

## **London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) – 13 July 2017**

### **Transcript of Agenda Item 4 – Oral Update on the Report of the Mayor**

#### **Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):**

Today I am pleased to announce a record funding deal with councils and housing associations in London to start building an extra 50,000 new affordable homes over the next four years. I have agreed this allocation following my first call for bids to the record-breaking £3.15 billion Affordable Homes Fund we secured from the Government in November last year. It is a major first step towards my target of 90,000 affordable home starts by 2021 and represents almost treble the 18,000 homes secured in the previous Mayor's final call for bids in 2014. This deal will see an estimated £1.7 billion invested in genuinely affordable homes for rent around social rent levels, shared ownership and London Living Rent, with homes in every one of London's 32 boroughs and the City of London. We still have much more to do to secure the land opportunities we need to build homes and ensure we have sufficient capacity in the construction industry, but I very much welcome housing associations and councils meeting my ambition as we start to get to grips with the housing crisis.

Last week I launched a call for evidence on my new Good Work Standard, which aims to tackle low pay and workplace equality. I am determined to use this opportunity to strike up a serious conversation about the future of employment and how we can ensure prosperity is shared by all Londoners.

I have also launched Thrive London, a new movement to improve mental health and wellbeing across the capital. People from all walks of life are affected by poor mental health and nearly one in two will suffer a mental health problem at some point in their lifetime. We have joined forces with over 200 experts, voluntary, public and private organisations, clinicians and academics to spearhead a citywide campaign that will support Londoners to lead healthier, happier lives.

I am also delighted to announce we will be bringing the Night Overground to the East London Line later this year. It will provide huge benefits to Londoners and visitors to our city, helping those working hard through the night and all those enjoying everything London has to offer.

On 5 July 2017 I held a summit at City Hall to discuss how the capital can continue to attract global talent once the United Kingdom (UK) has left the European Union (EU). I have set up Skills for Londoners to equip Londoners with the skills needed for tomorrow's jobs but it will remain the case that skilled workers from the EU are vital to the capital's economy.

Last but by no means the least of my oral update, at the end of June I launched the search for the first ever London Borough of Culture, which will see the capital's 32 boroughs bid for more than £1 million of funding. Culture has the power to transform communities and to bring people closer together. Now more than ever, there is a pressing need to celebrate London's unique and diverse culture.