

12th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 13 July 2017

This is my twelfth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9 June – 29 June 2017.

Grenfell Fire

All of us have been truly devastated by the horrific scenes at Grenfell Tower in Kensington on 14 June.

My heart goes out to the family and friends of the victims and everyone affected by this fire. Tragically, the police believe at least 80 people have died in the fire and many others are still being treated in hospitals across London.

This has left a very tight-knit community in north Kensington absolutely devastated.

I want to thank our brave fire fighters and emergency services, including NHS staff and the police, who have worked around the clock in the aftermath of this tragedy. I can only admire and applaud their dedication and pass on to them the gratitude of London.

I also witnessed first-hand the justifiable frustration and anger of the local community, and have spent time listening to local residents affected. They are understandably distraught, frustrated and angry. As the Mayor of London, I will continue to fight alongside them to ensure they get the support and answers they deserve as quickly as possible.

Frankly, the immediate response from the local authority wasn't good enough. I deployed GLA staff to London Councils who eventually coordinated matters and Team London volunteers also joined the recovery operation to support these efforts.

I also attended the Government's task force meetings in response to the tragedy. I have received assurances from the Government that support is starting to improve and the first emergency payments and housing offers have been made to residents of the tower.

I am pleased the Government have committed to holding a full, independent public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower and, in light of concerns about the safety of other tower blocks that have been similarly refurbished, I believe this inquiry needs to produce an interim report this summer.

Residents need to be reassured that the inquiry will get all the answers they deserve.

Finsbury Park

My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and everyone affected by the senseless terrorist attack in Finsbury Park. Sadly, one person died at the scene, nine people were taken to hospital with injuries and two others have been treated for minor injuries.

Once again, the police and the emergency services responded quickly and with the utmost professionalism.

This was a deliberate attack on innocent Londoners, many of whom were returning from their evening Ramadan prayers.

We don't yet know the full motivations behind it, but terrorism is terrorism – no matter the target and regardless of the poisonous ideology behind it.

There has been a worrying rise in hate crime, including Islamophobic incidents, following the attack at London Bridge. I want to assure Londoners that the police are taking a 'zero tolerance' approach to hate crime. My message to the victims of hate crime is, "Please report it. Don't think it's too trivial. Don't think the police won't take it seriously. They will."

Like the terrible attacks in Westminster, London Bridge and in Manchester, the attack in Finsbury Park is an attack on us all - our shared values of tolerance, freedom and respect. We must crack down on extremism of all types.

London has been through an incredibly difficult few months, but I know Londoners will remain strong and united. I know that we will come through this. We will stay strong and we will never be divided.

Statement on the Queen's Speech - 21 June

After the terrible attacks in London over recent months, I'm pleased that the Queen's Speech includes a commitment to create a new commission for countering extremism - and I will work with the Government to design a new strategy to root out once and for all extremism in all its forms from our city.

However, the Government's review of national counter-terrorism strategy must include new spending plans to fully fund London's police force in the light of the increased threats we clearly face.

The Government has confirmed plans to hold a full public inquiry into the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. I've written to the Prime Minister to ensure that the inquiry is fully independent, that local people have their say in the terms of reference and have their full legal costs covered - with the best possible legal representation.

I'm deeply disappointed that the Government intend to carry on with their proposals to change the school funding formula - which will take money away from London schools. I'll be writing to the Education Secretary to demand she fulfils the manifesto commitment that no school will lose out on funding as a result of these changes.

Unfortunately, the promised help for private renters now seems to have been kicked into the long grass. Draft proposals will be brought forward to ban unfair tenancy fees, but the fact that Theresa May has already cancelled next year's Queen's Speech means it could be years before these proposals become a reality for renters.

Brexit will clearly dominate the parliamentary agenda over the next few years. I will keep pushing for a soft Brexit that makes protecting jobs and economic growth in London the very highest priority.

The Government seem to have dropped their outrageous plans on social care, as well as their plans to bring back fox hunting - which is good news.

Policing, Crime and Security

Knife Crime Strategy

On 27 June, I launched London's first Knife Crime Strategy. The strategy focuses:

- Targeting lawbreakers;
- Offering ways out of crime;
- Keeping deadly weapons off our streets;
- Protecting and educating young people;
- Standing with communities, neighbourhoods and families against knife crime; and
- Supporting victims of knife crime.

I am pleased that the Strategy recognises the disproportionate impact that knife crime has on particular areas and communities in London, and provides seed funding for community groups to support them in finding local solutions to the issue. The strategy also commits to intervening earlier with children and young people, incorporating a prevention campaign with toolkits for schools, community and faith groups, and materials for parents. And where necessary, the strategy advocates for a tough response to persistent and violent offenders.

The Strategy is backed by a further investment of £625,000, taking the total spending by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime on knife and gang crime projects to more than £7million.

Fire Commissioner asked to review Brigade's requirements following the Grenfell Tower fire

On 27 June, I met with Dany Cotton, the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, to discuss what extra specialist equipment and support the Fire Service might require to keep the capital safe in the wake of the lessons learnt from the Grenfell Tower fire.

The ferocity of the fire at Grenfell Tower shocked the entire country and the Prime Minister has announced there will be a Public Inquiry. But it is crucial that any lessons are learned and taken on board at as early a stage as possible. This was the largest and most challenging fire we have seen in this country for decades.

And with so many tall buildings in our city the public need to have confidence that they will be kept safe. Nobody can fail to have been inspired by the selfless bravery of the firefighters who risked their lives to save others. I am determined to ensure that they have every specialist resource and support required to face the challenges of the future.

First Victims Commissioner for London appointed

On 13 June, I appointed Claire Waxman as the first Victims Commissioner for London to help dramatically improve the experience of victims of crime in the capital, alongside a three-year £47m investment in services to better support them.

Claire Waxman brings a wealth of personal insight and expertise to the role. She was a victim of crime for 12 years, during which time she founded campaign group Voice4Victims to fight for improved legislation and support for victims. Working with victims, central government, the Met Police, Crown Prosecution Service and the Ministry of Justice, Ms Waxman will act on victims' behalf, ensure their voices are heard and develop ways to improve their experience of the criminal justice system and ability to recover.

My investment of £47 million into victims' services across the capital over three years marks a £6 million increase on the budget allocated to these services in the previous Police and Crime Plan. For the first time, this funding, previously provided on an annual basis, has been allocated for three years to provide longer-term support. This investment will help improve current work and commission new services, including:

- Working to develop a collaborative 'one-service' approach which removes the need for a victim to deal with a confusing number of different agencies.
- A new service for young Londoners responding to changing needs, in areas including knife crime and child sexual exploitation.
- Improved support for victims of fraud and cybercrime.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) to help keep victims safe from harm.
- Sustaining MOPAC's hate crime victim advocates scheme.

Transport

Transport Strategy launch

On 21 June, I unveiled my long-term ambition to transform the capital's transport network and deliver a fairer, greener, healthier and more prosperous city for all Londoners. My new Transport Strategy, published for public consultation, sets out ambitious plans to persuade Londoners to reduce their reliance on cars.

Investment in new and improved services for passengers, an unprecedented focus on walking and cycling and a pledge to make the entire transport system zero emission by 2050 are central to the strategy.

There will be new Tube trains offering more reliable services, the opening of the Elizabeth line, extensions to the Tube, DLR and Overground, new green buses and taxis, new river crossings, and the transformation of London's streets to make walking, cycling and public transport the most appealing and practical choices for Londoners right across the capital. The draft strategy also outlines how Crossrail 2 and a transformed suburban rail metro service are essential for the capital's future economy, jobs and homes.

The capital's population is expected to rise to 10.5m people by 2041 – creating five million additional journeys every day. It is vital that action is taken to avoid growing congestion, overcrowding, pollution, and ill health.

The Transport Strategy is available for public consultation until 2 October 2017:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/our-vision-transport/draft-mayors-transport-strategy-2017>

Most polluting buses to be upgraded

On 28 June, I announced that the most polluting buses in the capital are going to be cleaned up, with their harmful emissions cut by up to 95 per cent.

Through the new £86.1m programme, around 5,000 buses will be retrofitted with a new exhaust system that will significantly cut their emissions. This will mean that by September 2020 the entire bus fleet will be at least Euro VI standard.

Currently 700-800 new low-emission buses are being introduced to the fleet every year, with diesel-only buses being phased out. From next year, all new double-deck buses will be hybrid, electric or hydrogen. In addition all buses within the central London Ultra-Low Emission Zone will be Euro VI hybrid standard by 2019.

Long-term cycling potential mapped out

On 16 June, my Walking and Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman, named the 25 corridors in London with the greatest potential for cycling as he revealed the new analysis being used to map out the future of the capital's cycling network.

Innovative data analysis is being used by TfL to identify where the next generation of cycling provision could make the biggest impact on the capital. The ongoing approach, based on growth forecasts, population growth, safety data and existing demand, is a completely new way of identifying where to invest in new schemes including Cycle Superhighways, Quietways and Liveable Neighbourhoods.

The wide-ranging analysis has seen 25 corridors across London identified for investment priority. These corridors spread from Brentford to Heathrow in the west, to Dagenham Dock to Ilford in the east, Highgate to North Finchley in the north, and Streatham to Oval in the south.

TfL will now work with London boroughs to conduct feasibility studies in these areas and develop cycling schemes that will help to deliver a long-term Strategic Cycle Network for London, as part of my Transport Strategy.

Launching a new plan to improve air quality on the Tube

On 23 June, I announced a new review of air pollution levels on the Tube, introducing a series of measures to minimize dust levels on the Underground to ensure staff and passengers breathe the cleanest air possible.

The work is part of a wide-ranging review I am undertaking across planning, housing, construction, transport and river services to tackle London's filthy air and to protect Londoners from the damaging health impacts of air pollution.

Previous independent scientific research funded by TfL in 2004 found that the composition of dust particles on the Tube was different from that above ground, and concluded that the dust did not contain components at levels which are likely to pose a risk to the health of passengers or staff.

I have asked TfL to commission an updated review of the evidence. The findings of this review will help prioritise action to ensure that London's Tube system is as clean and healthy as possible. Accordingly, TfL has requested independent support and advice from the Department

of Health's independent expert Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP).

TfL has also launched a new air quality action plan on the Underground to deliver improvements straight away. This includes:

- An enhanced air quality monitoring programme on the Tube network.
- Testing to be carried out at more than a dozen stations, and involve dozens of staff and simulated passenger journeys to monitor how dust levels change at different times and locations.
- An expanded cleaning regime.
- Learning from the best examples of dust management in metros around the world, and implementing these on the Underground wherever possible.
- Further improvements as the Tube modernisation programme continues, expanding the use of a replacement fuel for diesel generators and exploring and expanding the use of specialist dust suppressants across the network.

Air quality is one of the biggest health challenges of this generation and I'm committed to doing everything in my power to tackle it both above and below ground. I've introduced new measures to lower emissions from cars and buses, and it is now time to focus on wider sources of pollution including the Tube, river transport and construction sites.

Transport for London launches new social media 'TravelBot'

On 13 June, TfL launched the next generation in customer service technology with its first ever 'TravelBot'.

The new social media tool, which is powered by artificial intelligence, can "chat" with customers using Messenger and instantly tell them when their bus is due to arrive, provide service updates and Tube maps. The TravelBot can also link direct to a customer service agent, making customer service queries easier than ever.

The new technology will make it even easier for customers to get information on the Messenger platform in a way that's fast and straightforward.

As people use the service, it will "learn" and become even more precise. TfL will explore the possibility of further features being added including providing journey planning information and status alerts.

The future of cross-London travel arrives

On 22 June, customers were given their first chance to travel on the state-of-the-art trains as the first of a fleet of 66 trains entered passenger service between Liverpool Street and Shenfield on the TfL Rail route.

Eleven trains will be introduced on the route by the autumn and will initially be 160 metres long and made up of seven carriages. They will later be extended to nine carriages and the full length of 200 metres to carry up to 1,500 people.

Key features of the trains include

- Air-conditioning.

- Walk-through carriages.
- Dedicated wheelchair spaces and additional multi-use spaces for buggies and luggage.
- Intelligent lighting and temperature control.
- CCTV for passenger security.
- Three sets of double doors along each carriage for quicker and easier boarding and alighting.
- Improved travel information for passengers to plan their onward journeys.
- Lightweight materials and regenerative braking that will use up to 30 per cent less energy than older trains.

The trains are being built at Bombardier Transportation's UK site, showcasing British design and manufacture and helping to support 760 UK jobs and 80 apprenticeships in Derby.

Plans to transform Lambeth Bridge and Waterloo are published

Major proposals to transform Lambeth Bridge and Waterloo and make them safer for all have been published by TfL.

The plans, which are now being consulted on, are designed to improve conditions for walking, cycling and public transport at the junctions. They come after Waterloo roundabout and Lambeth Bridge northern roundabout were identified as among the 73 junctions in the Capital with the worst safety record for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

The proposed dramatic changes include segregated cycle lanes, cycle-specific traffic lights, wider paths, the removal or transformation of junctions and vastly improved public spaces. The improvements would also open up new areas of London for safer cycling and link into the current and planned cycle network.

Subject to the results of the public consultations, which close on 20 August, work around Waterloo could begin in late 2019 while Lambeth could begin as soon as next year.

TfL seeks public opinion on plans to improve the capacity of Camden Town station

A public consultation is now underway on TfL's proposals to modernise and radically improve the capacity of Camden Town station.

The proposed upgrade would see the station treble in size, with the construction of a new entrance on Buck Street that features three new escalators and greater space for customers using the four Northern line platforms. The station will also be made step-free, vastly improving access to the vibrant Camden area. The new measures would create a more spacious station, making customer journeys more comfortable, particularly during the busiest periods.

In the first public consultation, 95 per cent of the 1,700 respondents agreed that the station needs an upgrade. This consultation will seek the public's opinion over updated proposals to increase the capacity of the station.

New combined ticket offers visitors three unique ways to get around London

A unique ticket is offering visitors to London three exciting ways to travel around the city, using the Emirates Air Line, MBNA Thames Clippers and Santander Cycles for less.

Visitors can now enjoy an all-day ticket that offers scenic trips on MBNA Thames Clippers' high speed vessels along the River Thames, relaxing rides on Santander Cycles and a breath-taking flight on the Emirates Air Line cable car. Customers will save money by buying these combined offers as opposed to buying the tickets individually.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

Good Growth Fund

On 29 June, I launched the Good Growth Fund, my new regeneration programme from 2017-18 to 2020-21, delivered through the London Economic Action Partnership. It will provide approaching £70 million in funding, as well as expert regeneration advice, design support and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Through the fund, I want to demonstrate that regeneration should always be a force for good and should reflect our city's extraordinary creativity and capacity to innovate. My aim is to support a range of changes we can make to help create a city that works better for all Londoners. I want to build a London that is more accessible, affordable, healthier and resilient. I want London to have more liveable places to live, learn, work and play.

I want to fund a range of projects and hope applicants respond creatively to our suggestions to deliver on one or more of the following actions:

1. Develop civic infrastructure
2. Back small business
3. Secure and create workspace
4. Drive innovation
5. Build skills and employability
6. Deliver community-led regeneration
7. Enhance public space
8. Share culture

Ambitions to make London the world's leading 'Smart City'

On 12 June, speaking at the launch of London Tech Week, I outlined my ambition to harness the new technologies that are being pioneered right here to transform London into the world's leading 'Smart City'.

The potential for cutting-edge technology to tackle a host of social, economic and environmental challenges is immeasurable. From air pollution and climate change to housing and transport, new technologies and data science will be at the heart of the long-term solutions to urban challenges.

I unveiled a new £1.6m Clean Tech Incubator called Better Futures which will help 100 London-based small businesses to deliver low-carbon and clean-tech products to tackle the causes and effects of climate change.

I also officially opened Europe's largest connected technology and business innovation ecosystem – Plexal at Here East in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Calls for continued membership of Single Market

On 22 June, I called for the Prime Minister to put the continued membership of the European Single Market at the heart of Brexit negotiations.

The Brexit goalposts have been moved. The Government must now listen to the will of the people by putting aside ideology and negotiating a sensible Brexit that ensures continuing UK membership of the Single Market.

The Single Market treats the EU and other members as one bloc where companies can do business on a level playing field. It accounts for 500 million customers and nearly half of all British exports.

Businesses need certainty to continue to invest, so it make perfect sense for government to negotiate a transitional deal with the EU so we have a fall-back option if, as expected, it is not possible to secure a trade deal during the next two years. Unless such a deal is agreed soon, business will take their own measures to avoid the cliff-edge and that could be costly to them and to the UK economy.

Signalling that Britain aims to stay in the Single Market would also give the many EU citizens who make London their home and contribute to our economy the security that I have previously called on the Government to offer them.

Housing and Land

Housing Zone Revenue Budget

Following the review of the Housing Zones programme, I have approved expenditure of up to £2,620,000 to provide additional revenue support to boroughs, for instance to fund additional staff resources, in order to expedite the delivery of genuinely affordable homes within Housing Zones.

I have delegated authority to the Executive Director of Housing and Land, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, to approve revenue funding to boroughs following assessment.

Environment

Response to Government's National Air Quality Action Plan

On 15 June, I submitted my response to the Government's second draft National Air Quality Action Plan. This second draft was required by the courts due to the first's lack of ambition in tackling the air quality crisis. It remains woefully inadequate, with no clear commitments to tackling pollution using the levers available to national government - the plan simply leaves it all up to cash-strapped local authorities. In my response, I urgently called upon the Government to stop incentivising the purchase of diesel vehicles, introduce a national diesel scrappage scheme to help people make the switch to cleaner vehicles and increase the funding and powers available to the Mayor and local authorities to improve air quality and tackle emissions from all sources, including non-road emissions.

ULEZ consultation closed

My consultation on bringing forward the implementation date of the central London ULEZ by 18 months to April 2019 closed on 25 June. I will soon be publishing a summary of the responses and making my final announcement on whether the implementation date of the ULEZ will be brought forward.

Route map to a circular economy in London

On 19 June, the London Waste and Recycling Board published a route map to the circular economy in London. This sets out practical actions that stakeholders across the capital can take to make themselves and the city more resource resilient. It is estimated that transitioning to the circular economy in London could be worth an additional £7bn annually to London's GDP by 2036 and generate 12,000 additional jobs. The Route Map identifies actions that could contribute £2.8bn of the £7bn identified.

Decentralised Energy Enabling Project (DEEP)

As part of my Energy for Londoners programme, I hosted a stakeholder event to share the envisaged outcomes and objectives of my Decentralised Energy Enabling Project (DEEP) with prospective beneficiaries from London's boroughs. DEEP has been established to provide public sector support to larger-scale decentralised energy projects in London that the market is failing to develop and realise by procuring strategic, technical, commercial/financial and legal advisory support services. The £3.5m project is 50% funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Education and Youth

Getting Ahead London

On 16 June, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, congratulated the participants at the end of year Getting Ahead London event in London's Living Room, and thanked the coach team of experienced heads for their great leadership development support.

Ten of the 60 participants have already been offered a headship, with others securing promotions into other leadership roles. A full evaluation of the pilot year will be completed in September.

Guest speakers at the event, on the theme of leadership, were Shalini Khemka, Chief Executive and founder of E2Exchange and a member of my Business Advisory Board and Sam Freedman, Executive Director, Teach First, and a former government adviser.

The deadline has passed for applications for year 2 in the 2017-18 school year. The great news is that we had more applications than in year 1, with a ratio of some 3 applicants for every place. They came from deputy heads and equivalent roles in primary, secondary and special schools from every single borough.

My team and grantees, Challenge Partners, particularly promoted year 2 of Getting Ahead London through women's and BAME education networks (WomenEd and BAMEed). Initial analysis is that 68% of the new applicants were from women (up from 63% in year 1) and

there is an improvement of around 6% in the proportion of BAME teachers applying to the programme.

Social Integration, Social Mobility, and Community Engagement

Syrian Resettlement and Community Sponsorship

In June, I launched a new city-wide scheme to help Syrian refugees to rebuild their lives in London and thrive in their local community. London boroughs have already resettled more than 300 Syrian refugees, but the lack of homes which are affordable has been a significant challenge to the capital's participation in the national resettlement scheme. Until now, there has been no city-wide approach in place to help with the resettlement of refugees.

Following a successful bid for Home Office funding, a new regional coordinator, based at City Hall, will work with local councils to build on the good work they are already doing. Their role will be to unlock support from across the city to help resettle Syrian refugees, supporting them to access the services they need.

These offers include homes, job and education opportunities, orientation support and English language classes. I welcome the Government's commitment to bring 20,000 Syrian refugees to the UK by 2020, and alongside Deputy Mayor Matthew Ryder, I reiterate that a city as prosperous as London should play its part in helping to relieve the crisis.

Borough Visits

There is no better way to gain insight and understanding than by talking to people at the frontline and grassroots organisations. In June, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, began a series of visits to London boroughs to meet with volunteers and organisations that have relationships with Team London, Diversity & Social Policy and Sport. On 21 June, Matthew visited Haringey and met with Highway of Holiness, Chestnuts Community Centre and Sanjuro Martial Arts. On 29 June, he visited Islington and met with Just for Kids Law, Voluntary Action Islington and Islington Boat Club.

Diversity and Inclusion Vision Consultation

In June, I launched my Diversity and Inclusion Vision consultation. This new strategy will go beyond the legal requirements and groups traditionally associated with this area such as how to address the impact of poverty. It will also look at the impact where there are two or more barriers to being part of London's success - for example gender and race. The consultation runs until September 2017 and the strategy is due to be launched in late 2017.

London Mela

On 21 June, Joanne McCartney, my Statutory Deputy Mayor welcomed guests to the City Hall launch reception of the London Mela which was an important opportunity for London Mela to engage with key stakeholders, and generate recognition and support amongst existing and new supporters.

The London Mela is one of the largest Melas commissioning artists working across art forms to collaborate in new ways to generate new experiences. It is one of the only Melas in the country to champion new work, and it provides a platform for emerging British artists as well as bringing traditional and classical art forms to a wider audience.

This celebration of Asian culture and creativity, inspired by South Asia and the diaspora, supports social inclusion as it attracts a diverse and mixed audience (with approximately a third of the audience from non-Asian backgrounds). It is a secular event, drawing on cultural influences from across the South Asian communities of London and the UK and exploring the new cultural forms and identities being shaped in this global cultural city.

Social Integration Learning Exchange

During 11 – 13 June, Deputy Mayor Matthew Ryder hosted a small learning exchange on social integration. Key items on the agenda included challenges to social integration, building inclusive narratives, projects to promote citizenship take up and civic engagement, ways to promote bridging relationships between communities and city-civil society partnership approaches. Cities participating in the exchange were Denver, Los Angeles, New York and Paris. Civil society organisations and funders were invited to the wider city-civil society exchange. The exchange was funded by Unbound Philanthropy and Atlantic Philanthropies, and organised by the Social Change Initiative.

Mapping of ESOL provision in London

In collaboration with London Councils, I commissioned the Learning and Work Institute to map formal and informal provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in London, and began work to identify the language learning needs of resettled Syrian refugees in London. Published on 22 June, the report aims to support London boroughs to ensure resettled refugees can access appropriate learning opportunities. This will also contribute to the wider development of ESOL policy in London, in relation to the anticipated devolution of the Adult Education Budget.

Health

London Health Board

On 14 June, my health advisor, Dr Tom Coffey, chaired a meeting of the London Health Board. The board agreed to push hard for the London Health and Care Devolution agreement with government and Claire Kober, Chair of London Councils, and I wrote jointly to the Secretary of State for health to that effect. Members agreed that they would continue to provide strong political leadership to my draft Health Inequalities Strategy for London. Members also discussed stronger system leadership to drive forward further progress on HIV and sexual health that would strengthen existing examples of city wide action through the London HIV Prevention Programme and agreed to work towards a London commitment to the UN Fast Track Cities Programme. Finally, the board welcomed progress to develop the Thrive LDN mental health initiative due to be launched 4 July.

Healthy Schools London celebration event

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare hosted the annual Healthy Schools London celebration event at City Hall where over 100 London schools collected their silver and gold awards. The event focussed on mental health and included presentations from staff and young people from five London schools and a theatre production by Diverse Voices. BBC Children's TV presenters, Chris Jarvis and Pui Fan Lee spoke about self-esteem and national charity Place2Be talked about their work supporting pupil and staff mental health and wellbeing in schools.

Culture and Events

Armed Forces Day

As part of a week of national activities leading up to Armed Forces Day, I was delighted that City Hall honoured the bravery and commitment of the Armed Forces community with a flag-raising ceremony on 19 June. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the ceremony due to the ongoing situation surrounding the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower and terrorist attack at Finsbury Park Mosque, but my Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney attended on my behalf. The Deputy Mayor was joined by the Chair of the London Assembly, Jennette Arnold, Brigadier Michael McGovern, Commodore David Elford, Air Commodore Rich P Barrow OBE and other senior representatives from the Armed Forces. In addition, there were attendees from various military charities, cadets from the RAF and Navy, and a number of veterans, including members from the Royal British Legion City Hall branch, and the Chelsea Pensioners. The Band of the Scots Guards also performed at the event.

I was proud that the flag continued to be flown at City Hall throughout the week until Armed Forces Day on 24 June, in recognition of the selfless and dedicated work the Armed Forces do to keep our country safe and protect our way of life, especially now as we go through a time of heightened security.

Statue of Millicent Fawcett

I have submitted a planning application for the first statue of a woman by a woman artist in Parliament Square. This will be new bronze statue commission by Turner Prize-winning artist Gillian Wearing of suffragist Dame Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929) who formed the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in 1897.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion and Summer Party

On 28 June, I attended the annual Serpentine Gallery Summer Party. This is a key event to raise funds for the Serpentine's exhibition and education programmes.

On 20 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE opened the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, which this year has a focus on bringing the community together. The Pavilion is designed by architect Francis Kéré whose design is inspired by a tree from his native West African home in Burkina Faso where the community gather, debate and cook. This idea will be replicated in London with 'Radical Kitchen' involving a wide range of community groups ranging from women refugees to social housing projects.

My Cultural Leadership Board Announcement

On June 12, I publicly announced my new Cultural Leadership Board. The Board is made up of inspirational leaders from London's world-class creative organisations and members have been appointed as cultural ambassadors to guide my vision for culture in the capital. They will advise me on issues facing the creative industries and culture sector and help me craft a bold new Culture Strategy for London.

Men's Fashion Week

On 12 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE launched the fifth London Fashion Week Men's which attracted designers, media, retailers and business leaders from 45 countries. The men's clothing market is worth £14.5 billion, accounts for 27% of the total clothing market and continues to grow faster than womenswear.

Night Time Economy Borough Champions

On 26 June, the second meeting of my Night Time Economy Borough Champions was convened by the Chair of my Night Time Commission, Philip Kolvin QC. This is a network with representatives from every London borough which share best practice and discuss joined up solutions to manage the growth of London's night time economy.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

Free tickets for the World Para Athletics Championships for the emergency services

On 28 June, I announced that I am offering every member of London's emergency services and their families free tickets to attend the World Para Athletics Championships to thank them for their tireless efforts in responding to recent tragedies in the capital.

London's emergency services have faced unprecedented demands in recent months and, on behalf of Londoners, I want to express my deepest gratitude for their courageous response to the appalling attacks on our great city and the tragedy at Grenfell Tower. Firefighters, doctors, nurses, paramedics, police, and other frontline staff worked around the clock to keep us safe and treat the injured. We are so grateful for their efforts and that is why I am making tickets available for every one of them to see the World Para Athletics Championships to thank them for everything they do for London.

It is an opportunity for our emergency services super heroes to see the Superhumans competing on the world stage at the Olympic stadium. I am proud we now get another chance to showcase and celebrate all that London stands for – a beacon of equality, resilience and openness.

I also announced that the British Red Cross will be the official charity for the World Para Athletics Championships. The British Red Cross has been co-ordinating the relief efforts from the recent terrorists attacks in London and Manchester, and the Grenfell Tower fire.

New Chair of the LLDC

On 23 June, I announced my intention to appoint Sir Peter Hendy CBE as the new Chair of the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC).

Sir Peter has more than 42 years' experience of working in the transport and infrastructure sector in London. He has been Chair of Network Rail since 2015 – a position he will retain – and was previously Commissioner of Transport for London for nine years.

Sir Peter will be tasked with overseeing the continued growth of the Park and its venues, which have seen more than 15 million visitors since they re-opened, firmly establishing it in the area as a major visitor destination. He will also be charged with pushing ahead with the delivery of new neighbourhoods to meet my long-term strategic aim of 50 per cent affordable homes, as well as embedding a new Cultural and Education District in the heart of the Park.

One of Sir Peter's first priorities will be to assist LLDC in how it responds and takes forward the recommendations of my investigation into the finances of the London Stadium, which are expected later this year.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Events

The Park's summer of events continued this month with the Hockey World League semi-finals taking place at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre (15 – 25 June); the London Youth Games at the Lee Valley VeloPark, where young participants across the 32 London boroughs competed against each other to win the Road Cycling Finals (24 June); and the Robbie Williams concert at the London Stadium where he played to a packed crowd (23 June).

On 18 June, I had the pleasure of attending The Great Get Together event to celebrate the life of Jo Cox so tragically murdered one year ago. This event brought together all aspects of the community to celebrate diversity and unity, in the spirit of Jo's maiden speech to Parliament in which she highlighted her passionate belief that there is much more that unites than divides us. It was a fantastic atmosphere and I'm delighted to announce that this event, in combination with two nights of Gun'n'Roses playing to sell-out crowds, a number of charity runs, and scorching hot weather, led to this particular weekend (16 – 18 June) being the busiest since the Park opened, with around 165,000 people enjoying the events and open spaces.

British Lionhearts community programme

In June, I awarded funding to England Boxing to run a programme for young people, using boxing as the tool to engage them. Following the British Lionhearts reaching the semi-final of the World Series of Boxing – I hope we can use this success to inspire young people across London to get involved in physical activity and concurrently start to think about other areas of their life including mental health, career planning and citizenship. The England Boxing team will be focusing on seven London boroughs. Using a mobile boxing arena, the project will take the sport into the heart of local communities, allowing individuals to get involved in a familiar, comfortable environment.

Women's Cricket World Cup Community Programme

In June, I funded the England Cricket Board to deliver a brand-new programme to engage more women and girls in cricket using street style cricket, dance sessions and a multi sports approach.

Volunteering

Unilever brightFuture Grants Celebration Event

On 22 June, ten Team London Young Ambassadors schools came to City Hall to showcase their Unilever brightFuture grant-funded volunteering projects. Projects included hospital packs, refugee welcome packs, healthy eating campaigns and air pollution research. GLA staff were invited to visit the marketplace of projects and vote for the people's favourite volunteering project.

Small Charity Week

Team London, my volunteering team, supported Small Charity Week 2017. The week is organised by the Foundation for Social Improvement and ran from 19 – 24 June. Team London hosted Big Advice Day on 20 June which saw business volunteers give free advice sessions to staff from small charities. The face-to-face volunteering sessions took place at City Hall as well as a Skype hub for organisations based outside London.

Planning and Development

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation draft Local Plan

On 29 June, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) launched a public consultation on the revised draft Local Plan for the area. The document sets out how the Old Oak area should be regenerated over the next 20 years around the planned Old Oak Common Elizabeth Line, High Speed 2 and the Great West Mainline national rail station.

The largest sub-surface station to have ever been built in the UK opens in just nine years' time and there is capacity to deliver an additional 25,500 homes and 65,500 jobs across Old Oak and Park Royal. More than just an interchange location, the Local Plan sets out how London's largest Opportunity Area should be developed, protected, strengthened and intensified to deliver a new part of London.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Allianz Park, Copthall Stadium, LB Barnet

I have written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Cottrell House, Wembley, LB Brent

I have written to the London Borough of Brent stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

1 Triton Square, Euston, LB Camden

I have written to the London Borough of Camden stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Taberner House, Croydon, LB Croydon

I have written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Tower Court, Clapton Common, LB Hackney

I have written to the London Borough of Hackney stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, LB Harrow

I have written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Lambeth Palace Library, Lambeth Palace Road, LB Lambeth

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

411-415 Wick Lane, Hackney Wick, London Legacy Development Corporation

I have written to the London Legacy Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Corporation to determine the application itself.

46-47 Summerstown (Volante Site), LB Merton

I have written to the London Borough of Merton stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

10 Bank Street, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Leven Wharf, Poplar Riverside, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

42-44 Thomas Road, Limehouse, LB Tower Hamlets

I have written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Linton Fuels Site, Osiers Road, Wandsworth, LB Wandsworth

I have written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Former Southwark Fire Station, Southwark Bridge Road, LB Southwark
- South Grove, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest
- Maydew House, Abbeyfield Estate, Rotherhithe, LB Southwark
- London Road/Valetta Grove, Plaistow, LB Newham
- Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Thames House, Hartwell Street, Dalston, LB Hackney
- Homebase, 195 Warwick Road, Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- East Ham Industrial Estate, North Beckton, LB Newham
- Capitol Way/Stag Lane, Colindale, LB Brent
- Twyford Abbey, Park Royal, LB Ealing

- 45-53 Putney High Street/329-339 Putney Bridge Road, Putney, LB Wandsworth
- Trinity Buoy Wharf, Land at Orchard Place, Canning Town, LB Tower Hamlets
- Price's Candles, 100 York Road, Clapham Junction, LB Wandsworth
- Central Foundation School, Old Street, LB Islington
- Queen's Hotel, Upper Norwood, LB Croydon
- Langley Park School, Beckenham, LB Bromley

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Southall Gas Works, LB Hillingdon
- 46 Ponton Road, LB Wandsworth
- 12-14 Lombard Road, LB Wandsworth
- Cullen House (land adjacent to Queen's Park Station), LB Brent
- Draft Hart Local Plan - Strategy and Sites, Hart District Council
- Bedford Local Plan 2035 - Consultation Paper, Bedford Borough Council
- Revised Draft Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document, LB Tower Hamlets
- Golders Green Station Draft Planning Brief, LB Barnet
- Draft Reading Borough Local Plan, Reading Borough Council

Key Engagements

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

- I attended The Women's Tour on Regent Street on 11 June
- I attended the launch of London Tech Week at Here East on 12 June
- I met with Goldie on 12 June to discuss culture, the arts and young people
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 12 June
- I addressed the Jewish Care Annual Fundraising Dinner on 12 June
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board Meeting on 13 June
- I had my regular meeting with Fiona Twycross, Chair of LFEPA and Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 13 June
- I attend an Iftar at Westminster Cathedral hosted by the Archbishop on 13 June
- I attended the reopening of Borough Market on 14 June
- I visited the Grenfell Tower fire cordon on 14 June
- I joined a conference call with the Ministerial Meeting on Grenfell Tower on 14 June
- I had an introductory meeting with Party Secretary Hu Chunhua of Guangdong on 14 June
- I visited the West Way Sports Centre on 15 June
- I visited the Notting Hill Methodist Church on 15 June
- I signed the Grenfell Tower fire book of condolence at Kensington Town Hall on 16 June
- I attended the Service of Hope in Southwark Cathedral on 16 June
- I attended the PM Chaired Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce Meeting at the Cabinet Office on 17 June
- I attended the St Clements Church Sunday morning service on 18 June

- I attend The Great Get Together celebration taking place at the North Park, QEOP, on 18 June
- I attended COBRA on 19 June
- I visited the Finsbury Park Mosque on 19 June
- I attended the PM Chaired Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce Meeting at the Cabinet Office on 19 June
- I attended The Big Iftar at Muslim Welfare House in Finsbury Park on 19 June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 June
- I attended an Iftar at the London Ismaili Centre on 20 June
- I attended the funeral of Mohammed Al Haj Ali, who died in the Grenfell Tower fire, at the East London Mosque on 21 June
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 21 June
- I attended the PM Chaired Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce Meeting at the Cabinet Office on 21 June
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 22 June
- I attended the unveiling of the Commonwealth War Memorial in Brixton on 22 June
- I attended the Climate Change film screening at the Tate Modern on 22 June
- I visited the LFB Operations Centre in Merton on 24 June to meet with No 2 Control watch who dealt with the major fire incident at Grenfell Tower
- I attended Eid prayers at The Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre (MCHC) Trust on 25 June
- I attended the PM Chaired Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce Meeting at the Cabinet Office on 26 June
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 26 June
- I launched my Knife Crime Strategy at Dwaynatics Gym in Brixton on 27 June
- I met with Fiona Twycross, Chair of LFEPA, and Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 27 June to discuss fire service provision in London following the Grenfell Tower fire
- I chaired the LEAP Board Meeting on 28 June
- I attended the ground breaking ceremony at the Royal Albert Docks on 28 June
- I attended the Serpentine Summer Party in Kensington Gardens on 28 June
- I met with the London Councils Congress Executive on 29 June
- I attend the Funeral of Anthony Disson, who died in the Grenfell Tower fire, at Our Lady of the Holy Soul Church, Kensington, on 29 June
- I attended the State of London Debate at the O2 on 29 June

Ends