, I have established a specialist working group to deal with noise problems. This group brings together track engineers, noise and vibration specialists, track maintenance experts and community relations teams to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to all concerns received. Our Tube system is the envy of the world with record levels of reliability and customer service, but clearly the Tube is prone to wear and tear that can periodically bring about an increase in noise from passing trains.

In addition to the noise working group, TfL is already working with local communities across the capital to minimise noise levels on the network, particularly noise and vibration from the tracks, through an ongoing programme of maintenance, improvements and innovation. London Underground has significantly increased investment in rail grinding, rail replacement and renewal to ensure a safe and reliable network and to address the noise and vibration problems that you refer to in your question. London Underground is also prioritising areas with no noise and vibration concerns within these maintenance programmes.

In addition, TfL is deploying new shock-absorbent track fixings to target known and potential noise problems in specific locations. Key areas that are being prioritised for these new track fixings include Notting Hill Gate, Pimlico and Baker Street to Marylebone. I understand you have met with officers from TfL to discuss these areas in more detail and some of the concerns being raised by your constituents.

I am determined that Night Tube services should not mean sleepless nights. Tube trains already run for 20 hours a day with additional trains at night and so we do not anticipate significantly more noise for our neighbours. TfL and I will ensure that any issues raised are dealt with effectively and sensibly.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your comprehensive answer. The World Health Organisation guidelines on night-time noise limits specify a maximum of 40 decibels. Do you accept that these limits are reasonable and that staying within these limits should form the basis of London Underground policy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure about the exact decibel level but you are right that we should not have people's lives being made a misery by public transport. I would hope, Assembly Member Devenish, that the TfL team responds to concerns raised about noise, but if not please let me know and I will happily have a look into that.

**Tony Devenish AM:** I would like to thank you for your answer. TfL has responded to me, particularly in the last couple of weeks, very positively, but you will recognise that this is a big issue for a lot of our residents both with current noise and particularly with the Night Tube. We all support the Night Tube, I stress, but it is about how we implement the policy. I look forward to working with you on this and, hopefully, we will resolve it in due course.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. Can I just say, Chairman, through you, that this is a serious issue for those people affected. We cannot appear to belittle their concerns and so I am keen to work with you and others who have issues to make sure we know about them and try to alleviate them where we can.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you and thank you for name-checking all of the parts of my constituency.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, in the interests of candour, a confession: one of the things we thought about calling this working team was "Noisebusters". I advised against that for obvious reasons. It is important that individual concerns are brought to our attention so that we can address them.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you. Just to finish, we all know as politicians that it is communication, communication, communication. Please remind TfL at all times that communication is so important.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Arnold?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** Yes, Chairman. Can I just add a couple of points to what you have said there. It is following on from Assembly Member Devenish's concerns. The London Assembly Labour Group has been concerned about noise from the Underground, specific parts of it, and on occasions from the Overground for many years now and has been doing some solid casework. It is because of TfL's form in terms of its response to residents when they report this noise that there is this heightened concern that the noise of the Night Tube is going to be worse. Do you see what I mean? First, with this team, you have to somehow add something else.

I am surprised you did not like "Noisebusters". That is what we put to the last Mayor and that is what we put to your Deputy Mayor for Transport because that is what we have been told Londoners would like: a sense that there is a dedicated team looking at noise and its various forms of disturbance across London. There would then be an appropriate telephone response so that, once you hear this and you are with your community, you do not have to wait and go up the pecking ladder to find your area manager but the service would pick it up.

Does what you have said this morning come out of the work that I know the Deputy Mayor is doing? We have raised this issue with her. Are you saying that you are going to put in place a team of some sort, similar to what we were asking for in terms of a "Noisebusters" team?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. Those of us who are of a certain age remember the original *Ghostbusters*, but there is a new generation coming through.

The working group that Val Shawcross [Valerie Shawcross CBE, Deputy Mayor for Transport] is working on is in relation to some of the issues that I raised with Assembly Member Devenish and the points raised in previous discussions about making sure we ameliorate the potential areas of concern. We have to recognise, though, that people have concerns already with public transport at night-time. Later on during MQT Assembly Member Eshalomi will be raising the issue of the antisocial behaviour around stations that takes place now in relation to toilets. We have to be realistic. There are issues around antisocial behaviour that take place now that affect Londoners.

In the lead-up to the Night Tube, what Val and I have done is to make sure that we can try to minimise any additional adverse impacts on people's lives caused by the Night Tube. However, as I said in answer to the previous question, some trains are running 20 hours a day and so we have to make sure that we use technology - whether it is shock-absorbing, whether it is grinding - to not have misery caused to Londoners and their families.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** I wonder if I could ask, through you, for the Deputy Mayor for Transport to meet with a number of us who have casework and are meeting with groups of residents - and have been for some time - so that we can get everybody on the same page? This nuisance is intermittent. You might think that you have fixed it and we get no casework for a couple of months and then it comes back. It is part of the way of living in London with the system that we have.

What residents would like is for TfL to show that it recognises that and then to respond as quickly as possible. I am not clear from what you have said where we are with this. Can we ask through you for a meeting with the Deputy Mayor? I know for a fact that we have maybe about 30 people on a list who are waiting for a response from the Deputy Mayor and, indeed, picked up that Mr Devenish was asking this question today.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. Val has been working assiduously in this area and so I am sure that she will be keen to meet with you to make sure you and your constituents are reassured about the steps that we are taking. Again, Chairman, through you, can I agree to do that?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Prince?

**Keith Prince AM:** Thank you, Chairman. Mr Mayor, I do not want you to misunderstand. The people of Redbridge definitely welcome the introduction of the Night Tube and we know that there may be issues around antisocial behaviour. The issue of antisocial behaviour via the Tube itself that is the problem? Assembly Member Devenish touched on the fact that the World Health Organisation has a limit in the evening of about 40 decibels. I was with a constituent a few days ago and the reading from the trains going by there was 60 decibels, which during the day is acceptable but, clearly, at night is not.

I am just wondering what impact assessment TfL did prior to the introduction of the Night Tube?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Night Tube has not been introduced yet – it will be on 19 August - but we are doing work in relation to making sure that we minimise any disruption caused. For example, the issue that you are talking about, with respect, is happening before there is a Night Tube. I will make sure that the TfL team looks into your complaint about what is happening now. What we do not want to happen is, unintentionally, issues around noise are all pointing towards the Night Tube when in fact these are problems that are taking place now. The point about Assembly Member Devenish's issues raised, which I have looked into, was that these are complaints taking place now and that is why we have to try to sort them out. I am keen to make sure that TfL goes and meets with you and visits the site to make sure that it can address that now.

**Keith Prince AM:** With respect, Mr Mayor, people who have bought houses with the Tube at the back of them understood what they were buying into. Yes, you are correct that the 60 decibels is happening now, but during the daytime it is less intrusive. It is the fact that the Night Tube will still be pumping out that 60 decibels in the evening that is the issue for my residents, not so much what is happening now because they knew what they were buying into. As I said, they are not against the Night Tube, Mr Mayor, but they are wondering why no assessment was done and why they were not consulted about this issue in relation to the Night Tube itself.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** On that, Chairman, just to be clear, the briefing I have is that in February 2015 TfL was working with environmental health officers in order to address the impact of these issues. I am happy to write to you to set out what they have been doing up until the recent past.

**Keith Prince AM:** I would be grateful. Thank you.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The briefing I have is that a lot of work has been undertaken, but I am happy to revisit that if there are particular issues that you have in your area.

**Keith Prince AM:** As long as I have a commitment from you, Mr Mayor, that you will work with my residents and me to resolve these issues, that would be very acceptable.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much.

## **2016/2543 - New Powers over the Private Rented Sector**

Tom Copley AM

*In light of the Brexit result, will you be able to negotiate new powers for London from the government to protect renters?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Copley. I am determined that we help London's two million private renters. Too many renters pay too much for their home and, although most landlords are good and offer a decent service, there is still a minority of rogue landlords who exploit renters desperate for somewhere to live.

The last Mayor said he was going to help renters and he had a flagship scheme, the London Rental Standard, which he announced four years ago and which had a stated target of raising the number of accredited landlords to 100,000 by 2016. The audit that I ordered when we entered City Hall showed that not 100,000

but fewer than 2,000 landlords had signed up to the new standard since its adoption. What is more, the previous Mayor ignored clear and repeated advice that it was doomed to fail.

I want to be different. I will develop practical and workable ways to help London's renters and I am determined that we help London's renters by building more new and affordable homes to rent and buy. We need to give councils, housing associations, developers and investors the confidence to build more, and that confidence is even more important in the light of the uncertainty around Brexit. It is also important that we help private renters by rooting out the minority of bad landlords who are letting the whole sector down. That is why I have been making the case to the Government to give me greater powers in the first instance over landlord licensing schemes. This will enable me to work with boroughs to drive up standards.

The vote to leave the EU makes it absolutely critical that we secure more autonomy for the capital. We need to be able to protect Londoners from the uncertainty ahead and so I am demanding more control from the Government. I want this package of devolution to be wide-ranging and meaningful and so I will continue to push for powers over landlord licensing and will discuss further ways in which we can move to further improve the private rented sector.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. We had some very disturbing figures yesterday on the growth in the number of children living in temporary accommodation. It is up 44% since 2010 and that is absolutely tragic. Of those who enter temporary accommodation, 40% do so because of the end of an assured short-term tenancy. I am sure you would agree that we need to give people in the private rented sector more stability. Is control over tenancy now on the table in terms of devolution following the Brexit vote?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is not currently. The previous meeting I had was with the previous Secretary of State and it certainly was not on the table as far as he was concerned. We will have to wait and see what the new Secretary of State wants to do going forward. We are due to meeting shortly.

**Tom Copley AM:** It potentially could be on the table?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There has been a reshuffle. Who knows?

**Tom Copley AM:** Absolutely. Could you give us an update on the progress on your London Living Rent, which was one of your key manifesto pledges?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** A lot of that boils down to the deal we can make with the DCLG. We were making great progress with Greg Clark MP, the previous Secretary of State for the DCLG. Unfortunately, the reshuffle happened. I am due to speak to the new Secretary of State this week and I hope to meet him shortly.

It is continued progress on the Living Rent and the deal we can do with the Government going forward because we want to build as many genuinely affordable homes to buy and rent as we can. We are also at the same time, as you will be aware, doing work on a Supplementary Planning Guidance and the London Plan, but we are moving as fast as we can.

**Tom Copley AM:** Can you implement the London Living Rent without the co-operation of the Government if it were not to be forthcoming or do you need the DCLG to agree?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is a good question. What we can do is, in relation to new homes built, we can ensure via planning conditions tenure in relation to the London Living Rent. We will have coming

on-stream a percentage of homes at the London Living Rent. I will just remind colleagues that it is, roughly speaking, a third of average earnings. That will be the rent.

The reason why the deal with the Government is important is because it enables us to ensure that more genuinely affordable homes are built. We have housing associations that do a great job. Roughly speaking, 40% of homes built in London are by housing associations. It clearly has an impact on their ability to build homes if we can get a good deal with the Government. Like I said, the discussions with Greg Clark were very promising and very encouraging. Let us keep our fingers crossed that Sajid Javid [Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government] is as good as Greg Clark appeared to be.

**Tom Copley AM:** I wish you well in your discussions with the new Secretary of State. Thank you.

### **2016/2411 - Frequent Flyer Levy**

Caroline Russell AM

*Proposals for a frequent flyer levy could remove the need for airport expansion at Heathrow and Gatwick. Would you consider carrying out a study into this proposal which replaces Air Passenger Duty with a variable levy based on the number of flights taken?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question, Assembly Member Russell. Taxation of air travel remains the responsibility of the Government. It is for them to determine the appropriate regime that reflects the environmental impact of aviation while ensuring that it can play its vital role in supporting the UK economy.

I am aware of the proposals raised last year for a frequent flyer levy. The Government would need to be aware of the risk of perverse consequences if it restricted key business travel and the ability of London to trade internationally, just as the UK needs to be developing new trade links with the wider world. I suspect that there are also practical challenges. For example, it is not clear how a database of all UK flyers would be operated or how it might include non-UK residents.

As I made clear last week, I support new aviation capacity for London and my view is that Gatwick is the cheapest, greenest and most viable option presented by the Airports Commission. I believe that the new Government should not delay the decision any further. The lack of a clear commitment to proceed with additional airport capacity is holding back London's economy.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. We need to separate the issue of airport capacity from the fairness of aviation taxation. Just 15% of the population are taking 70% of the flights. These people, who are very frequent flyers, are dominated by some of the wealthiest sections of our population. They are characterised by earning over £115,000, they tend to have homes abroad and they tend to live in the City, in Westminster, in Kensington & Chelsea and in Surrey.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** That is a bit evil, is it not?

**Caroline Russell AM:** The frequent flyer levy is about making aviation taxation much fairer because our airfares are currently artificially low and aviation is exempt from fuel duty and is zero-rated for value-added tax (VAT), like children's clothing or disability aids. This effective subsidy of the aviation sector is about £11.4 billion, which is over £400 per household. However, the people who are taking the majority, 70%, of the flights are this very small proportion, 15%, of the population who are flying more than three times a year.

What this frequent flyer levy would do is enable people going on holiday once a year to pay no tax on their flights, but all on subsequent flights per year they would pay an increasing amount of tax. What this would do is it would just make sure that the subsidy on aviation --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Is there a question in this, Assembly Member Russell?

**Caroline Russell AM:** Yes, there is a question. Sorry. Will you undertake a study of the frequent flyer levy in order to investigate the potential for a fairer way of taxing air travel?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No.

**Caroline Russell AM:** OK. Will your advisors meet with the people who are proposing the idea of a frequent flyer levy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No. Look, if the Assembly Member or those who are advising her want to make representations to the Treasury and the Chancellor, they are welcome to do so. TfL is doing lots of things. Aviation is not one of them, nor is taxation on aviation.

By the way, when I said that I will be a Mayor for all Londoners, it includes the people of Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea as well.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Mr Mayor, the point is that this is about you being able to represent Londoners to the Government. If you understand the benefits of a frequent flyer levy, you will be better able to represent Londoners to the Government. In particular, you said earlier in your response to Assembly Member Kurten --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You are still not asking a question.

**Caroline Russell AM:** I am asking a question. You said that there were no problems with Gatwick, but there are 50,000 people who are suffering an increase --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** What is the question?

**Caroline Russell AM:** -- in pollution and three times as many people will be suffering noise at Gatwick. The option of a frequent flyer levy would enable you to reduce demand for these mainly leisure flights. Does that not seem like a good idea for you to investigate?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No.

**Caroline Russell AM:** That is a no? That is a huge shame.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** That was three noes.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** OK. Assembly Member Kurten?

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you again, Mr Mayor, for reiterating your support for Gatwick and I agree with that. It is a very sensible proposal.

There have also been proposals from some quarters to close City Airport and turn it into a housing estate. What do you think of that idea?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Now, there is a bad idea. It is a bad idea. London City Airport does an important job in providing transport to the heart of our city. You can be at a meeting within 30 minutes of landing at London City Airport. It is within the air quality guidelines and concerns about noise have been addressed by the City of London.

The aviation industry is not perfect, but you have to understand that we are a leading global centre. One of the reasons that makes us competitive is the ability for people to come and travel here. There are now really good alternatives to get to short-haul destinations, whether Paris or Brussels. With Eurostar going to Amsterdam very soon, it will also give good alternatives to short-haul flights. We cannot underestimate the importance to the viability of our city being a great city of having good links around the world.

**David Kurten AM:** That is very sensible. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Boff?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, following on from your support for London City Airport, perhaps you could let me know the maximum number of flights that you would support being allowed in and out of London City Airport?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure, I will do that, but just to remind you, Chairman, Assembly Member Boff, there is no application to increase the number of flights. The only application was in relation to the planes with bigger wings that could park there, but I am happy to respond in relation to that. My understanding is that it has not yet met the upper limit of flights that it has permission for, but I will write back to the Assembly Member with proper numbers.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Could you also, Mr Mayor, share with me not only the data with regard to air quality and with regard to London City Airport but also how that data is collected as well?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure. I will try to find out --

**Andrew Boff AM:** The methodology of collection of that --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I will try to get hold of what I can, Chairman.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you. Before we go on to the next question, we have visitors from Stapleford Abbots Primary School, which is in Essex. We run things differently in London from the way you do in Essex.

## **2016/2539 - Tourism**

Fiona Twycross AM

*Do you think London's international promotion is suitably scaled to compete with the best cities in the world?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman, and it is good to have tourists here with us today from Essex.

Chairman, I have appointed my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, to be the new Chair of London & Partners and he will be leading on promoting London as a place to visit and to do business. Rajesh and I will be reviewing London & Partners' contribution and business plan alongside my other strategies for the capital in the months ahead. The key thing is to ensure that in a post-Brexit world we maintain London's competitive position and London & Partners has a role to play in ensuring that we express a positive message about London to the rest of the world.

That positive message includes my #LondonIsOpen campaign, which is showing that London is united and open for business and to the world following the EU referendum. Despite my disappointment with the outcome of the EU referendum, at least one benefit of Brexit is that with the weaker pound London has become a much more affordable high-quality tourist destination for international and domestic visitors. London's cultural offering is making an important contribution to our economic success. Four out of five visitors say that London's culture and heritage is their main reason for coming to London.

It is, therefore, crucial that this vibrant sector continues to grow and one of my core priorities is to help it do so. London & Partners needs to help in telling London's story and promoting us across the world.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. All of us have seen the #LondonIsOpen video, which you have referred to in other people's questions as well. It is exceptionally positive and warm and, hopefully, will be seen around the world and will give an indication that London is open to visitors not just from the EU but from all over the world.

Flying slightly in the face of the previous question on a frequent flyer levy, I wondered whether you had come across a report from the Royal Commonwealth Society that suggests that the UK has missed out on billions in spending by failing to make it easier and cheaper for wealthy Indian tourists to apply for multiple-entry visas. Is this something that you have considered as part of attracting more visitors from outside Europe to London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a big issue, Chairman. India does more business with us as a country than the 27 members of the EU put together. One of the big complaints we receive is about the difficulty of getting a visa. Students from India are now choosing Australia, Canada and the United States rather than our country. Business people from India are choosing other places to invest. It is a big issue. The London Chamber of Commerce has talked about a "London visa", which is interesting.

One of the key things that we need to impress upon the Government - and I will be doing this in the course of my meetings - is that we are inadvertently giving an advantage to our competitors. There is a scheme for China, which is not without problems, but we need to make sure that there are schemes for parts of the world that would bring huge benefits to our city and our country and would do right by our city. I intend to lobby the Government on that.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. The next scheduled question on junk food advertising has been withdrawn and it has been replaced.

## **2016/2731 - Citizens Initiatives**

Andrew Boff AM

*Given the high turnout in the European Union Referendum, what consideration have you given to encouraging or introducing greater direct democracy in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. Can I thank the Assembly Member for his question.

The mayoral election in May 2016 saw the largest ever turnout for a mayoral election in London or anywhere in the UK. I am a great believer in representative democracy. Over 1.148 million Londoners voted for me as their first preference, rising to over 1.31 million when second preferences were taken into account. This gives me the largest mandate in London's history to deliver on my commitment to be a Mayor for all Londoners.

However, representative democracy is not mutually exclusive to active citizenship. I want Londoners to be engaged and active across London and in their communities. I want Londoners to feed into my policies and decision-making. I have been vocal in expressing that I will be a Mayor who listens to Londoners, I will consult with them on the issues that most affect them and I will genuinely take on board what they have to say.

For example, on 5 July 2016 I launched the first round of my consultation on tackling London's air pollution and I have urged all of those affected by the capital's air quality to take part. So far, this has received more public consultation responses than any GLA consultation in the past. At this stage more than 11,000 people have completed the survey on City Hall's Talk London website. I will also consult on my Police and Crime Plan later on this year.

My first State of London Debate in June 2016 was regarded as a great success, giving Londoners the opportunity to question me on a variety of subjects. I am pleased that the tickets were sold out in record time and demand was unprecedented.

I will work with community organisations across London such as London Citizens and I am committed to giving Londoners a real say in City Hall policies and to being an open and transparent Mayor. I have also committed to getting around London and visiting communities to really understand and try to tackle the issues faces by our diverse communities. I am committed to taking tough decisions on behalf of all Londoners: freezing TfL fares, blocking more spending on the Garden Bridge and focusing efforts and resources on tackling knife crime and hate crime.

I am more than willing to listen to any ideas you have, Assembly Member Boff, on how we can further engage Londoners to get involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. What you have described is consultation. You have committed yourself to listening to Londoners and that I would expect from any occupant of that seat. What I am talking about is direct democracy and that is different. That is when the people determine the issue, not the government. What would you have against the issues being determined by the people rather than by politicians?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am a firm believer that I am a representative and not a delegate. I was a representative when I was elected to the Council [London Borough of Wandsworth] for the first time in 1994, I was a representative when I stood for Parliament for the first time in 2005 and I was a representative when I

was elected as the Mayor of London in May this year, not a delegate. That means that I have a manifesto that I have given to constituents to look upon and they then voted for the candidate that they thought best reflected their aspirations and the issues facing them. When you win the election, you have a mandate to carry through your manifesto.

However, democracy is not just voting once every four years or once every five years. I believe in citizens being active citizens, which means lobbying, going on protests or demonstrations and also going through Assembly Members to lobby me whether it is in MQTs or when going to visit areas of London.

**Andrew Boff AM:** That still is not the people determining the issue, Mr Mayor. I do not want to belabour the point, but more people turned out to vote “leave” in London than voted for you to be Mayor. Why would you not support greater participation in our democracy? We are all in favour of representative democracy, but that is voting for a person. Why would you be against people voting for an issue?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not against people becoming more active citizens. Londoners are not consumers; they are citizens. We want them to become active citizens. That is why in response to a question from Assembly Member Berry I talked about how we involve citizens far better when it comes to estate regeneration.

However, I have been elected to do a job, as have all of you. You have a very important role to play and I do not want to do disservice to the role that you have to play. I am not belittling the role of Londoners being active citizens. I met just last week with London Citizens. It is important, though, to disaggregate our role as representatives and the role of Londoners as citizens.

**Andrew Boff AM:** When Londoners had the chance to vote for an issue, the turnout was much greater than when they voted for either the Assembly or the Mayor. Should we not learn from that message?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is a very respectable school of thought that believes in referenda on a number of issues. People in California and Switzerland have rich histories in relation to referenda. I believe, actually, in politicians being elected on a mandate and being representative and being in touch. That is really important.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I will not belabour it. Thank you very much.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Berry?

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you very much, Chairman. One reason people turned out in greater numbers in the referendum was because they knew that their vote was going to count. People in this country are potentially very used to their vote not counting because of our outdated system of first-past-the-post.

Mr Mayor, would you support potentially a move to proportional representation (PR) so that people know when they vote for their representatives that they will get a representative set of representatives in Parliament?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There are lots of reasons why people vote. One of them is because they think they can impact on the turnout. I suspect that those who were hoping that, for example, a research ship would be named “Boaty McBoatface” will be disappointed that their vote had no impact in relation to that vessel being named.

It is important, though, that we recognise that we have a rich history of representative democracy. I have been a longstanding public advocate for PR rather than first-past-the-post, but we are where we are. There are lots of downsides that the system of referenda – and I respect the views of Assembly Member Boff – has in relation to direct democracy. One of the things that we have to do is to make sure we stay relevant and in touch with Londoners by going on visits, whether it is to Gallows Corner or whether it is to involve Londoners in estate regeneration.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We will now move on to the next question.

## **2016/2544 - The Effect of Brexit on Transport**

Florence Eshalomi AM

What effect will leaving the European Union have on transport in the capital?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Eshalomi. London was a success before the referendum and I am determined that it will remain so long after it. One consequence of the vote to leave the EU has been that the Government's credit rating has been downgraded. Subsequently, TfL's credit rating has been downgraded by the Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch credit rating agencies. TfL also borrows from the European Investment Bank for major infrastructure projects like Crossrail. As has always been the case, we are open for business and the EU nationals and many others who make London such a wonderfully diverse and attractive city are welcome here, and so demand for safe, reliable and affordable transport services will remain high.

It will be some time before the timetable and plan for our exit from the EU will be clear and I am trying to ensure that London gets a seat at the table in the negotiations with Brussels to secure our city's business, economic, social and other interests. This is a cross-party issue upon which we all agree going forward.

In the meantime, nothing changes in the way in which TfL operates and the vote will have no impact on my four-year TfL fares freeze. TfL's job remains to deliver a world-class transport service for a growing London that is fundamental to the UK's economy and builds our position as one of the world's greatest cities. This also means that we must press ahead with steady investment in our public transport and road networks to support new housing development and economic growth.

As I agreed with a cross-party group of London's political and business leaders at last week's summit, now is the time for a more ambitious push for further devolution to London's government. Londoners should have more control over how taxes raised in our city are spent and not only will London benefit but so will the entire country. Investments such as Crossrail 2 must press ahead. If we increase investment, London and the UK will grow.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Again, it is good to see that you are pushing this case. You already know that TfL has a commitment from the Government of just under £944 million in terms of investment. Obviously, there is a big worry that the downturn in public finances will mean that this investment may shrink, regardless of the EU vote. What discussions have you had to date following that about making sure we protect the investment that has already been earmarked for TfL?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As far as the investment already earmarked for TfL is concerned, that is still going ahead. One of the things that I have been discussing with the new Chancellor is investment going

forward. One of the things we learned from the previous time there was a serious economic downturn - and I am not suggesting that there will be downturn post-Brexit - is that the Government between 2007 and 2009 invested in relation to fiscal stimulus and there was an industrial plan. One of the things that I welcome with Greg Clark's new job [Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy] is the impression that has been given of infrastructure being part of the Government's plan going forward. We are trying to look forward to that.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** That is great. One of the claims that came up during the referendum was around the claim that a vote to leave the EU would see construction prices go up. That was something that the "remain" campaign pushed and we have seen concerns from the construction industry on that.

Do you believe that there will be a massive impact in terms of construction costs going up and will this have an impact on some of the really big and ambitious plans we have in TfL?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is a lot of uncertainty out there. One of the things that I have been doing from the Friday morning after the Brexit vote until now and going forward is providing reassurance to businesses, developers and investors that we are open for business. #LondonIsOpen is about an attitude. We are open for business and we are a can-do city.

Of course there are concerns and there are challenges going forward, but one of the things that I welcome about what Theresa May [Prime Minister] and her Cabinet have been saying and doing is their can-do attitude. Of course there are challenges. Of course there are. What we have to do is not allow that to give the impression that somehow we are not going to be a great place to build homes and to do business. The challenge for us is to make sure that any homes built are genuinely affordable to buy and rent. Of course there is huge uncertainty.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you.

### **2016/2825 - Children's Festival**

Peter Whittle AM

*Would the mayor be interested in the idea of establishing a Children's Festival of London? Would he agree that, as the children are the future of our city, such an event would help bring together young people from diverse backgrounds, enable further integration, and help them all to learn about their city, past present and future?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I really appreciate your interest in this area, Assembly Member Whittle. As a longstanding patron of the Polka Theatre for children, I know first-hand the transformative power that culture can have on children and young people. I agree that children are the future of our city and I have highlighted how I want to ensure that all Londoners of all ages and backgrounds have access to the great cultural assets which London has.

I have discussed this with my new Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons. We agree that we want children to be included in all that we do with cultural programmes and dedicated initiatives for children and a good track record in providing opportunities for children to engage with the arts. Every year school-aged children across all London boroughs enter the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards competition, pitch their own designs and end up with an exhibition at City Hall. I joined world-leading dancer and choreographer

Akram Khan - no relation - during the Big Dance Week recently. The GLA worked with the Institute of Imagination, which brought hundreds of children for a dance takeover of City Hall.

I am pleased to tell the Assembly that over 300 secondary schools are now signed up to our London Curriculum, which uses London to inspire learning both inside and outside the classroom and will open up London's institutions for teachers and pupils. Art and music are two key themes of the London Curriculum, which supports education of the highest standard, connecting pupils to London's history, culture, people and places. From 2017, I am pleased that this will be expanded to work with primary schools as well.

The Events team here at City Hall also delivers and supports a programme of events that help to bring diverse communities together for shared cultural experiences that help support community integration. I will ensure that these events are even more family-focused as well. Over the coming months we will be reviewing the events programme to see how this develops and shapes over the coming years. I will aim to make the events programme even more child-friendly for all Londoners and will aim to embed children right at its heart.

In addition, over the coming months we will be launching the London Borough of Culture and the "Love London" campaign and these initiatives will include a significant amount of activity aimed at children across all areas of London. We are now working with a number of cultural organisations across London, looking at how the work that they produce for children is promoted more widely and how their programmes will form part of our work.

I have asked my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries to meet with you to discuss any ideas that you have in relation to this area as well.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I really do welcome all of those initiatives and comments. Yes, I would like to meet with the Deputy Mayor. Maybe you will have more luck than I have had so far because I have tried.

I did specifically ask about a Children's Festival of London. Do I take it from your comments that you do not particularly see that as a possibility? If I could explain, I was thinking of maybe a two-week or one-week event, not unlike the Festival of Britain but a totally different emphasis, of course, based on children. What I am thinking is simply that those great events like the Olympics or royal events or whatever bring the whole city together and are not necessarily just about economics. That was what I had in mind: something that was a focused event that kids could take part in.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am definitely not ruling that out. One of the reasons why I am keen for you to meet my Deputy Mayor is because you are in danger of making me preannounce an announcement going forward. Meet with her. I am excited about this and it is really important that we do not rule anything out. I will arrange for you to meet with her sooner rather than later, but this is an area that we want to explore going forward.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Do I take it, therefore, that something like this might be in the offing?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It has not been ruled out, Assembly Member Whittle. Let us talk about it later on, yes?

**Peter Whittle AM:** I am very encouraged because a city is its people and young people particularly have to know about the city we are in and I mean all young people. With the rate at which we are growing, we have to bring people in much quicker.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You have made your point.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The benefits potentially of this are huge and some of them are difficult to quantify. It is about who we are and giving a sense of belonging and making sure that people can have a taste of what is possible. It is also about quality of life. I was fascinated by you asking the question. It is an area that we are working on. I want you to meet with the Deputy Mayor sooner rather than later and, hopefully, we will work together.

**Peter Whittle AM:** All right.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

## **2016/2545 - Brexit and the Environment**

Leonie Cooper AM

*How will you use your role in the Brexit negotiating team to ensure we preserve the hard-fought environmental protections that are so vital to our capital's future?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Cooper, for your question. I have already made it clear that it is essential that London has a seat at the Brexit negotiating table and any help that Assembly Members can give to make sure that the new Government realises that is appreciated.

I have also made it clear that I do not want to see the referendum result used as an excuse for watering down environmental protections such as requirements around air quality. Many of London's environmental challenges are transboundary in nature. For example, 48% of the equivalent deaths which were associated with air pollution from sources outside London including Europe. As a result, it is important that we continue to target at a European level. That is why I recently joined forces with Mayor Hidalgo from Paris to tackle this very issue by calling on the EU to set national limits on air pollution through the National Emission Ceilings Directive. It is also essential that we fully utilise networks such as the C40.

I am also arguing strongly that the UK should continue to be in the EU single market. This would likely mean that we would still have to comply with much of the EU legislation covering economic, social and environmental policies. In addition, London receives extensive funding from Europe. My aim would be that as part of the single market we would continue to benefit from transnational programmes like Interreg [Interreg Europe] and Horizon 2020. However, the detail of this all needs to be worked and, given the impact of all of these policies and funding on London, we need to ensure that we are at the table.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. This morning it was announced that this has been the consecutively warmest month for months and months and months in a row. Clearly, climate change is having an impact. I just wondered if you share my concern that the new Government may have little commitment to tackling climate change given that the recent reshuffle and departmental restructure has got rid of the Department for Energy and Climate Change and we now have no department with "climate change" in its title.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am, clearly, disappointed that the Department for Energy and Climate Change has been abolished. I am due to meet with senior members of the Government shortly to discuss their commitment to the area. Yesterday there was a yellow-alert in relation to air quality in London. One of the reasons why this is a priority for us is that we are in breach of the EU Air Quality Directive, which the Supreme Court said that we are breaching. What we do not want to see is a watering-down of our commitment to fixing the air in London and across the country because of Brexit.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Clearly, the issue of air quality has been a major one for you since you were elected and it is something that you are already taking steps on. I am sure it is something that you will be raising with the Government and across Europe. What other messages do you have for those in the Government who, it would seem to me, may be willing to negotiate away other vital environmental safeguards?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It was a point I made in answer to a question raised by Assembly Member Duvall about emerging economies in London that, actually, it is an opportunity for us. We improve the quality of lives of Londoners. We ensure that the next generation does not have smaller lungs. We ensure that life expectancy increases. Also, it is an opportunity for low carbon. It is an opportunity for solar. It is an opportunity for jobs creation. It is an opportunity for skilling-up youngsters to have the skills for tomorrow's high-skilled jobs. It is an opportunity for us to work closely with our European neighbours and neighbours around the world.

Just think about the funding streams that we may lose out on in relation to Brexit, but also think about the potential opportunities. One of the reasons why Assembly Member Twycross is so keen on our links with India: think about the higher-education links we could have with India. Life sciences are crucial as well. I hope that the new Chancellor does not think that this is "green crap". I hope that the new Prime Minister understands the importance to us of addressing this issue.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Unfortunately, we are starting a bit on the back foot because the previous Mayor wasted a lot of time in the last eight years. We also have the issue that the current Government has not signed the Paris Agreement that emerged at the end of 2015. As someone who went to the Paris Conference, can you assure Londoners that you will be doing everything in your power to try to persuade the Government to sign up to the Paris Agreement so that we do not renege on our responsibilities as identified in that treaty?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Assembly Member Cooper, as a consequence of your representations, why do I not write to the Prime Minister and say that it is really important that we sign it as soon as possible? I will send you a copy of that representation as well.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much.

## **2016/2548 - Public Health Strategy**

Dr Onkar Sahota AM

*In your manifesto it was refreshing to note your support for a strategy aimed at improving London's public health and wellbeing; something the previous Mayor failed to deliver. With the result of the EU referendum and looking at the powers Manchester has been devolved, do you foresee more powers and resources being devolved to London which you could spend on the health of all Londoners?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Sahota. London is a great city and there are so many positive reasons to live here. However, it cannot be right that in the 21st century in London we

have tuberculosis (TB) rates higher than parts of Africa, increasing rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and 37% of our children leaving school obese or overweight. The cost in human suffering as well as to the public purse is massive. Mental illness alone costs this city over £26 million a year.

I have previously set out my vision for health in London and I am really trying to get to grips with some of these issues. For example, to address the health inequality impacts of poor air quality, Councillor Sarah Hayward [Leader, Camden Council] is leading work on behalf of the London Health Board to develop a London mental health roadmap. I want to develop a strategic approach to public health that makes a real impact and improves people's lives. I will use my Health Inequalities Strategy, the London Health Board and my wider powers to get a grip on health issues. In addition to Sarah Hayward, I am working with Councillor Teresa O'Neill [Leader, Bexley Council] and Councillor Richard Watts [Leader, Islington Council] to look at how we can take forward the work of the London Health Commission and push for further health devolution.

I am also already in talks with the Government. A large part of these discussions focus on devolution and how giving London more control over our own affairs can help us and the rest of the UK economy. Politically led devolution is a powerful lever for improving health and care services. It provides an opportunity to accelerate partners working together to address the major challenges and to tailor health and care for the needs of Londoners. I believe that the Government and national bodies get this. The London Health and Care Collaboration Agreement set out in December 2015 demonstrated their commitment to work with London partners to unlock the challenges to prevention, integration and making the best use of National Health Service (NHS) buildings and land. Work is underway on five pilot sites across London to test the detailed ask and offers to Government. I look forward to working with you and other Members to take this forward.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Mr Mayor, thank you very much for that comprehensive response and, of course, I welcome that you are taking much more of a lead on this than your predecessor. Of course, one of the problems that we have in public health is that this Government has cut the funding for public health. We have had a £300 million cut in public health for local authorities.

The question is this: we asked for devolution, but have you lobbied for more public health funding from the Government? Secondly, we are left with 32 boroughs that have no leadership in this area and The King's Fund has of course referred to this as a "vacuum" in strategic leadership in London. How do you intend to address that deficit?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a big question. The real problem is - and I say this with respect and hoping not to cause any offence - there is no leadership around health in London anymore. The London Health Board is doing a bit of work around this and, by the way, the work that Teresa O'Neill, Sarah Hayward and Richard Watts are doing is very good in individual streams, but we need better leadership. Some of this will be regional, some sub-regional and some local.

One of the things that is an opportunity but also a risk is the lack of ring-fencing when it comes to public health money. This is being reduced. What is to stop Local Authority A spending it this way, which is not necessarily public health, when Local Authority B is more innovative around public health spending? That is why we need to be more joined-up. We are not like Manchester; we are far more complex than Manchester, far bigger and we have bigger health and care problems. That is why the pilots are important and they provide an opportunity to learn the lessons from the five pilots as we go forward.

I have to be realistic: I have been impressed with the direction of travel from the Government. There has been no resistance to us. We are trying to learn the lessons. Teresa O'Neill from Bexley is doing good work on the Health Board in relation to this. Watch this space. There are big challenges for us, but one of the opportunities is more devolution.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Boff?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, in our rush to try to get more powers for you in terms of health, will you not forget your very important convening role with regard to promoting public health in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. Can I just reassure Assembly Members and reassure local councillors, this is not about me having more powers. Some of this will be sub-regional with local authorities. The impression that you are giving is that this is about more powers for the Mayor. You are right about the huge convening powers that need to be used sensibly.

There is a problem, though, if I can be frank, which is that some of the levers are not in the hands of London governance. Yes, convening is all well and good but the budgets and the resources do not follow the people that we are convening. That is one of the issues that we have to grapple with.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you.

**2016/2549 - The Night Tube**  
Florence Eshalomi AM

*Only 45% of Night Tube stations have a toilet. Do you think that is enough?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Eshalomi. I completely understand why access to toilet facilities is an important issue for customers. When the Night Tube opens, all 45 toilets operated by London Underground on the five lines will remain open overnight. I have also asked TfL to speak to the local boroughs and train operators that - rather than London Underground - are responsible for operating the stations on the Night Tube and to look at opportunities to keep additional toilets opening during the night. The London boroughs also need to ensure that there is improved toilet provision and, in the areas around major transport hubs, I know that this is an issue and in the areas with an active night-time economy. Already half a million people use the Tube after 10pm on Friday and Saturday nights, but TfL will ensure that every station is staffed throughout the night and enhanced policing will combat antisocial behaviour. TfL has spoken to other cities with all-night metro networks such as New York to learn from their experiences and to ensure that it has the best possible plans in place for staffing, policing and cleaning the network.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** That is great and it is good to hear that all of those toilets will be open. You have mentioned that you do not have any statutory provision to provide public toilets, but it does play an important role in terms of the look and feel of London.

My concern is about some of those residential properties quite close to some of the stations where unfortunately we could see an increase in antisocial behaviour and people - both men and women - relieving themselves in close proximity. TfL has said that it has no plans to install temporary toilet facilities. Is this something that you agree with?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In answer to your previous question, I was asked about the convening powers of the Mayor. Some of this is the responsibility of London boroughs. Some of this is what we should be doing, working with local partners. There have been some examples where there have been temporary public toilets, like around Vauxhall, which have been hit-and-miss.

One of the things that we need to do is to work with local boroughs to make sure that we reduce the possibility of antisocial behaviour and people urinating in public, which is a real issue in some parts of London. I do not want to name areas for obvious reasons, but it is an issue that we are live to and are trying to come to terms with. Just to be clear, some of this antisocial behaviour takes place now near stations and local authorities are not doing enough. We are trying to talk to local authorities to ensure that they do more than they are currently doing in the lead-up to 19 August 2016 and going forward as well.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** I totally agree with that and I am sure that you will agree, Mr Mayor, that a number of local authorities have seen their budgets cut considerably. Essentially, you would forgive them if some of them are not focusing on providing additional toilet facilities but are focusing on some of those key issues like health and social care, but --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes, just to emphasise, I was deliberately not being critical. I was saying that it is relative. You know as a councillor that there are challenges around local authority budgets. There are opportunities around the private sector as well. However, I do not want to pretend that pop-up temporary toilets are the solution. Some of it is better policing. Some of it is better facilities. Some of it is working better with different agencies and different parties. These are issues that we want to grapple with.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Definitely and, going forward, yes, we do have some of those antisocial behaviour issues already operating but we do not have an all-night Night Tube. My concern is that in four weeks' time when we get the two lines starting, which will be fantastic and Londoners do welcome it, we may see an increase. Before the new additional lines come on in autumn 2016, will there be any analysis carried out by TfL?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the reasons why I was keen, Chairman, not to have a "big bang" approach was to do this sort of stuff and that is why we are starting with two lines in August. The plan is this. In addition to the regular, ongoing reporting process, we have a number of specific periodic reviews planned, an immediate review of the launch, a three-month to be held in December 2016 to incorporate information from all of the lines, a six-month review to be held in March 2017 and a one-year review. Each review will consider key areas of usage and demand, operational performance, crime and customer contacts and feedback. The issues raised by Assembly Member Devenish, the issues raised by Assembly Member Arnold and the issues that you are raising are all really important and legitimate issues that we have to try to come to terms with and address.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you.

## **2016/2546 - Policing Budget**

Unmesh Desai AM

*What representations have you made to the Home Office since taking office regarding the MPS's budget?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Desai, for your question. Not many people know better than our new Prime Minister about maintaining levels of police funding. I look forward to working with the new Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, on ensuring the best deal for London and I have already spoken to the new Home Secretary.

It is good that funding for police has not been reduced further in the Government's last round of austerity cuts, but we have to remember the overall impact on London of the Government's plans. Police budgets remain under considerable pressure. We anticipate that we will have to make some challenging savings over the current Police and Crime Plan period. This looks like being around £300 million to £400 million in addition to the £600 million required during the Police and Crime Plan period. These need to be delivered whilst we improve the service to Londoners.

The MPS funding from the Home Office comes under a number of headings, which you will know about but others may not be aware of them. There is the basic formula grant, the National and International Capital City (NICC) grant and some specific top-sliced grants as well. I have made and will continue to make representations on all of these.

On the first, the then Home Secretary, our new Prime Minister, initiated a review last year, which fortunately was never completed because it threatened to take away over 5% of the MPS budget every year. There is some uncertainty, especially with a new Home Secretary, as to whether that review will suddenly reappear. The whole process, in my view, was ill-informed, was not evidenced and in the end literally did not add up and Assembly Members cross-party were right to protest.

The NICC grant funding is another example of how the Government has short-changed policing in London. The NICC should reimburse London for MPS officers being required to police national events. Not only is it retrospectively paid, but it does not meet the need. Last year the Home Office itself was forced to admit that it allocated to London only 62% of what an independent review had concluded that London was owed, £173.6 million instead of £280 million.

The Home Office has top-sliced the national policing allocation for the new transformation fund and the cost of national agencies such as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Not only does this reduce the funding available for frontline policing, but it undermines our attempts to reform the MPS by prioritising small short-term projects over long-term transformation.

It is clear that there is a case to be made to the new Home Secretary on funding. I am confident that the new Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and I have already made evident what we think constitutes a fair deal for policing in London. I have no doubt that we will need to continue to fight to ensure Londoners receive a service that is resourced to meet their needs. I have already written as well as spoken to Amber Rudd to put to her the points that I put to her predecessor and to raise the issue specifically of funding. Adequate funding for policing is essential and my new Deputy Mayor and I will continue to fight for an appropriate and proportional share of the budget.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. If I can just follow up some of the points that you raised in your answer, you talked about savings of £300 million to £400 million to make. It is actually £390 million in savings that the MPS has to make by 2020. Where do you see these savings coming from? What sort of split do you see in terms of the savings coming from infrastructure and services and what split do you see coming from staffing costs?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is, Chairman, a process by which we are resolving the issue of the budget. There is separately a plan, the Police and Crime Plan, and they are both going at the same time. To give credit to the Commissioner and his team, they are offering up areas where we can make efficiency savings. The circle that needs squaring is making sure that Londoners do not lose out in relation to the policing that they receive. Yesterday, for example, representations were made to me by Assembly Member Dismore about the impact of a decision made before I was Mayor in relation to supervision --

**Unmesh Desai AM:** He will have some questions to ask on that, yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** -- and in relation to Safer Neighbourhood Teams. These are some of the issues that Sophie Linden and I are trying to address.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Just to carry on from that, Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden told us earlier this week at the Police and Crime Committee [on 19 July 2016] that 70% of the MPS's total budget is made up of staffing costs --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes, correct.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** -- and she was going to have to look at, quote, "prioritisation within the staff and the policing that we have at the moment". How do you reconcile that? There can be only one interpretation in terms of what she has said. Some, if not significant, savings will have to come from the staffing side.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is staff, there are police officers, there are Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and there is a number. Staff encompasses --

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Staff at all levels. I accept that, yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The MPS is no different from other areas that we have experience of budgets, whether it is schools, whether it is schools or whether it is government. A significant proportion of the spend is human resources and staff. For me, the issue is prioritising those human resources and staff. I am committed to neighbourhood policing and that means prioritising the staff to ensure we have neighbourhood policing. That is one of the issues that Sophie and I, with the Commissioner and his team, need to address.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Finally, what I would say Londoners are more concerned about is the frontline services. What assurances can you give us - both to us as the Assembly and to Londoners - in terms of protecting frontline officers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have written this week to Amber Rudd in relation to this issue of funding specifically. The conversation with the new Home Secretary will be on a number of issues and I will be meeting her shortly to discuss a number of issues. As I explained, there are a number of different revenue streams that we have that fund the police service. In my opinion - and the previous Mayor, I think, agreed with me - the MPS is not adequately resourced in relation to the functions that it has to perform. As we saw last night in relation to events in London - whether it is in Hyde Park or other parts of London like Southwark and Stamford Hill - how quickly things can move in relation to the resources that are needed to police our city. One of the things that I will be impressing on the Home Secretary and also the Chancellor is the importance of properly resourcing the police service in London.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Dismore.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you, Chairman. You have probably anticipated partly what I am going to ask you about from your previous response.

At the Police and Crime Committee on 28 January 2016 I was told by the then Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime [Stephen Greenhalgh] that the cost of the necessary uplift in the numbers of firearms officers would, quote, "not have an impact on neighbourhood policing". However, at yesterday's Police and Crime Committee, the Deputy Commissioner [Craig Mackey QPM, Deputy Commissioner, MPS] said that 500 sergeants and inspectors had been taken out of neighbourhood policing to fund the uplift in firearms officers, which confirms what Camden's Chief Inspector wrote to me:

*"The MPS has had to make savings. Camden will, therefore, reduce by one inspector and five sergeants. It has been decided that the reductions will come from the NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) portfolio."*

That means, for example, that ward clusters are being merged and we are being told that similar cuts are happening in Barnet.

It looks like, despite your election and the election pledge, the MPS is carrying on the plans of your predecessor Mayor. Given your commitment to safer neighbourhood policing, will you look at these cuts and in your Police and Crime Plan reverse them?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There are a number of different things that we are talking about. One is the issue of the supervision of neighbourhood police officers by inspectors and sergeants, which was a decision made, as you rightly - and thank you for doing so - reminded us, in January 2016. There is a separate issue in relation to the Police and Crime Plan going forward, the budgets going forward and my commitment to ensure that there is more and better neighbourhood policing going forward. I am committed to ensuring that we can do that. You are right to remind me of the consequences of decisions made previously, which are being carried through, as you know from personal experience in Camden and Barnet of officers being lost who are sergeants and inspectors.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you for that. On the point of supervision, it is important because the Deputy Commissioner also confirmed yesterday that the MPS is moving to a basic ratio of one sergeant to ten police constables (PCs) compared with 1:6 now and an average of 1:4.8 nationally. A lot of the training of new officers is now done on the job and a third of PCs in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams have less than two years' experience.

Are these cuts to in particular sergeants and also inspectors going to risk inexperienced officers in such important public-facing roles going under-supervised? In those circumstances, is it not important that we try to make sure that we do restore these cuts and also to ensure that there is proper communication between Safer Neighbourhood Teams and that the public are properly engaged with a named sergeant for their ward?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We have to be careful with language. When we talk about "restoring cuts", it gives the impression that new money is coming in. My concern is that money is being lost. I have

written to the new Home Secretary, as I said to Assembly Member Desai, to ensure that we get adequate funding for London.

I am quite clear, though, that we need more frontline officers walking the streets, getting out into their communities and policing by consent. That is my priority going forward with the Police and Crime Plan and with the budget and I am hoping to make announcements soon in relation to the progress I have been able to make with my Deputy Mayor and with the Commissioner and his team in that area. Some of that will be reprioritising what the staff do and what senior officers do in London. The key thing, though, is for Londoners to see more officers than they currently do and for officers to meet and greet more members of the public than they currently do.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Of course that is the case, but equally we have to make sure that those officers are properly supervised and trained.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Of course we do and that is one of the reasons why I have written to the new Home Secretary this week. When I meet with the Chancellor and the Home Secretary, I will be impressing upon them the need for London to be properly resourced when it comes to policing.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much.

#### **2016/2547- Appropriate locations for tall buildings**

[Nicky Gavron AM](#)

*We welcome the fact that you have stated “a relaxing of the London Plan has seen the growth in tall buildings receiving planning permission across the whole of London, even in areas with no current tall buildings”. Do you therefore agree that there needs to be a review of the current policy 7.7 on tall buildings in the London Plan?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you very much, Assembly Member Gavron, for your question. I agree that the tall buildings policy should be included in my review of the London Plan.

As a general principle, I am not against tall buildings as such. However, their size and form means that their impact must be tested particularly rigorously through the planning process. The previous Mayor’s approach to that was too passive. Future specifications for them must be adequate to address Londoners’ concerns. It is especially important that they respect the character of local neighbourhoods. That means taking careful account of the way they relate to surrounding activities at ground-floor level as well as issues posed by their height. These include their effect on local daylight, wind turbulence, glare and noise and their impact on the grain of the local area including local heritage assets. Account must also be taken of their wider impact on local and strategic views.

Developers need to think not just about addressing the negative impacts of tall buildings but also about the ways in which they can make a positive contribution to the broader skyline and the definition of places like town centres. They should be actively used to contribute to local communities and, of course, help meet London’s housing needs. That is why for those tall buildings that are residential and in use I am exploring ways to discourage new homes being left empty and why I want to see developments making the maximum reasonable contribution to affordable housing.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** That is very welcome. Thank you for that response. We agree that there is a place for tall buildings, but it has to be the right place and they have to make a positive contribution.

You have acknowledged that under your predecessor the interpretation of the planning rules and planning policies that we have was very piecemeal and the implementation was patchy. We have just had recent research that says that there are now 436 towers over 20 storeys either being built or in the pipeline, that 40% of those are between 30 and 80 storeys and that a third of them are in outer London.

Therefore, would you consider that there is a case for a much clearer framework on where tall buildings should be located and their height in different contexts and - for the point you made - that they should make a positive contribution?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To be fair to the previous Mayor, the Mayor before him [Ken Livingstone] also did things wrong in this area and so we should not criticise just the previous Mayor in relation to tall buildings. The new London Plan needs to look into the issue of tall buildings.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Good.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The figures that I have had in relation to the GLA's own data say that between 2000 and 2015, which is why I mentioned the previous-previous Mayor, planning permission was granted for approximately 800 proposals that included a tall building. The majority of those buildings were 15 storeys or fewer and 70% were buildings of 20 storeys or fewer. Of these, only 247 were completed and nearly 18% of the completions included tall buildings of 20 storeys or more. That is why we want to have an all-encompassing look at this, which is what the London Plan intends to do.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Sure. What I have just quoted to you is the most recent report of those figures and, notwithstanding what you have just said, are being built or are in the pipeline. I wanted to move on because I was very involved in the original planning policies, which I now think --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Why not phrase it as a question? "Are you aware that I was very much involved?" You are not asking a question, Assembly Member Gavron.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** He has just given me the answer to one question and I am just about to ask another question. The policies that we now have, the current policies, were designed for commercial and mixed-use and not for residential. Three-quarters of 80% of those coming forward are residential and they are speculative, not very high quality and are very environmentally unfriendly. In terms of what you were saying about your housing targets, they are very expensive to build, expensive to manage and expensive to live in and they are often not lived in. They are out of the reach of 99% of Londoners and they count as part of your housing target.

I just want to probe you a bit on this and to look at other options because we know that mid-rise, with its lower costs, can actually help us to have more affordable housing. Would you be prepared to consider alternative options to high-rise that meet good density levels and also meet your other London Plan objectives when you review the tall buildings policy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The short answer is yes.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Great.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The middle answer is that you are right to remind us that we can get good-quality, high-density homes that are not skyscrapers. I am not against tall buildings *per se*.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Of course not.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is all about scale, place and proportion. Also, do not forget that lots of good tall buildings provide important and much-needed office space and business space as well.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Good. Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Boff?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, you will be assessing how effective the existing Plan has been in resisting inappropriate tall buildings. When can we expect that assessment to be completed?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The London Plan takes quite a while, as you know, if we want to consult properly. What we intend to do is, in relation to some things, publish Supplementary Planning Guidance to telegraph - forgive the pun - our intentions in relation to some areas later on this year. As far as the London Plan and tall buildings are concerned, as you will be aware from previous experience, it can take a number of years.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The sooner we telegraph our aspirations and intentions, it will provide some guidance, as you will know, for developers and local authorities as well.

**Andrew Boff AM:** A statement by very many notable politicians, architects, designers, authors and civic societies was signed in March 2014 calling for a mayoral skyline commission. Would you commit to establishing a mayoral skyline commission that could look at this issue? Those notable names included such names as Tessa Jowell [The Rt Hon Baroness Jowell, former MP for Dulwich and West Norwood] and David Lammy [MP for Tottenham]. The list is endless.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. You will note that my name was not on there, which is important. It is important to consider in my answer.

**Andrew Boff AM:** No. That is why I am asking the question, Mr Mayor. If your name was on there, it would be a waste of everybody's time.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** God forbid that you waste time. The answer is no. The London Plan wants to be all-encompassing. It wants to include issues around tall buildings. Assembly Member Gavron touched upon some of the challenges and conundrums that we have going forward, but I am keen to speak to and listen to anyone with a view in this area. James Murray [Deputy Mayor for Housing, Land and Property] and Jules Pipe [Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills] are as well.

**Andrew Boff AM:** One of the other issues is that a skyline commission is keen on is that a tall building should not be permitted unless there is a masterplan for the immediate area. Is that something that you think is a sensible suggestion and something that you would support?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I like masterplans when it comes to big developments because it gives the context of what the big plan is, but I would not want people to think that a masterplan guarantees permission. The “Paddington Pole”, for example, had a masterplan for the area but I was very much against the idea of 74 storeys or whatever. I would not want people to be under the impression that a masterplan guarantees a green light going forward.

The reason why I have deliberately said that we should look at this in the London Plan is that there should be a London context. Again, as Assembly Member Gavron said, some out-of-town applications are getting permission for tall buildings as well and so we need a London context going forward.

**Andrew Boff AM:** As part of that review, could you consider whether or not the consultation procedures are adequate for tall buildings? A tall building can be seen across borough boundaries and yet often boroughs consult only the immediate residents in the place of a tall building.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To answer directly and frankly, as I have tried to do, as somebody who was a member of a planning committee for 12 years, if we are honest, if you are a councillor on a planning committee, you take on board the views raised by residents who will vote for your return at the next council election. We have to be realistic about the views that councillors on a planning committee will take on board when it comes to tall buildings. However, of course, that does not stop me as the Mayor taking on board the views expressed across borough boundaries in relation to schemes that come to me. You will be aware that schemes above 10 storeys come to the Mayor.

**Andrew Boff AM:** You would support broader consultation when we are considering developments of more than 10 storeys. Is that correct? Is that right?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do as the Mayor, but I was being realistic about what councillors do when it comes to a planning applications committee.

**Andrew Boff AM:** All right. Do you feel that you should need some say as to the quality of that consultation when determining an application that comes to the GLA?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is difficult for me to look into how every single one of the 33 boroughs consults when it comes to planning issues. We can issue guidance and we can publicise best practice, but I am a firm believer in devolving to local authorities - and some of you here are councillors - issues about how they run their boroughs. We have to be a bit careful about me in City Hall putting obligations on local authorities when it comes to how they consult local residents.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Would you consider consultation standards as part of the London Plan?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You raise a really important issue and one of the reasons why I was keen to respond fully to Assembly Member Berry’s question about estate regeneration is that some of the complaints made to me are about consultation and the lack thereof, or the quality thereof, when it comes to estate regeneration. Providing guidance is very important, especially if there is best practice that we can share across London.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Taking that, tell me if I am wrong: yes, you would support consultation standards as part of a revised London Plan?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am all in favour of spreading best practice. It would be wrong for me to do that without consulting on the London Plan when the point you are making is about better consultation post-London Plan to --

**Andrew Boff AM:** You will consider it, Mr Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will consider all things when it comes to the London Plan.

**Andrew Boff AM:** You will consider having consultation standards as part of the London Plan?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will consider consulting on how we do consultation better.

**Andrew Boff AM:** As part of the London Plan?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As part of the London Plan, yes.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Very good. I hope that that is recorded in that way. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Assembly Member Devenish?

**Tony Devenish AM:** Mr Mayor, would you agree that each borough should decide its tall building policy rather than the GLA?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** This is why I was quite keen to make sure that I did not give the impression that we are going to somehow take autonomy away from local authorities to do what they do best, which is to know their area best. On many occasions I was on a planning committee and voted one way and lost the vote, but that does not change the fact that we were the right people to decide on an application in Wandsworth, which is the borough that I know well. It is important, but guidance from City Hall is important, too, which is why the London Plan is crucial. The London Plan gives local elected councillors some certainty and gives developers certainty as well.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** I wonder if the Assembly, please, would agree to suspend Standing Order 2.9B in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 1.1H in order to allow the remaining business on the agenda to be completed.

**All:** Agreed.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** All right. The person who is going to complete it for us is Assembly Member Shah.

## **2016/2550 - Cultural Borough of the Year**

Navin Shah AM

*By what criteria will you judge the Cultural Borough of the Year?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Assembly Member Shah. My Culture Team is currently working on establishing the London Borough of Culture initiative. London is not a homogenous landscape. Each borough has a fantastic and unique character and its own stories, identity and culture. Inspired by schemes like the EU and UK Capital of Culture, the London Borough of Culture is about highlighting and celebrating this. The aim is to deliver an ambitious cultural programme with the voice of local people at its centre. It will celebrate the character of the place and will bring together world-class cultural organisations on a par with our status as a world-class cultural city.

Culture not only generates millions of pounds for the economy but it also benefits society and offers something for all Londoners. It develops skills and it helps build confidence in children and enriches our lives. Not only do I want London to continue to grow as a global city of creativity, but I want all Londoners to have the opportunity to access and benefit from the arts and culture. That is why I am in the process of developing the most far-reaching vision for culture this city has ever seen.

As part of this, the Culture Team is currently working with a range of stakeholders to develop the objectives, criteria and process to establish my London Borough of Culture programme. I will be happy to share these with you at an early stage once they have been developed. I want the London Borough of Culture to increase participation in the arts and provide ways for people to come together and celebrate what they love about their locality. Culture has a powerful role to play in generating community cohesion and this is especially important following the EU referendum and recent increases in hate crime.

If you have any specific ideas, Assembly Member Shah, about the London Borough of Culture initiative or indeed about the wider cultural offering in London, please feel free to speak to my Deputy Mayor for Culture, Justine Simons. I can organise a meeting if that helps as well.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your vision and your offer for ideas, which certainly I will take on board - and I am sure other Assembly colleagues would wish to do the same - because this is an important initiative and I very much welcome it.

London is a very diverse place, as we all know, and that diversity also applies very much to the cultural offers that we get in both inner and outer London boroughs. Given that situation, how can the London Borough of Culture competition criteria account for these very different cultural aspects?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the things that we have to consider is the criteria for deciding the London Borough of Culture. We have to recognise - and it was a point made in another context by Assembly Member Prince - that we cannot have all our eggs in the Zone 1 basket. There is great culture in Zone 1 and I am not excluding Zone 1 boroughs from winning the London Borough of Culture, but there is great creativity in outer London boroughs and great diversity as well.

One of the things that we hope to do - and, hopefully, you will form part of the discussions with the Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries - is the process by which we decide on the winning borough. The process matters. The criteria matter. I am looking forward to you guys arguing about which borough should be the best borough. We all have different views about which borough is the best borough.

What we want to do is to attract visitors to that borough and to attract the world's best sculptors and the world's best artists to come and visit that borough as well. Just imagine the impact on Idris Elba [British actor] doing an assembly in Harrow or Brent or a great work of art being shown in a square in Harrow or Brent or

Adele [British singer/songwriter] doing an assembly in one of your further education colleges. We want that sort of infectious impact of a London Borough of Culture going forward.

**Navin Shah AM:** Mr Mayor, the Regeneration Committee is currently looking at culture-led regeneration and so no doubt we shall revisit this very important aspect that affects all Londoners. Do you have any idea of the timetable and when you are likely to announce the programme for the award?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It will take some time for us to collate the resources because we want to award money as well as the business with proper bids. What we do not want to do is to rush into this and get it wrong. It will take some time for this to bear fruit.

You mentioned regeneration. One of the things that we have to learn, for example, is that if we look at other cities around the world or around our country or around our city, when artists go to an area and it is regenerated, often they are priced out as a consequence of the regeneration that they helped create. One of the reasons why there is a bit of a delay in relation to announcing timelines is to get that right.

Again, please feel free to speak to Justine Simons about timelines, but we want to get it right. That means hoovering in the resources, getting the best ideas from other cities that have done it well instead of badly and also making sure that we have a real legacy going forward.

**Navin Shah AM:** Mr Mayor, can you also --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. Time is up.

**Navin Shah AM:** All right, Chairman. Thank you.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. This concludes Mayor's Question Time for this session. Thank you so much for your answers and I hope you have a good break.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You too, Chairman.

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