

**London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) – 14 December 2017****Transcript of Agenda Item 5 – Questions to the Mayor****2017/5288 - RAF Northolt**

Peter Whittle AM

*I note that RAF Northolt is about to undergo a £45 million renovation - without local consultation - which could pave the way for it to become a fully-fledged regional commercial airport. Despite a cross party coalition of MPs, AMs and 3,000 people in West London demanding answers on the MoD's intentions at Northolt, there is still no sign that they are willing to hold a proper consultation. What representations has the Mayor made to the Secretary of State for Defence to encourage him to hold a meaningful consultation with local residents?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am absolutely clear that the role of Royal Air Force (RAF) Northolt should not change and should not be used for more commercial flights. This is reiterated in my new draft London Plan, which states that any significant shift in the mix of operations using an airport should be refused.

The Government has announced that RAF Northolt will close for some months in 2018 to undertake improvements to the runway and extend its life. However, I am not aware that this is linked to any proposals to increase the number of commercial flights using the airport, nor that any such plans are in development. If the Assembly Member has any information to the contrary, I would be grateful if he could share this.

In light of his question and the public concern, I have written to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to seek clarification about the scope of proposed works and seek assurances that this will not permit increased commercial flying. Of course, I will share the response as soon as I receive it.

My formal powers in relation to RAF Northolt are very limited, but I will do what I can to ensure the MoD does not introduce additional commercial flights at the airport. Aviation noise remains a significant concern for hundreds of thousands of Londoners and I will continue to make the case for its impact to be fully addressed at all of London's airports regardless of any expansion.

**Peter Whittle AM:** I am grateful to hear that you have written to the MoD, Mr Mayor, and I am also pleased to hear that you do not think it should be a commercial airport. The question, really, which I was asking originally was that there should be a public consultation. I know that you have made representations, but it seems to me that the history - and I know that Assembly Member Sahota has talked about this before - is of people absolutely being in the dark and the public being completely in the dark as to what is happening, whatever their view. Could you put pressure on to have a public consultation too? Could you ask them to do that however they might do it, whether it be by public meeting or whatever?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As you said, you are one of many Assembly Members to raise this issue. There has been Assembly Members Shah, Sahota and Kurten and you, and there has been public concern. Some of it is generated by Flybe lobbying, if you remember, to operate scheduled flights and there has been huge public concern, which you are articulating today. For a refurb and an improvement, there would be no need for public consultation, but my letter is quite clear to the Secretary of State in relation to our expectations. At the moment, because there is no intention to change the use or to increase the flights, I am not sure if public consultation is required, but, clearly, if there was any attempt to increase the flights or for it

to be a commercial airport, there would need to be proper consultation. As you have heard from my answer, I would be against any increase in activity at this airport.

At the moment, the airport accommodates 12,000 business aircraft movements per year. You will be aware that if there is any attempt by the MoD to increase that, there should be full public consultation. I am happy to make further representations once I receive a response to my letter, which hopefully will reassure all of us that there are no plans for the MoD to increase use.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you for that, Mr Mayor. It is reassuring.

## **2017/5156 - Europol**

[Andrew Dismore AM](#)

*EU negotiator M. Barnier, in his recent Berlin speech on 29th November, said: "...Defence and Security Union will have to be developed without the British, since on 30 March 2019 the United Kingdom will, as is its wish, become a third country when it comes to defence and security issues...The UK.....will no longer be a member of ... Europol ... Everything I have just said is the logical consequence of the sovereign choice made by the British." What does this mean for security for Londoners, against organised crime and terrorism?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have been very clear that - alongside the majority of Londoners - I believe that Britain would be better off and safer remaining in the European Union (EU). Despite this, I accept that the public have voted to leave and we will now have to make the best of this decision. This makes me determined to ensure that no compromises will be made over public safety throughout the Brexit process and I am clear that 'no deal' on complex security issues is simply not an option.

This is why I set out six red lines to the Government which are crucial for continued co-operation on security and counterterrorism with European partners. These include our continued involvement with the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol). Europol enables vital intelligence-sharing to help combat serious crimes including terrorism, money-laundering and human trafficking. There are many cases where Europol and Eurojust have been instrumental in bringing people to justice. I am therefore concerned that Michel Barnier, the EU's Chief Negotiator, has made clear that, as far as he is concerned, the UK will no longer be a member of Europol.

We need to get some clear agreement from the Government on the complex issues at hand to establish how we are going to continue co-operation with the EU on matters of security. This is why I have written to the Home Secretary on this matter specifically. It is imperative that the Government secures the same level of co-operation and security in the negotiations. Otherwise, our police will be fighting these crimes with one arm tied behind their back. The Government is not providing the assurances necessary and its failure to grip the situation could put our critical security apparatus at risk.

We need urgent answers about how the Government plans to ensure continuity of vital security arrangements and we need them now.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you for that answer. Do you agree that Europol, as indeed do all your six security red lines, provides a way for Member States to co-operate and enables vital intelligence-sharing to help combat serious crimes like you mentioned - terrorism, money-laundering, human trafficking - but that Michel Barnier is right as a matter of law that non-EU Member States cannot be members of Europol because

Europol is only for EU members? The head of MI5 was warned that the UK is facing the most severe terrorist threat ever and the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) National Co-ordinator for Counterterrorism Policing, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Ball, has said:

*"If we were to exit Europe without replacing it with at least as good a system for information and intelligence-sharing and working together as currently exists, it would be a risk I would be concerned about."*

Given that the European Court of Justice plays a key role in overseeing data protection laws including through Europol that the experts giving evidence before the [House of] Commons Home Affairs Committee all agreed that accepting any possible Europol access would be predicated on guarantees that the case law of the European Court of Justice is respected by the UK, and also given that the House of Lords EU Committee found that the National Crime Agency took the view that the types of arrangements that have thus far being made to allow third countries to co-operate with Europe or from outside the EU would not be sufficient to meet the UK's needs, all of these are real matters of concern. It is right - and I think you would agree - that the Government really does need to get a grip on this very quickly.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, when describing no deal on justice and law enforcement, used the word "unthinkable" and I think she spoke from her expertise as the Home Secretary, understanding the huge co-operation that takes place between various EU countries. The UK uses more of the services provided by Europol and the other cross-EU justice agencies than any other country. It is crucial that the police and the experts receive the reassurance that they need during the transition period and that, once we left the EU, we will have equivalence to what we have now. The alternative is criminals and terrorists having a better deal than they have now.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** That is important because I am not sure if you are aware that at a meeting of the Police and Crime Committee a Conservative Member tried unsuccessfully to persuade Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt that a no-deal Brexit would not be a problem for our security. Do you agree that with the consequences of a hard Brexit or heeding the demands of hard-line Brexiteers on issues like the European Court of Justice, the Government really would be risking the security and safety of Londoners?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is worth reminding ourselves and reminding laypeople what this European co-operation means. It means vital intelligence-sharing. It means the ability to extradite. It means real-time information in relation to alerts. It means the UK Border Agency being able to check watchlists. It means the UK being able to access criminal records throughout the EU. It means us being able to access DNA profiles, fingerprints and vehicle registrations.

The question to ask yourself is: if you are a criminal or a terrorist, do you want the UK having access to all of these things or not? In my view, a hard Brexit benefits criminals and terrorists.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you.

## **2017/4960 - Recognising hidden homelessness**

[Sian Berry AM](#)

*How will your draft Housing Strategy and London Plan help to recognise and tackle the issue of hidden homelessness in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I thank you for your question. Hidden homelessness affects thousands of Londoners. My draft London Housing Strategy, the first ever to contain a chapter dedicated to homelessness, recognises that homelessness has many forms, including the hidden homeless, and outlines a range of policies that will help Londoners facing different forms of homelessness; for example, investment in new specialist accommodation for young people who are in education, employment or training but are at risk of homelessness; my work with boroughs so that they can offer better accommodation options to households who do become homeless; and my new pan-London services for rough sleepers, such as the Night Transport Outreach Team that will help more people off the streets.

While I am doing all that I can to help those facing or experiencing homelessness, any short- or long-term solution to homelessness - including hidden homelessness - needs the Government to act, too. The Assembly's Housing Committee's report recognises this fact with many of the recommendations focusing on changes the Government needs to make.

In addition to your recommendations, I would also emphasise three key areas that my draft Housing Strategy and draft London Plan refer to where long-term Government support is needed to help those who are hidden homeless. First, the Government needs to reconsider the welfare changes that we know are fuelling rising levels of homelessness in London.

Second, the Government needs to work with us to fundamentally rethink the private rented sector. The ending of tenancies in this sector is now the single greatest cause of homelessness in London.

Third and above all, we need the Government to invest more in the delivery of new homes. Many forms of homelessness are first and foremost the result of London's shortage of affordable homes. The need to tackle that shortage sits at the heart of both my draft Housing Strategy and my draft London Plan, which set ambitious targets for the delivery of new and affordable homes.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Thank you for acknowledging the report the Housing Committee did. Possibly the most shocking fact in it is the estimate that there are 13 times more Londoners on any one night who are hidden and homeless than you find on the streets. That means that they are homeless but may not be getting any support at all from the authorities and they are not in the statistics that we record.

Our report shows very clearly that there are many Londoners who are out there on the brink of becoming homeless and a lot of other Londoners are being very good and looking after them and putting them up. We need to acknowledge the fact that many people are looking after their friends and their family who are homeless and, really, they should be getting help from the councils and from the Government, as you say.

There was not much mention of specific hidden homelessness measures in your Housing Strategy. There were a couple of things that are recommendations to you within the recommendations from the Committee and so I wanted to ask you about those.

One thing we also found is that only one in five young people who were facing homelessness even approached the local authority for help. Local authorities are going to have to give them more help soon. Recommendations 3 and 6 in the report both ask you to do more to get better information and advice to people in this position. Recommendation 6 asks you to promote the use of existing homelessness advice and support and to put guidance for those who may be at risk of homelessness on the London.gov.uk website. Can I ask you if you will do that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** On recommendation 6, both the local authority and voluntary sector services, as you know, are under considerable pressure at the moment. Most have seen sharp reductions in their funding and local authority services are preparing for major changes in their legal duties. We have to be a bit cautious about promoting advice services when they are already overwhelmed and will not be able to help.

The position is different in relation to rough sleeping. I commission pan-London services to help this group off the streets, and so I will be publicising the help available to rough sleepers over the Christmas period using both the London.gov.uk website and advertising space on the public transport network.

**Sian Berry AM:** Excellent. That is most of my next question. You mentioned in your introduction to your answer the TfL teams that you have out now, trying to find people who are using night buses and Tubes as places to sleep and may not be picked up as rough sleepers. We asked you to use TfL advertising space to inform people who might be hidden homeless where they can access relevant services, something like Centrepoint's helpline, which is specifically aimed at young people. Would you be prepared to do that, then, to give over some of the space that is advertising the Hopper fare, maybe, to this?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am making an announcement on this tomorrow.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you very much. Finally, you mentioned the Government needing to do more. We have a lot of councils out there struggling in advance of the Homelessness Reduction Act to find the funding that they think they will need to deal with this next April [2018]. The Act gives them more duties towards people at risk and the Government has given them new - what they call - 'additional burdens funding' to help them temporarily, but I personally do not think this is anything like enough.

I have been looking at the reports from Camden Council, where I am a councillor, and they have recently estimated additional costs of up to £2 million a year while the Government's funding for them is £878,000 spread over three years.

London Councils is doing work on this, but it would help a lot if the Mayor was to take strong action to lobby the Government to help councils more. Will you do this? Will you use your voice to call for this funding?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely, and thank you for raising this. The bad news is that the Chancellor in his budget announced pilots for three parts of the country not including London. You will be aware from your personal experience that there is a huge crisis in London as well, but of course I will use my role to work with London Councils to lobby the Government. It is devastating that this Christmas again there will be people sleeping rough who otherwise should not be. You can rest assured I will be doing that.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you very much.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Whittle?

**Peter Whittle AM:** Mr Mayor, just carrying on from Assembly Member Berry's point there about homelessness, I would very much like to know your view on this. One thing that has become clear to me from being on the Police and Crime Committee is that rough sleeping, which is a big part of homelessness, comes under the definition of antisocial behaviour, would you believe. It seems to me that this is not an antisocial problem; it is a social problem. Do you think that there is an anomaly there that it actually comes under the

same list as - I do not know - public nuisance, drug-dealing or whatever it is in public, and that homeless people are brought into that category?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I would be very surprised if the police were taking action against rough sleepers for committing criminal offences as you suggest.

**Peter Whittle AM:** No, when we have studied antisocial behaviour, rough sleeping comes under that. It is an anomaly that comes from the Vagrancy Act from years ago.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I beg your pardon?

**Peter Whittle AM:** It seems to me that it is a completely wrong categorisation of something which is a social problem, not an antisocial one.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You are absolutely right. Without talking too much about the importance of Christmas and what it is all about, particularly at this time of year we should remember that this is a social problem. It is decades of failure by people in our profession, politicians. It can be turned around. We have shown in the past that we can end rough sleeping and homelessness. Working together, central Government, the Mayor, the Assembly and local authorities, with charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we can end rough sleeping in London: I am determined that we should do that.

## **2017/5023 - Islamic Burial Sites**

[Keith Prince AM](#)

*Can you outline what support your London Plan will be providing to those looking to establish new Islamic burial sites?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Planning for new burial provision across all faiths is a responsibility of the boroughs as local planning authorities. I do not have any powers to allocate new sites. I do recognise that in some areas of the city there is a problem with lack of burial space and this is troubling to many communities, particularly those for whom burial is the only option, but it is for boroughs to address the problem and find appropriate sites, working together if necessary.

What I can do through my new draft London Plan is encourage boroughs to make appropriate provision. The previous London Plan encouraged new cemetery provision and, as set out in national legislation, the reuse of graves to extend the capacity of existing cemeteries where this is culturally appropriate. My new draft London Plan goes further by encouraging boroughs to work together to identify appropriate provision. This should be as close to communities as possible, but I recognise that in some instances boroughs may need to take a sub-regional approach.

As well as boroughs continuing to make traditional burial provision, my draft London Plan also encourages innovative approaches to the provision of community burial space, particularly in inner and central London. These could include creating public gardens for the burial of ashes.

Finally, I know there was a recent issue with the Garden of Peace Islamic cemetery in Redbridge which is estimated to have only between three and five years' capacity left. The Garden of Peace bought a site in Havering to use for future burials, but their planning application was refused by Havering Council. The good

news is that this site has now been approved by an inspector on appeal from the decision to refuse by Havering and the immediate short-term pressure to find a site has now been eased.

**Keith Prince AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. As you quite rightly said in relation to the Islamic religion, reuse is not an option, but I hope and I can tell you do agree that the lack of burial sites is a major issue across London. Of course, you are absolutely right that ultimately it is the boroughs that have to make those decisions as to where they can be located, but there is a role for you, Mr Mayor, as the Mayor of all London, I believe, in helping and encouraging boroughs to accommodate Muslim burial sites. With that in mind, Mr Mayor, I would really be grateful if you would agree to meet with me, Councillor Chaudhary from Redbridge, some imams and also representatives of the Muslim burial associations in order that we can have a chat and see where you could help and assist.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, I cannot think of anything more fun than seeing Assembly Member Prince outside of Mayor's Question Time (MQT) and so I am more than happy to say yes to that meeting, if that helps.

**Keith Prince AM:** I, mutually, have the excitement of meeting with you, Mr Mayor. I will just put on record, Mr Mayor, my deep gratitude to you from all the people whom you met the other day in relation to the Tube noise. Thank you very much for that, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

## **2017/5021 - London Plan**

[Andrew Boff AM](#)

*Will London's buildings be better in ten years' time?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. Yes, my new draft London Plan serves as a blueprint for the future development and sustainable inclusive growth of our city. I am planning for growth on the basis of its potential to improve the health and quality of life of all Londoners, to reduce inequalities, and to make this city a better place to live, work and visit. I am determined to deliver the homes that Londoners need whilst also maintaining and enhancing the workspace that it is crucial for London's economy.

My draft Plan uses the opportunities of a rapidly growing city to plan for a better future, using each planning decision to improve London, transforming the city over time. It plans not just for growth but for good growth, sustainable growth that works for everyone.

Planning for good growth means growing a city with more genuinely affordable, high-quality homes for Londoners to buy and rent, and a city with good quality design that is embedded in all new developments from the outset. It means growing a more socially integrated city and public spaces that are welcoming and accessible to all Londoners. It means growing a city with a vibrant cultural and heritage offer that engages communities and drives our creative and tourism industries.

I have made it very clear that tackling London's housing crisis is one of my top priorities and delivering the homes Londoners need is central to my draft London Plan. The aim is to deliver high-quality, sustainable homes and mixed-use developments at densities that respond to local context and infrastructure capacity rather than simply following a density matrix that offers no protection from poorly designed, unsustainable housing. The draft London Plan will ensure we have a requirement for minimum internal and external space standards and scrutiny of the design and management of new development.

Supported by my Good Growth by Design Programme, my new draft London Plan embeds good architectural and design quality principles in new buildings and neighbourhoods and will deliver a sustainable, inclusive, healthy city for Londoners.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. How will your removal of any target for larger homes help the 250,000 families living in overcrowded conditions in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure I understand your question in relation to a target for larger homes. Do you mean the minimum standards?

**Andrew Boff AM:** I mean the family-sized homes in the previous Housing Strategy. There was a target for 36% of affordable homes to be family homes; that is three to four bedrooms. That target has now been removed, but those people living in overcrowded conditions are looking for you to provide a resolution to their problem.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I believe in devolution and so my draft Plan encourages London boroughs to provide guidance on the size of the homes built in their local areas based on the available evidence of need in their borough. If the Assembly Member is suggesting a diktat from City Hall, I am happy to receive representations. I am a believer in local boroughs deciding on the size of homes in their borough.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, you already effectively supply those 'diktats', as you call them, in specifying how many homes should be built by each borough, and of course it is your responsibility to allocate funding from the Housing Strategy. What you decide should be funded will get built. If you have no target for family homes, those family homes will not get built.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** With respect, Chair, the question displays the misunderstanding of the way the process works. Let me try to explain.

The new Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) forms a critical part of the evidence base and that is what we used in the new draft London Plan. Local authorities then decide the size of homes in their boroughs. What I have set out is the targets we need based upon the expert advice to meet the needs of Londoners: roughly speaking 65,000 homes a year. You will be working because I am sure you know about the SHMA, it talks about the need for one- and two-bedroom homes across London, but you will be aware of course that if a local authority has a need for family homes, three- and four-bedroom homes - then of course it is open to them, when it comes to considering applications, to make sure those homes get built.

**Andrew Boff AM:** In the SHMA, Mr Mayor, it establishes that a certain percentage should be family homes. You do not have that in either your draft Housing Strategy or your draft London Plan. How will you ensure that the larger homes are built in order to resolve the problem of overcrowding in London? May I remind you that overcrowding is more severe in London than in any other city in the UK.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** This is the sort of misunderstanding that leads to policies like the bedroom tax. The idea that you will get overcrowding resolved by freeing up the space from larger homes by a bedroom tax does not work.

Therefore, what I am saying is: what is the evidence of the need in London? The evidence is 65,000 homes a year. Local authorities, where they need family homes, can give permission for family homes. The expert advice from the SHMA is that we need more one- and two-bedroom homes. The average age of a Londoner is



34 and so of course is important to build all sorts of new homes of different shapes and sizes depending the needs of each borough.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, according to Shelter, children in overcrowded housing are 10 times more likely to contract meningitis than children in general. There is a direct link between childhood tuberculosis and overcrowding. Children living in overcrowded and unfit conditions are more likely to experience respiratory problems such as coughing and asthmatic wheezing. Overcrowded conditions have been linked to slow growth in childhood, which is associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease in later life. Homeless children are three to four times more likely to have mental health problems than other children. Mental health issues such as anxiety and depression have also been linked to overcrowding in unfit housing. Overcrowding is linked to delayed cognitive development and to a lack of development in communication skills.

There are 250,000 families and hundreds of thousands of children being brought up in overcrowded conditions. What are you, Mr Mayor, going to do about that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, these crocodile tears from the Assembly Member - when his Chancellor has failed to increase from £500 million a year to £2.7 billion a year, which is what we need to build the affordable homes - beggar belief, Chair. What we need, Chair, is for the Government --

**Andrew Boff AM:** I did not ask a question of the Chancellor, Mr Mayor. I asked what you are going to do about it. Could you tell me what you are going to do about the crisis of overcrowding in this city, which this Assembly unanimously considers to be one of the worst problems facing people in this city.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, although I was raised in an overcrowded house, we had manners and did not interrupt when somebody was speaking.

What I would say is this, Chair. The Government needs to invest far more in building genuinely affordable homes to ease the problem of overcrowding in London. The Government has reduced the amount of money we get over successive years and the Government could very easily help us solve this problem. It could increase the amount of money we invest in affordable homes; that would ease overcrowding. It could give councils the ability to borrow to build; that would ease overcrowding. It could give them the ability to prudentially borrow; that would ease overcrowding. When it comes to refurbishments, rather than having refurbishments without consulting residents, it could make sure councils consult residents by changing the law.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, I want to know what you are going to do. You have abandoned any target for family homes. The only solution in your draft London Plan is to encourage one- and two-bedroom flats. How does forcing a family of four, five or six people into a two-bedroom flat resolve overcrowding problems? If you are not going to build bigger houses, Mr Mayor, we are going to continue with the problem. It is as simple as that. All I am asking is: what are you going to do?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, I have already answered this question. One of the problems when you write down your questions is that you do not listen to the answers you are given. The answer I gave four questions ago was that local authorities can give permission to build bigger homes of three --

**Andrew Boff AM:** You are going to do nothing? You are waiting for local authorities to do it?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No, Assembly Member Boff --

**Andrew Boff AM:** I am get trying to get an answer. I am trying to get an answer, Chair, and he tells me what other people are going to do, but never what he is going to do.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No. In the same way you put narrative around your question, you cannot --

**Andrew Boff AM:** Do not become all passive-aggressive with me, Mr Mayor. I am trying to get you to answer a question and you are not doing it.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Boff, can you just --

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is enough. It is futile talking about the problems of overcrowding with this Mayor. Futile.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** I will take your advice and, Mr Mayor, we will move on. I am happy to move on.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Mr Mayor, I would like to ask you about the draft London Plan, but before I do I want to just say that I really welcome the fact that this Plan is more people-centred. I want to follow up from what Andrew Boff [AM] was saying about another aspect of families living. It is families with children and young people living at high densities. That is what my question is about.

I noticed that the draft London Plan is very strong on play policies and they are really good, innovative policies on outdoor play and independent mobility for children, which is important in a city like London. However, in order for this to work in high-rise, high density housing association/council estates, it is important that children have easy access to outside play areas and that also that their parents can overlook and see, in an informal way, because the play provision will be, as it says in the guidance, close by.

All over the world, from Auckland to Vancouver, planning departments have policies which say that families with children and young people in them should not live above the fifth floor. That is for the reasons that I have just outlined. Would you be prepared, therefore, to consider a presumption against families with children and young people in them living above, say, the fifth floor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As you will appreciate, the Mayor cannot decide the allocation of homes. That is a job for the council or housing association. The allocation of which family gets which home is not decided by the Mayor --

**Nicky Gavron AM:** It is not which family; it is larger units - this is a planning policy - larger units at lower levels of developments. That is planning.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am really happy during the draft London Plan stage for you to make those representations and others may as well, but we have built in play space in the draft London Plan because you are right about the importance of families with children having sufficient play space. For example, we have made sure there is provision of safe, accessible, well-designed play and leisure spaces as part and parcel of delivering good growth and an important part of children having access to places to play. The Healthy Streets approach encourages local authorities, when it comes to planning, to make sure children have places to play, and the draft plan also includes a requirement for 10 square metres of play space per child in residential developments.

You make a different point, though, in relation to the units of homes on floors zero to five being bigger units for families, as you suggest. I am really happy during the draft London Plan stage and during the consultation phase for you and others to make submissions in that regard. I am sure, when it comes to the inspectorate stage, those will be taken on board.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** That is very welcome because good growth really has to mean that it is good for children and young people, and there is evidence of the harm done to children and young people if their accommodation is high up in tower blocks. We have the evidence of that. Restricted play opportunities and social isolation have led to behavioural change and have sometimes led to mental ill-health. It would be really good if we can have a very strong steer on this both for the local plans at borough level and for your own strategic planning applications. It needs really to be not just in the Housing Strategy but in the London Plan as well.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is why I am very interested, Chair, in the point you make. It is a really interesting point, which is why I would encourage you to make sure that you respond to the draft London Plan but with evidence, obviously, because there are other studies that say residence on higher floors of high-density developments can have a positive impact on health and social outcomes as well as high levels of satisfaction. I would encourage you to please respond to the draft London Plan consultation phase to try to bring about the changes you are referring to because I am fascinated by what you say.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Thank you. I will have to look at that because it is about giving access to outdoor play with other children, but I will come back to you on it.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member O'Connell?

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Indeed, you talked about local context earlier in your answer to Andrew Boff and I refer you to some announcements with words around protecting green spaces. Can you explain, therefore, why in your new local Plan you are encouraging garden-grabbing?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I just clarify this because there has been a misunderstanding by some people? The Government - your Government - announced a relaxation of permitted development rights, which means that an owner of a house can build on up to 50% of their plot, including their back garden, which you suddenly are an advocate for, without any planning controls. Your friends in Government have said that anybody can build on their back garden up to 50% without the need to go to a local authority and apply for planning permission. By the way, this does not lead to more homes being built; it is simply more building on people's back gardens.

What I am saying is that you should apply for permission in relation to building on back-land developments and, if it is the case that there is a line taken up, there should be no net loss of overall green cover, and the development should result in additional homes that Londoners can benefit from. However, it has to go through a planning process for councillors to decide rather than a permitted development with homeowners deciding.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** You will be aware that permitted development does not apply to new dwellings and has strict limits. However, why is it --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** With respect, if the mischief you are seeking to prevent is green things being built on, you are allowing up to 50% of green things being built on without permission. You cannot have it both ways.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Mr Mayor, you seem to be setting the tone of adversarial comments. I have spent, like many councillors and London Assembly Members in this room sticking up for residents who have had inappropriate developments threatened in back gardens nearby, which are ruining the biodiversity and environmental aspects. Previous Mayors and indeed boroughs, including the Labour borough that I am in, place presumptions against back garden development in their areas. Why, Mr Mayor, would you remove that presumption?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is a presumption in favour of housing on small sites for the simple reason that we need to build more homes to meet the needs of our city.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** No one can disagree with the fact that, as Andrew Boff has wisely pointed out, the housing crisis is the biggest issue facing London. I welcome very much your announcements around public land owned by TfL, developing in town centres, and high-rise buildings in appropriate spaces. Those are commendable and we need to push those forward. However, speaking as an outer London representative - and you often speak about being a south London/outer London chap yourself - is it not important to preserve the characteristics of those areas?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There has to be good design. We have to make sure that any space that is taken up is recovered, the green cover that I have talked about, and local councillors get a say; but I am not going to resile from meeting head-on the challenge we face, which is making sure we build the good-quality homes Londoners need.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** You are happy to build over the back gardens in London. OK. I will take that one. My next question --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That was a press release rather than a question, but heigh-ho.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** OK, heigh-ho, away you go. My next question is also relating to your presumption on any properties within public transport accessibility level (PTAL) ratings of 5 and 6 and that those developments would have zero cars. Again, do you think that works in areas of outer London where they are poorly served by public transport?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The draft Plan focuses on much of the future housing growth in areas where they either are within 800 metres of a station or a town centre or benefit from good public transport. You mentioned PTALs; levels 3 to 6 are good examples of where homes can be built. That allows boroughs to, as you are keen to do, preserve the existing density of areas beyond these spatial areas.

Look, here we have a situation where our population is going to go from 8.8 million to 9 million in 2020 and 10 million in 2030. We have to reduce those people who use cars, especially the most polluting types, driving around our city. That means good public transport and good homes near public transport hubs and, hopefully, less need for cars.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Mr Mayor, surely you display perhaps an unusual lack of understanding of those outer London boroughs. We all represent outer London boroughs around this horseshoe. It may well be a sensible

policy within central London where you are served well by Underground services and you have a PTAL rating of 5 or 6, but if you are in an outer London borough with one bus or perhaps no buses, surely you are putting together a policy that is completely impractical for many outer London boroughs.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I hope that and that is not the intention. Outer London boroughs have an opportunity to respond to the draft London Plan and I look forward to their responses to the draft London Plan, as is the normal course.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** You do not seem too certain, Mr Mayor, but, anyway, thank you. I will take that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is also not a question but also another press release.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No, it was phrased as a question.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Was it? Sorry. What was the question? I will answer it, then. What was the question?

**Steve O'Connell AM:** My point was that you appeared not to be certain. My question to you is: this policy of nil parking in 5 and 6 as an absolutely iron rule will be detrimental to areas of outer London that are badly served by public transport. Would you like to agree with that or disagree?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I disagree that my policies are anti-outer London. I am a Mayor for all Londoners and I welcomed all the votes given to me by your constituents when I ran to be the Mayor. One of the reasons why they gave me their support was because I promised to address the housing crisis. This draft London Plan helps to address the housing crisis and I am sure those in your part of London who are on council housing waiting lists, who are living in overcrowded accommodation and who cannot afford to rent, let alone buy, will welcome this route map to building the homes that Londoners need, including in Croydon and Sutton.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** This debate is around parking spaces. All I would urge, Mr Mayor, if you are going to impose this measure, you must have a step change in public transport in outer London, please.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** That is a comment.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** That is a comment, not an unhelpful comment.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** That was a comment and so we will go on to a question from Assembly Member Hall.

**Susan Hall AM:** Mayor, now that you have accepted in your new draft London Plan that fire safety can be a planning issue, will you now agree to review the fire safety of the tower blocks that you have previously approved on a call-in, especially the 17-storey Palmerston Road tower blocks in Harrow, where the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) was not even consulted on the proposals and where there is no commitment to a sprinkler system?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** All the planning rules that currently exist before the draft London Plan were followed when permission was given. If it is a building control issue, that is a matter for the local council.

**Susan Hall AM:** That is a no. When I asked you about this in the June [2017] MQT, you refused to review these applications because you insisted that new blocks are different from old blocks. However, your new draft London Plan now includes fire safety requirements for new blocks. Can you guarantee to me that the tower blocks you have approved would meet with these requirements?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, let me try to answer this in a way that addresses the point the Assembly Member makes. The draft London Plan that we published a couple of weeks ago is now out for consultation and that will, hopefully, after consultation, become the London Plan. The Assembly Member is asking me to retrospectively use the provisions of the draft London Plan on an application given permission a few months ago. That is the question, as I understand it.

**Susan Hall AM:** Yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The answer is: I cannot do that. I am not allowed by law.

**Susan Hall AM:** You pooh-pooed it at the time, anyway, but given that you have called for sprinklers to be installed in every tower block, why have you not required this in your new fire safety policy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The new draft London Plan?

**Susan Hall AM:** Why have you not required sprinklers in your new fire safety policy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The new draft London Plan has a number of things which are pioneering and nobody else has them, including the need for fire evacuation lifts, including the need for a third-party statement, including the consideration of other ways of suppressing fires. One way is sprinklers; one way is water mist, for example, in elderly homes, and those are things that no other plan has, let alone the London Plan. That is in the draft London Plan which we are consulting on.

If the question is whether I can retrospectively apply these to those schemes given permission or those buildings already built, the answer is that I am not allowed to. However, if it is the case that the Assembly Member feels strongly about this, she will give evidence to the review the Government is undertaken and also lobby her Government to financially help those councils to retrofit sprinklers into these tower blocks so that these tower blocks can be safe.

**Susan Hall AM:** At the actual time I asked you, Mayor, and you pooh-pooed it. On to a slightly different aspect, are you concerned that your London Plan policies could see the proliferation of beds in sheds?

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

**Susan Hall AM:** Do you think beds in sheds are a problem?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the reasons why we have beds in sheds, Chair, is because of the housing crisis caused by successive governments. Anybody who knows anything will know in eight of the last ten years there has been a Conservative Mayor and in seven of the last ten years a Conservative Government, and so you would hope there would be some humility in relation to the crisis of beds in sheds.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Gordon Brown's [former Prime Minister] Government?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a big problem. I have been out on a raid with Newham Council, which is taking action against landlords who are taking advantage of these tenants. There literally are beds in sheds, I am afraid.

One of the things I was hoping the Government would do is to give them more powers over licensing of private premises. Unfortunately, her Government failed to do so, but I will work with local authorities to take action against rogue landlords who have beds in sheds.

**Susan Hall AM:** Mr Mayor, do you think it is appropriate that at every given opportunity the only thing you do is manage to criticise somebody other than giving a constructive answer to anything? Do you think that is appropriate?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do not accept the premise of your question and I blame you for that.

**Tony Devenish AM:** And it is all Boris's fault, you know.

**Susan Hall AM:** Of course. Boris's and the Government's.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Hall, are you willing to go back --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That was also a press release, I suspect, Chair.

**Susan Hall AM:** I've finished.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Let us move on to Assembly Member Bailey. Assembly Member Bailey, we are on issues to do with the London Plan.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I am going to speak to the Mayor on issues to do with the London Plan.

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

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Hopefully, we are going to have a love-in as well. Let us have a little try, Sadiq. Let us see what we can do.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** That would be nice.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Let us see if we can change the trend. In your draft London Plan, you give quite a clear indication that you would like to support councils that are using joint ventures (JVs) to deliver on housing because housing is a big issue in London. Lots of councils of all different colours are using JVs to get things done. Is this still the case? Are you still willing to support councils that are looking to use JVs to deliver housing in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Most councils have no other way of getting the revenues in to build the homes they need because of the huge cuts made by central Government and so, unless the Government were to allow them to lift the cap on borrowing or to allow them to borrow prudentially, it is very difficult for a council to regenerate housing in their boroughs. A JV is one way of doing that.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Absolutely. I could not agree more. Could I ask you to support the JV in Haringey? There are lots of people in Haringey now who are worried that the Council is under quite serious political pressure not to deliver on a JV that it has planned, which will deliver over 5,000 new homes and a brand-new town centre in a part of London that really needs these developments. Could you give us an assurance now that you will support that Council in achieving that goal?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It could come to me for planning consideration and is probably quasi-judicial, and so I have to be very careful what I say about schemes at this stage. I will be watching the Haringey JV, like other JVs, but it is not wise for me to comment on these because it may come to me for planning.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Let me rephrase that. Will you support the Council Leader, then, in her pursuit of this goal? Let me put it that way because that is not quasi-judicial, is it? You can say yes or no about supporting this person. The reason I ask, Mayor, is because councils all across London will take a clear steer from this that in times of trouble, when they are trying to deliver your housing target, our London housing target, they can rely on you to be above the politics and deliver. Will you support her?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No, Assembly Member Bailey, we have had the answer.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** The Mayor does not even look particularly upset about what I am saying.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No. I am making a ruling. Your question relates to a borough Leader's intention about a particular matter that will be referred to the Mayor.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** No, that is not necessarily true --

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** He is not in a position today to talk about support to that particular Leader. Can you rephrase or come back with a different way of getting to the bottom of your question?

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Hold on, Chair. I think you have slightly wrongly interpreted --

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** That is my ruling.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I accept your ruling, Chair.

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

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Thank you for your ruling. I would just like to say that the Mayor did not look particularly upset and he now looks pleased that you have thought to rescue him.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, can I, if it helps, Chair --

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No. That is enough. Listen. We just --

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Chair, let me put you out of your misery.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** I am not in misery.



**Shaun Bailey AM:** I certainly am.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Chairs do not get in misery; they just make rulings. Now, do you have another question?

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Will you be supporting JVs across London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a sweeping question. It is horses for courses, Chair. What I will say - and it is really important in the context of Haringey and all across London - is: vote Labour!

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Which Labour, Mayor?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Bailey --

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Sorry, I am just conversing with my Mayor. He does not seem particularly upset about talking to me, but, Chair, I am going to leave it there because I do not want you to bully me afterwards. Thank you.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Thank you. As if I would. We will now go on to a question from Assembly Member Hall on the Night Czar. We are talking about the role here, rather than the individual, and I say this because it is my understanding that, according to our rules, the individual holding this position is not at head of unit level or above and it is not our practice to talk about individuals in public. I will take a question on the post.

## **2017/5040 - Night Czar**

[Susan Hall AM](#)

*Can you provide an outline of Amy Lamé's activities since her appointment as Night Czar?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chair. The night-time economy is vitally important for London. It is worth £26.3 billion to our economy, employs one in eight Londoners and is a key driver of town centre regeneration. Our night-time cultural offer is world-renowned from our theatres to our music venues in pubs. However, since 2008, London has lost a quarter of its pubs, half of its nightclubs, over half of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus (LGBT+) venues, and over a third of its live music venues. I am determined to halt this decline.

If London is to retain its reputation for world-class nightlife, no single organisation or public body can solve these problems alone. We all need to work together to ensure the capital thrives as a 24-hour city in a way that is safe and enjoyable for everyone. This is why I appointed Amy Lamé as my Night Czar. Other cities like Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam have similar roles, and they bring together key stakeholders across the city to grow the night-time economy in a way that balances the needs of businesses, those who want a good night out and those who want a good sleep.

Over the past year, my Night Czar has made excellent progress. When she was appointed, music venues were closing at an alarming rate. One of the world's most famous nightclubs, Fabric, had closed. My Night Czar has worked with boroughs, the police and hundreds of businesses from the night-time economy to start to turn this around.

In the interests of brevity, I can touch on only some of the many activities since her appointment, but I hope that will give you a flavour of some of the things that she has been doing. My Night Czar has published a vision of a 24-hour London, setting out my vision for London to become a truly 24-hour city. She has worked closely with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to remove the controversial Form 696 for music venues and music promoters, which urban and grime musicians and DJs felt was unfairly targeting them. She has published guidance for boroughs to grow and diversify their night-time economies and has worked with my Deputy Mayor [for Planning, Regeneration and Skills] Jules Pipe CBE on the draft London Plan to include, for the first time ever, new policies to support the night-time economy and protect pubs, as well as the Agent of Change policy so that pubs, clubs and venues can coexist along with new residential development.

She has developed a charter for LGBT+ venues, which has already been used in a landmark case to ensure the Joiners Arms in Hoxton remains a LGBT+ venue. She has supported over 120 businesses, bringing together residents, community groups, developers, police, local authorities and others to reach positive outcomes. These include venues like the George Tavern in Stepney Green, the Rio Cinema in Dalston and the Electric Ballroom in Camden.

She has hosted seven night surgeries to speak with residents, night-time workers and business owners, working closely with borough councils and Members of Parliament (MPs). She has taken a leadership role on supporting a safer London for women, hosting the first women's night safety summit, and she is developing a Women's Night Safety Charter to make the capital's venues safer for women at night.

**Susan Hall AM:** All right. First of all, that is interesting, Mr Mayor, because that is different to the information that has come back from our Freedom of Information request, but I do not doubt what you have said. Do you think that your Night Czar would be advised to meet all London boroughs as part of her job? So far, she has met only 18 of the 32 boroughs.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Time permitting, of course, if it is possible, yes.

**Susan Hall AM:** It has been a year. That is acceptable to you, is it? That is very interesting.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am happy to set out all the other meetings she has had, if that helps, Chair. It is a long list.

**Susan Hall AM:** No, you do not need to do that. I would have thought that your Night Czar would have wanted to have met all of the boroughs, as opposed to just 18 of them. Perhaps that is a suggestion, bearing in mind that her hours have been doubled and she has had a massive pay increase. Perhaps would you suggest to your Night Czar that she meets all of the boroughs, Mr Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** She is going out to meet as many leaders of communities as she possibly can.

**Susan Hall AM:** I am sure everybody around this table would like to see her meeting everybody. Since she is receiving taxpayers' money for the job, what performance indicators are in place to make sure that she is delivering?

**Tony Devenish AM:** You cannot blame the Government.

**Susan Hall AM:** No, this is one you cannot blame the Government for or, indeed, Boris [Boris Johnson, former Mayor of London].

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The performance criteria, Chair - and we are talking about an employee, by the way, I remind you, Chair - are: to devise and publish a vision for London as a 24-hour global city, to produce and publish a roadmap to implement the vision, to publish best-practice guidance for the night economy, to give public speeches and carry out mayoral engagements, to support and be an advocate for the night economy, to articulate a 24-hour London vision, to deliver a night-time economy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to begin enacting the agent-for-change principle.

The objective criteria, Chair, about one of our employees as part of her appraisal include: devise and publish a vision of London as a 24-hour global city, produce and publish a roadmap to implement that vision, publish best practice guidance for a night-time economy, give public speeches and carry out engagements on my behalf, and deliver an SPG enacting the Agent of Change principle.

**Susan Hall AM:** In the original spec, the job was to include chairing the Night Time Commission and yet, when your particular Night Czar of the moment arrived, you then had to take on a Queen's Counsel (QC) to do that because your choice of the Night Czar - not mentioning any names, Chair - could not do that. Do you think that is acceptable? Now you have doubled your Night Czar's hours and you have had to employ a QC to do the job that was in the original spec. Do you think that is acceptable?

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

**Susan Hall AM:** You do? It is taxpayers' money.

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

**Susan Hall AM:** OK. Are you aware that 139 pubs have closed this year already?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am really happy to talk about pubs that have closed since 2008. We are starting to halt that decline. A lot of people have given credit for that halt in decline not just to the current Mayor but to the current Night Czar as well. I am happy to say, Chair, when the decline began, but I will be accused of politicising the hopeless previous Mayor, who is a friend of these guys.

**Tony Devenish AM:** He was a very good Mayor, actually.

**Susan Hall AM:** As I said, are you aware that 139 have closed since your Night Czar's appointment? I tell you what, Mr Mayor. Would you like to just take it as a fact that they have? Can you tell me why you have doubled the time of the Night Czar and not only doubled the wage but increased it also?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is quite clear from the work that the --

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** No, we are going then into -- as I said before, we discussed in public the employment hours and salary of heads of unit level and above. If you want to persist with your question on the employment hours and pay of the Night Czar, then I will have to ask for the press and public to be cleared from the gallery. It is up to you.

**Susan Hall AM:** No, that is fine. As somebody who is a contracted-out employer, would you expect a Night Czar or whoever else to seek permission from the Greater London Authority (GLA) before accepting a second job?

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** That is about the employment and terms. That will be dealt with under the GLA employment procedures. Please try again, Assembly Member Hall.

**Susan Hall AM:** I am sorry, Chair. I just am mindful that we all like transparency and it is taxpayers' money after all. A lot of complaints have been made about what this particular job spec involves and how we should hold the owner of this particular job to account, which is clearly what we are trying to do. If that is unpalatable to you, Chair, I am one that thoroughly believes in transparency, but I will leave it at that.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Do you have any more questions, Assembly Member Hall?

**Susan Hall AM:** No, because you will stop me, Chair.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Thank you. Let us then move to the next subject.

## **2017/5145 - Police Budget**

[Unmesh Desai AM](#)

*Following the failure of the Chancellor to mention policing in England and Wales in his budget last month, you have been forced to drop your strategic target of 32,000 officers. What does this mean for the safety of Londoners?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. It is truly astonishing that in a year when this country has faced repeated terror attacks and when crime is rising, the Chancellor provided no additional funding for policing in his budget. The fact that it was not even mentioned speaks volumes about this Government's attitude to policing. Since 2010, London has lost 76 police stations and front counters and thousands of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and police staff as the MPS has sought to protect frontline officers from the brunt of the cuts. In all, more than £600 million in savings were taken from the MPS during that time.

I am doing everything I can to protect the MPS's budget and I have had to take tough decisions on further reducing the number of police stations and an increase in the police's share of council tax. However, with around £400 million in further savings needed by 2021 in order to balance the books and with the options for finding significant savings elsewhere in the MPS becoming even fewer, we are now sadly in a position where we must reduce the number of police officers in London. The wage bill is the biggest single area of spending and to achieve the levels of savings required we can no longer avoid reducing it. The budget for the coming year provides for, on average, 30,000 officers. We will probably go below 30,000 police officers in the coming year. By 2021, that number could be around 26,900.

There is no question that this will impact on public safety. Put simply, the demand on policing is increasing while the supply of policing is decreasing. The MPS now face very tough decisions about how they prioritise their declining resources to protect the public. The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis has also warned that if officer numbers fall as far as we fear, and I quote:

*“We will absolutely have to look at whether we can be quite as front-footed and proactive as I would like us to be and doing as much as I would like us to do on prevention. We probably cannot.”*

The Government has ignored those warnings and ultimately it is the public who will pay the price.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Just to carry on the safety theme, to some extent you have already answered my supplementary question, but I will still put it to you. The Commissioner was here yesterday at the meeting of the Police and Crime Committee and she said that if police numbers were to fall to 26,900 and a series of major incidents were to happen, it would mean calling on the help of other police forces “much sooner”, with “a greater impact on other crime investigations and other public safety issues” after an incident. What do you make of all this and do you think that this is a sustainable position for the MPS to be in?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We are in a really tough position; I cannot remember a time when we have been in a tougher position. By the way, we have more than 200 police officers involved in the Grenfell Tower fire investigation. Nationally, crime is going up. As I said to you, at a time when crime is going up police numbers are going down. We contribute, roughly speaking, 20% towards police funding via council tax. Central Government contributes a significant amount and they are cutting that out. Fewer police officers leads to people feeling less safe and also to them being less safe because, inevitably, it means they can do less of the prevention stuff that helps us feel safer.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** I think it was last week that [the Rt Honourable] Amber Rudd [MP, Home Secretary] told us that future funding must be “based on evidence and not assertion”. What evidence have you seen from her and from the Home Office that the £370 million of cuts that the MPS has to make over the next four years is a good idea and would not impinge upon the duty of you and the MPS to keep London safe?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I find the comments from Amber Rudd peculiar and some I find offensive. Senior police officers do not make a habit of speaking publicly about their concerns in relation to policing, they are not the boy crying wolf. They are concerned for a reason.

Just talking about counterterrorism, the workload of the counterterrorism police has increased by more than 30% at a time when they have had a 7% cut in their funding. These guys cannot blame the Mayor of London because nationally the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows recorded crime has increased by 14% in the year to June 2017. Violence against the person nationally is up by 19%, robbery nationally by more than 25%, burglary nationally 20% and knife crime nationally 26%. There is the evidence that crime is going up. Anyone who follows evidence would assume we need more policing. The Government is not providing the additional resources we need and I worry about safety, not just of my city and of Londoners but across the country too.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** I could not agree more, Mr Mayor. Thank you.

**Steve O’Connell AM:** Mr Mayor, everyone around this Chamber held the former Mayor to account on the level of crime in this town, notwithstanding the financial pressures he was under. You are nearly two years into your mayoralty and crime is going up in London, serious knife crime and serious youth violence that we all see as a major challenge in the city. Around this horseshoe we all accept the MPS deserves a proper financial settlement. However, Mr Mayor, surely you must take some responsibility for the crime situation in London because it is under your watch. How do you respond to that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am quite clear in relation to my response to the concerns we have around policing. Last year I increased the police precept by the maximum allowed. You will remember, because you

probably supported it, that the year before it was frozen. Remarkably, it was frozen. We are providing the resources the police need and, roughly speaking, 20% of the funding comes from the council tax precept. You do not need to look into a crystal ball to predict I will probably be increasing the council tax police precept by the maximum allowed next year as well, working with communities to give them confidence in the police.

However, you cannot escape the fact that police numbers are going down or that crime is rising nationally. You will be aware, as somebody who studies these things as the Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee, that we have to make sure we do all that we can. We have published a new Knife Crime Strategy. We have published a new Police and Crime Plan. We are working with communities to make sure they are the eyes and ears of the police; 8.8 million eyes and ears are far more effective than 30,000 eyes and ears.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** The former Mayor set targets in his scrutiny of the police. People agreed or disagreed with that regime, but he set targets. Why have you not set targets against issues like violent crime and serious youth violence? Is that not a weakness in your scrutiny of the police generally?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will be aware what the Police and Crime Plan says. You will be aware of the dashboards. You will be aware of the work the Police and Crime Plan envisages in this area over the next four years.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** There are no targets there, but I will let that rest. Lastly, my point is that we talked about numbers. Numbers are an emotive subject to people in this building and also particularly to Londoners. You quite freely talked about the figure of 26,900 earlier this week. There is a gap of £183 million left to be sourced, which I admit will be a challenge. Are you saying therefore the only way the police will meet that target is by cutting police numbers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We cannot find any other way to make the savings. We are closing about a half of the front counters at police stations and trying to increase efficiencies. Back office costs are, roughly speaking, at 17% to 18%. We are hoping to get them to 15%. The biggest chunk of the policing budget is human beings, police staff. The only way to balance the books, unless the Government decides to invest more in policing, is to reduce police numbers.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** I will make a comment, and you may comment on it. The former Mayor, and his Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] did work with senior MPS officers to find savings of some £600 million. I know you can only sell buildings once but there is ability in a budget of the size of £3.5 billion to find £183 million. Surely you should be asking that they look beyond reducing police numbers to find that gap?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You can only sell off the family silverware once. Your friend sold it off and we cannot sell it off again. We are trying to see if there is any other family silverware hidden away. There does not appear to be. If I find any I will see if we need it, and if we do not need it we may sell it off. On the other hand, you cannot complain when we decide to close a police station that brings in more revenues - as was suggested at the last MQT - for the very reason we are having to make bigger savings because of the decisions made by central Government. You may not like it because they are in your party, but it is your party doing it, your Government doing it, and we are paying the price.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** That is your usual response. My last comment is why, therefore, in your first budget did you cut £38 million from the police on recruitment?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I did not cut any money from the police in the budget. Because of the projections made by the former Mayor it was not possible to recruit the numbers to get to 32,000 in that year. Rather than that being in one column it moved to another column. We added money to the policing budget, not simply because of the 1.99% precept increase, which the former Mayor had at zero, but also bringing over £24 million on top of the monies in the policing budget. The bad news is we have to see if we can find additional monies from elsewhere to try to fill the gaping hole caused by your Government.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** I will leave it there.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Thank you, Assembly Member O'Connell. Let us move then to a question from Assembly Member Prince.

**Keith Prince AM:** Mr Mayor, you did bit of a review when you came in, which I thought was quite sensible, in relation to TfL land. With TfL's land you said, "Instead of just selling it off we are going to see if we can work with partners". There is a framework with partners who you work with, but I do not want to go into that. Instead of selling off the land you are going to do JVs, joint developments (JDs) and generate revenue. Have you put that to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Mr Mayor? Is that a possibility, rather than, as you say, selling off the family silver actually polishing it and getting a better return?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There are two things. Firstly, note, Chair, a Conservative Member welcomed a review I have undertaken.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** A love-in.

**Keith Prince AM:** We are having a love-in today.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will lose your mates, be careful.

**Keith Prince AM:** I do not have any mates.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The second thing is that the legislation is a bit different with the MPS to TfL in relation to best value. You are right to raise this because what you are advising me against is inadvertently getting a windfall now when we could make better use of it.

**Keith Prince AM:** An ongoing return, yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a good point you make. We are exploring that.

**Keith Prince AM:** I will note that one.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** However, the legislation is a bit different. We have to maximise revenues for the reasons Assembly Member O'Connell alluded to, at the same time being cognisant of the point you are making which is that we would kick ourselves if we sold stuff off that we could sensibly use. It is a conversation we are having with MOPAC. The TfL legislation is different to the MPS legislation and so the wriggle room is less.

## 2017/5216 - Response to Grenfell Tower fire

Navin Shah AM

*I welcome your support for the campaign calling for sprinklers to be fitted in all new social housing tower blocks in the lead up to today's anniversary of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower six months ago. How will your draft London Plan reassure Londoners living in tower blocks that they will have the 'highest standards' of fire safety and will be as safe and protected as possible?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chair, for reasons you will appreciate, I will give a slightly longer answer to this question than to others today.

Today marks six months since the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower. I would like to take, again, this opportunity to remember those 71 people who lost their lives in the tragedy, as well as the many more who have been affected by this horrible event.

It is absolutely essential that we learn every lesson we can from this terrible tragedy. I continue to call on the Government to ensure that the Grenfell Public Inquiry reports as soon as possible and the review of fire safety regulations is as full and effective as possible. I have also asked the Prime Minister to work with me to ensure social housing residents are given a proper voice in future decisions that affect them. I am also backing the *Mirror's* campaign to ensure sprinklers are fitted in social housing blocks across the country. As I have said before, retrofitting sprinklers is one of the best options for reducing the fire risk in tall buildings. If the review of building regulations and the independent advisory group determine that sprinklers are required to make buildings safe, then the Government must ensure that councils and other affected organisations are able to finance such a programme as well as other actions to make buildings safe. My officers are collecting information on the cost of installing sprinklers, recladding and other fire protection measures that would help make existing buildings safer. This is being used to support work to make the case for further support from Government.

I am utilising all the limited powers I have to improve fire safety. My draft London Plan has, for the first time, introduced policy requirements for all new development proposals to achieve the highest standards of fire safety. This means that in London the fire safety of new developments will be properly considered and planned from the outset, and developers will need to be explicit about how the higher standards will be achieved at planning application stage. My draft London Plan also contains the requirement that major development proposals should be submitted with a fire statement and independent fire strategy proposed by a third party suitably qualified assessor. This will provide evidence to show that the higher standards have been met. It requires all development proposals to be designed to incorporate appropriate features that reduce the risk to life in the event of a fire, be construed in an appropriate way to minimise the risk of fire spread, provide suitable access and equipment for firefighting, and to provide suitable and convenient means of escape for all building users by the provision of fire evacuation lifts benefitting many disabled and older people in particular. These requirements apply to all development proposals in London and will ensure that, via the planning system, new developments in London achieve the highest standards of fire safety, going beyond minimum standards, incorporating robust emergency evacuation procedures that Londoners can have confidence in using.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for a very full and very welcome response. I welcome your commitment to additional fire safety measures in the new draft London Plan.



Sticking to the new draft London Plan, you state there is a fire statement requirement for major development proposals. It also mentions installation of sprinklers at an early stage of building design, which is absolutely welcome. Will this be applicable to medium to high-rise residential buildings? This is important, you may want to answer this. Do you think that there may be merit in considering the Welsh example, where there is a compulsory requirement for sprinklers for all residential buildings?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Dealing with your second question first, I do not have powers over existing high-rise buildings. However, all recently built tower blocks, like all new buildings, must meet modern safety standards. These include requirements around fire detection alarm systems and sprinklers, ensuring the compartmentalisation of buildings, providing for escape and access for fire and rescue. I am in favour of any suppression of fire and so it could be mist in a sheltered home for the elderly.

In relation to your medium rise to high-rise residential buildings, my policy requirements in the draft London Plan are for all new development proposals. All new developments should achieve the highest form of fire safety at the outset, which is over and above what is done elsewhere. I will revisit the Welsh example. If it is the case that the Welsh have something that we could pinch, I am all in favour of stealing things well rather than inventing them badly. I will see what they are doing, Navin.

**Navin Shah AM:** I have a couple of further questions. If I may, Mr Mayor, I would like to pursue this outside this MQT with your team.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Of course. Chair, can I suggest that I arrange for Fiona Twycross [Fiona Twycross AM, Chair, LFEPA] to meet with the Assembly Member to discuss the proposals?

**Navin Shah AM:** This is at London Plan level and how the London Plan can help to ensure fire safety.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Chair of LFEPA is feeding into Jules [Jules Pipe CBE, Deputy Mayor of Planning, Regeneration and Skills] and the London Plan, and so we will make sure that happens.

**Navin Shah AM:** Please, thank you very much.

## **2017/5053 - Consultation engagement with the disabled and the elderly**

[Tony Devenish AM](#)

*How did the MOPAC/MPS public access consultation ensure that the views of older people and those with disabilities were heard, and how was this fed into the equality impact assessment?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for this important question. It is important to remember why we are having to make these changes. They are a direct consequence of the Government's cuts to policing and the need to make savings wherever possible that do not cut into officer numbers.

The MPS and MOPAC take their responsibilities under the Equality Act extremely seriously. That is why the consultation published in July 2017 specifically refers to our obligations under section 149 of that Act, namely to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for those with a protected characteristic. MOPAC worked with the MPS to analyse the current use of front counters and other forms of public access by older people and people with disabilities, along with those with other protected characteristics to understand the potential impact of the proposed changes on these groups. Some of this

analysis fed into the draft Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) that was published alongside the consultation document for people to comment on. No draft EIA or formal consultation document was published in 2013 when the former Mayor closed 76 front counters and police stations, more than double those consulted on this year.

During the consultation process submissions were received either online, by post or through the public meetings held in every borough which represented the views of older people and people with disabilities. MOPAC and the MPS wanted to go further than just relying on those groups coming forward. This is why MOPAC worked with other organisations - including Age UK London, the London Older People's Steering Group and Inclusion London which supports over 70 organisations collectively representing 700,000 disabled Londoners - to hold dedicated sessions to discuss the proposals. As decisions were taken this feedback was considered and individual consideration was given to the equality impact of the changes in each borough. This, for example, identified the needs of people with mobility problems in certain communities, which is why MOPAC and the MPS are introducing enhanced community contact sessions for those communities over an hour from the nearest front counter. It also reflected, for example, how the improved MPS website will support deaf Londoners, something MOPAC highlighted in the consultation. The MPS has also been clear in all of its interactions with the public that it will prioritise those most vulnerable Londoners and this is reflected in the strategy. When the final strategy was published it was accompanied by a final EIA that highlights some of the findings of the consultation and considers the impact and mitigation of the changes to older people, those with disabilities and others.

This compares, Chair, favourably to the former Mayor's closure of police stations in 2013 when there was no draft EIA and no formal consultation document. He also received less than a quarter of the number of submissions received time.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Do you have any figures on how many elderly and disabled people took part in the consultation, please?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am sure we do. I can provide those to you offline, if you want me to.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you. There was no actual question on the Equality Impact Statement in the consultation and so how did you get the public feedback on it for these two vital groups in our community, please?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We consulted them, not just via the draft EIA. We hosted a meeting with the Older People's Advisory Group. We also met with them at public meetings and engaged with them.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Are you aware that yesterday most people in this room would have received an email giving us 24 hours' notice the closure programme was going to happen?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am aware that most of the police stations and front counters are closing this week.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Do you think 24 hours' notice, for particularly these two vulnerable groups in our society, is appropriate?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, the consultation began in July [2017]. August to December is five months.

**Tony Devenish AM:** You are aware that the independent Consultation Institute called this the worst consultation of 2017. In retrospect, what more will you do for these two vulnerable groups for another consultation? You will be aware that there are a lot of key consultations, not just with the MPS but also with TfL, coming forward. I have had, and I am sure every other Assembly Member has had, representations from both elderly and disabled people of their concerns about whether this is real consultation or 'lip service' consultation.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do not accept the criticism you have suggested. I have already set out the improvements made between now and 2013; no draft EIA, no public consultation document published, no EIA. Huge progress has been made since 2013 but we can always improve. That is why I am pleased my Deputy Mayor {Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime} met with the group you refer to, to take on board suggestions they had. We have to get this right. Process matters. If there are lessons we can learn, I am always happy to learn them.

**Tony Devenish AM:** There is more to do. Would you reflect on that, please, and write to me because it is such an important point? Without going on to a different subject, we have the Oxford Street consultation where, again, these issues are being raised to me and other Assembly Members. It is how you listen and how you consult. This is not a political party point. This is about real consultation and not what happened in the past in 2013 but what happens in 2018.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will be happy to receive any ideas anybody has as well. We do not pretend we have a monopoly on wisdom on consultation. I know you know that Oxford Street area very well. If there are things we should be doing that we are not, please let us know offline and we will be happy to do them.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you.

## **2017/4900 - Bakerloo line extension - proposed stations**

[Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM](#)

*What consideration have you given to the inclusion of a London Underground station at the Bricklayer's Arms as part of the Bakerloo line extension?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. I know you have a longstanding interest in this. The Bakerloo line extension is absolutely vital to support population and employment growth in south-east London. It will provide quicker and more direct journeys into central London and reduce congestion on the rest of the network, including rail services into London Bridge. In spring 2017 TfL carried out a public consultation to help decide the best locations for the new stations. As part of this a number of residents suggested that a new station at Bricklayer's Arms should be reconsidered, this included Southwark Council which supports a new Tube station at the Bricklayer's Arms. TfL will take that into consideration along with all the consultation responses when reaching a decision.

The Bricklayer's Arms site was initially proposed as a potential location for an emergency access and ventilation shaft. It was not considered a preferred option for a station, not least because it has less land available for construction and is relatively close to the existing Tube stations at Elephant and Castle and Borough. TfL is now reviewing all the consultation responses and carrying out more work on possible station locations, which

includes looking at a possible station at Bricklayer's Arms. TfL will be looking at the benefits of the various options for local residents and wider users of the extension. TfL is also reviewing the shaft's site and requirements as it develops designs for the scheme. An initial response to the issues raised in the consultation, including the potential for a new station at Bricklayer's Arms, is due to be published in early 2018, hopefully January. A further update will be published in summer 2018, following the next stage of design work.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Thank you very much. I welcome the Bakerloo line extension for all the reasons you give. Given there are nine times as many Tube stations north of the river Thames than south it is long overdue that we improve Tube connections in south-east London.

Under the current proposal there is a large distance between the Elephant and Castle and the first Tube station on the Old Kent Road, so much so that, as you said, a ventilation shaft is being proposed at Bricklayer's Arms. Given the gap to the first new station will be around 2 kilometres, do you agree that that large distance between stations is unacceptable?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You are right to remind us of the stations and shafts. The current plan consulted on was four new stations with three shafts along the route. The challenge is that each station potentially costs hundreds of millions of pounds. It is making sure we spend the monies we think we have sensibly, which includes distance time between stations. TfL will respond in early 2018 and hopefully will take on board some of the points made during the consultation process, bearing in mind, obviously, concerns around finances.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** I understand that but there is a huge cost in installing a ventilation shaft so, in some ways, you are part of the way there. Do you think it is right that residents will potentially miss out on a much-needed station but have to put up with a huge ventilation shaft in their community?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is one of the concerns residents have raised. They are contributing towards a Tube line and not directly benefitting because there is no station there. A number of people have made points similar to that. You will be aware the spending envelope we have is £3.6 billion. In out-runs it could get to £4.6 billion. We are keen to make sure we spend within that envelope. I take on board the points you have made, as indeed others have as well.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** There is significant support for this new station from residents, local businesses and cross-party Southwark Councillors. I am not sure if you are aware, some of these arguments you are stating today were used in the past when the Jubilee line extension was proposed. People did not want a station in Bermondsey and Southwark but look at what a success they have been and they have helped those areas. I would like a firm assurance from you that TfL is fully investigating the proposal to have a Bricklayer's Arms Tube station and to look at how it can be delivered.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I can reassure you that the consultation is meaningful. They are considering that. As part of the responses we received there was a strong case for that. However, I want to be quite candid and explain that additional stations on Old Kent Road do cost a lot of money. The feeling I have been given is that it could add hundreds of millions of pounds of additional cost to the extension. In the context of the cost, of course we are taking on board your points that are well made.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Lovely, thank you. Finally, I am looking at another proposed station, the current second Old Kent Road station. Will you look at the merits of ensuring there is a proper interchange at this location with the London Overground line that crosses nearby?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Now that you have mentioned it I will check that is happening. A note has been taken, I am sure, and I will chase that up.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** OK, thank you very much. As I have time left - goodness me, this is unusual - I want to ask whether you are aware of the gap between stations on other parts of the Tube network. Marble Arch to Bond Street it is 0.55 kilometres and Holland Park to Shepherd's Bush is 0.87 kilometres. The idea you would have a 2-kilometre gap between the Elephant and Castle and the first station on this extension is really out of kilter with the rest of the network. Will you consider that as part of your considerations on whether we can have a station at the Bricklayer's Arms?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** TfL proposed two options for the location of Old Kent Road Station 1. Southwark, as I understand it, prefer the Tesco Superstore site. TfL has proposed two for Old Kent Road Station, option 2, and Southwark prefer the Toys R Us location. You will appreciate that when you change the plans for a station to go from one place to another it has a knock-on impact on what the distance to the next station is. We have to make sure, for example, that if TfL was to come back with an option of Bricklayer's Arms what knock-on impact that would have. The points you made are points well made. It is an extension. It is a lot of money. We want to make sure we use the money sensibly. We will kick ourselves, like you said, if we had a situation like the Jubilee line where campaigning led to a station going where it otherwise would not have had and we could have a station here but we did not. There is precedent where Woolwich now has a Crossrail station because of lobbying in previous years. I take on board your points that are well made. Bearing in mind the extension is due to be delivered by 2028/29, there is time to get this right. I will make sure I relay to TfL the points you have made.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Lovely, thank you very much for your commitment today.

## **2017/5227 - Poverty in London**

[Fiona Twycross AM](#)

*The festive period can be particularly difficult for those living in poverty. What are you doing to mitigate the impact of Government welfare policies on Londoners?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. I agree that this time of year can be very difficult for those not only living in poverty but also for the elderly and other vulnerable people. Theresa May [The Rt Honourable Theresa May, Prime Minister] came into power promising to tackle injustice, improve social mobility and improve the lives of the poor. However, as the recent resignation of the entire Social Mobility Commission demonstrates, her Government's focus has been catastrophically diverted from this commitment. This is not good enough for London or for the people of this country. I am doing what I can to force the Government to maintain its focus on vital issues such as the scale of poverty across the country, and in London in particular. We know the disproportionate effect that the welfare reforms introduced in 2010 have had on London, be it the 15,500 households that had their income slashed by the benefit cap, the 2,500 tenants who are already at the risk of eviction having moved on to Universal Credit, or simply the 1 million-plus London households that have seen their incomes fail to keep track with the cost of living. The recent London Poverty Profile highlighted the alarming rise in the number of London households experiencing deep poverty.

The powers and resources I have as Mayor in this area are limited but I have lobbied Ministers to acknowledge and act upon the effect these policies are having in London. Most recently I have written to the Secretary of

State for Work and Pensions to highlight the effect that the rollout of Universal Credit is having in London and the inadequacy of the measures announced in the Budget. My draft Housing Strategy calls on the Government to reconsider the inadequate levels of financial support for private renters on low and middle income through the benefit system which is fuelling homelessness. I have secured £4.2 million for rough sleeping, including Social Impact Bonds to provide intensive support to the 350 most entrenched rough sleepers this winter. I will be running a campaign this winter to highlight the support available to rough sleepers and to encourage Londoners to help. I will be working with boroughs to understand the effect that the rollout of Universal Credit is having on low-income families in London. I am also taking action to address the root causes of poverty in London by promoting the London Living Wage, my new Good Work Standard, increasing the provision of genuinely affordable homes, freezing TfL fares and continuing my Hopper fare. My Fuel Poverty Action Plan will also deliver heating and insulation measures, as well as supporting existing local fuel poverty support schemes to help more Londoners who are struggling with their energy bills.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you, and thank you for writing to the Secretary of State. That is an issue you mentioned a couple of MQTs ago and so I appreciate that.

It is 75 years since publication of the Beveridge Report. One of the things that runs through the report is the notion - almost Beveridge's mantra - of the abolition of want. Yet 75 years later, although poverty might manifest itself in a slightly different way, there are still quite extreme levels of poverty that some people in London are experiencing. How long do you think it will be before we can see the abolition of want in London?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** There is no one agency or one Government branch that can solve this by itself. The bad news is that there is no prospect of central Government having the solutions to address the issue of want. I have an announcement tomorrow that will take some steps towards stymieing the increase in rough sleeping. We have plateaued it over the last 12 months. Over the last eight years it was doubling. By itself that is not enough though. Charities are working their socks off. Eighteen charities are working with me on the announcement tomorrow. Councils are working really hard. However, without a central Government change of policy I cannot see a radical departure from where we are. Ultimately it will need a change of government and for that government to have time to turn things around.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. Foodbanks, as you know, have raised concerns that they will run out of food this Christmas because the demand is likely to be so great because of the impact of some of the benefit changes, particularly the rollout of Universal Credit. What can be done, and what can you do, to help foodbanks ensure they have enough food in support this Christmas?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** All of us in this Assembly have social media outlets we can use to encourage the public to donate more. More than 90% of food that goes to foodbanks comes from the public. All of us, ourselves, should think about donating and use social media outlets to encourage people to donate to their local foodbank. The Trussell Trust does some remarkably good work around this. There are other organisations that are now helping. The Felix Project we know about from the *Evening Standard*. FareShare as well are doing good work here. All of us can do things to help. The London Food Strategy from next year will be announcing plans to help in this area as well. The bad news is that there is increased demand on foodbanks for the reasons you have outlined. They are using up the stocks they have. All of us can help them backfill their stocks by donating to foodbanks.

## 2017/5064 - Knife crime

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

*I congratulate the Mayor on the 'London Needs You Alive' Campaign. However, the figures of murdered teenagers in London are already double last year. The victims and perpetrators are overwhelming from BAME backgrounds. How is the Mayor specifically targeting this over represented group?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Every death on the streets of London is an utter tragedy. I am deeply concerned about the rise in knife crime. It is worrying to note that knife crime has been increasing in London every year since 2014 and is also increasing nationwide. We must look to address this across the country.

Our Knife Crime Strategy and public engagement campaign recognises and responds to the disproportionality that you are referring to. We know that in London 77% of victims of knife crime are male and frequently aged less than 25 years of age. We also know that almost half of all the victims of knife crime are from BAME backgrounds. 90% of offenders are male and of these 62% were from BAME backgrounds. There have been 80 knife-related homicides between 1 January and 26 November this year. Fifty of the victims were from a BAME background. Those figures should shock us all.

Our Knife Crime Strategy has been structured to provide targeted responses and interventions to support our most affected young people, locations and communities, including the prioritisation of boroughs for additional support and seed funding. The police have regular operations targeting high knife crime areas to deter, prevent and detect crime using all the powers at their disposal, albeit with limited resources due to Government cuts. I am supporting the delivery of community-led solutions and delivery of interventions at critical points to offer real opportunities to exit offending behaviour as well as coming down hard on those who habitually carry knives. Our Knife Crime Strategy commits to enabling and empowering communities who are most affected by knife crime through a number of interventions, which includes a £225,000 seed fund to work with young people within our priority knife crime boroughs.

The London Needs You Alive knife crime campaign is a targeted campaign aimed at young people, communities and locations where knife crime is most prevalent. It is supported by influencers who we know have a large following from our young people who are most likely to be affected by knife crime. The campaign is also being supported by an anti-knife crime toolkit that provides prevention materials for all schools and community groups. This will be available early next year. This campaign is just one small element of our response to knife crime. I already fund a number of additional innovative programmes aimed at preventing and dealing with knife crime, including a £2 million gang prevention programme, a three-year youth intervention service in London's four major trauma centres, and £1.5 million of funding is also allocated to the London Gang Exit Programme to provide support to 300 gang members and those exploited by gangs. We must not, and we will not, give up on our valuable young people.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** Thank you for that, Mayor, and thank you for reminding us of what is in the Knife Crime Strategy. I acknowledge that it was launched in June 2017 so I am not going to ask questions about that.

I want to look at the whole issue relating to the fact that the victims and perpetrators are overwhelmingly from BAME backgrounds. That is something we must speak out about. Looking at the rest of the UK demographic victims' profile I would say it is reasonable to argue that the difference cannot be explained away by socioeconomic class, which tends to go with BAME populations. You could argue that there are plenty of working class white young men in London who are not being stabbed to death at anything like the rate of their

black peers. Would you agree with me that alongside all the work you are doing - and I know we are always asking for more - that maybe there is a piece of academic work or a piece of commissioning work that you need to do so we can understand what is driving the disproportionality and how we can stop it? Will you consider that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. May I give you some news that you may know but will hopefully welcome? The London Crime Prevention Panel will be meeting in January to discuss, under the Justice Matters Open Session, the issue of disproportionality. Sophie Linden [Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime] and Matthew Ryder [QC, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement] will chair that session. The bad news is that as far as victims of crime, as far as the stuff that David Lammy [The Rt Hon David Lammy MP for Tottenham] covered in his report and as far as vulnerability, there are too many Londoners from BAME backgrounds who are affected by this. Therefore, part of what we have to do is to look at the research. It is complicated. It is not as simplistic as some people would lead us to believe. You are right to warn me of falling into the 'elephant trap' of thinking there are simple explanations for this. It is not simple, it is complicated.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** I would certainly like to know more about that event and, if possible, attend. I know that there is cross-party agreement on this. There is no difference and not any space between us and you on this one.

I am looking to see if I have time because I wanted to talk about young people of primary age. At a recent hearing of the Home Affairs Select Committee the Commissioner of the MPS, Cressida Dick QPM said, "I think there is a need to do more preventative work in schools with younger people". Remind me, are you committed to ensuring that we go to primary schools? For so many of these issues that are impacting on the older age group we are not dealing with the primary school age.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me tell you a story a School Safety Officer told me, Chair. He went to a primary school and he asked year 6 pupils how many of them knew someone who carried a knife.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** They all said yes.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The number of hands that went up will shock some people. These are primary school children. You are right, this prevention work is important. I must also point out to you that the Commissioner went on to say, during the Home Affairs Select Committee session, that if the cuts carry on her ability to do prevention work is reduced. That is why you cannot disaggregate the link between resources, prevention work and keeping Londoners and others safe as well.

Young people at an early stage need to understand that if you carry a knife you are less likely to be safe, more likely to be in danger, you are not cool, you do not earn respect and it is a foolish thing to do. It needs parents, carers, big brothers and big sisters, teachers, faith leaders, police officers, politicians, those involved in the music industry and those involved in social media to all play a role in making sure we stop young people carrying knives.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM:** Thank you. It is a subject I will keep coming back about, not to be in conflict with anybody about it but so that we keep it at the top of the agenda in terms of what is happening in our city. Thank you.



**Peter Whittle AM:** Carrying on from Assembly Member Arnold, I am not talking about the various initiatives you spoke about earlier, but what are the components of the London Needs You Alive campaign?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a public engagement campaign. I am hoping none of you have seen it because you are the wrong demographic it is targeted at. Something has gone wrong if you are receiving the videos and stuff. The idea is that it is part of a package of prevention measures for stopping young people carrying knives, to make them realise they have huge potential and are wasting it by carrying a knife. It is micro-targeted at those on Snapchat and those who are on certain types of Twitter. That age group does not use Facebook either. The influencers that are being used in the public engagement programme are influencers we may not have heard of but young people have. It is part of a package of measures for School Safety Officers and teachers. The toolkit we are talking about is in relation to a model class lesson on how to encourage young people not to carry a knife and also, if they know somebody carrying a knife, to discourage them from carrying a knife as well. This peer-to-peer stuff is quite important.

**Peter Whittle AM:** It has practical components to it as well.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Correct. We have worked with experts to bring up a toolkit that teachers can use in a classroom. Obviously, most teachers do not have the skillset and are not sure what to say to young people, and so it is a toolkit they can use.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Can I ask you? Have you communicated with the various churches around London? Will they be part of this? They do a lot of pastoral work in these sorts of areas.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. Civic leaders and faith communities all have a role to play. The phrase I have used a number of times is it takes a village to raise a child. The faith community has a role to play. The family has a role to play. The school has a role to play. Assembly Member Arnold was right that if we catch them young that is half the battle done.

**Peter Whittle AM:** I am making hay while the sun shines as I have 12 minutes today. You say start young, which is very important. I am talking very broadly here but it is terribly important the mostly young men are not in some way portrayed as victims. Masculinity is very important to them at that stage, a sense of honour and all of these things. That has to be highlighted. I am very pleased it says London Needs You. It is going in the right direction. That is the most important thing, not in some way to see them as a group that somehow or other has to be helped out of a situation, in other words to really work to their sense of self-respect or what have you. This is crucial.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If you have had a chance to see the short film, these are not actors but real, genuine young Londoners involved in the film. What was great was that a lot of the ideas came from them. I think part of that was the issue of respect. Do not talk down to them, which we tend to do because that is our experience with nephews, nieces and children. We have been led to believe that is more effective in relation to changing attitudes and is really important.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you very much.

## 2017/5057 - Public land

Tony Devenish AM

*Does the Mayor have a full understanding of public sector landholdings in London, including surplus land?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As we know, the London Land Commission published a public land register in 2015. However, there were a number of problems with the register. It included, for instance, 10 Downing Street as a brownfield site. This is why since last year my officers have been working to improve the register by adding outlines of sites rather than simple dots on a map, including thousands more additional sites and beginning to remove those sites from the London Land Commission Register that will never be developed, such as the British Museum, Regent's Park and the National Gallery. Such improvements will make it a lot more usable and easier to identify adjacent sites. The register, in this new format, will go live in the New Year. This will strengthen our understanding of public sector landholdings and also will be accessible through the London website to anyone who wants this information.

Beyond identifying public sector landholdings, we need to identify programmes of land to release for housing. Since last year I have also ensured the GLA is working with public sector landowners regularly and directly to identify which sites are, or can be made, surplus. Clearly a lot of potential development opportunities can only be realised following detailed feasibility work and decisions about the future operation of a public service.

I understand you have some experience in this area, Assembly Member Devenish, and so I am happy for you to meet with my team if you have any ideas on how to make further improvements in this area.

**Tony Devenish AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. You said in the New Year: when will it be published, please?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I would be disappointed if it was not in January but feel free to speak to me offline to get a specific date. I want it sooner rather than later.

## 2017/5088 - Building Council Homes

Tom Copley AM

*What effect will the Chancellor's announcement lifting the HRA borrowing cap "in high demand areas" have on London's housing market?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you. The new draft London Plan sets out how we need to build 65,000 new homes in London each year. This is roughly double what has been delivered in recent years. To boost housing supply to this degree we will need far greater investment and far stronger powers in London. At the heart of this we will need a step change in the number of homes built by councils. As we all know, despite great ambition from many councils, national restrictions on what they can do has left recent delivery pale in comparison with London's long and proud history of municipal house building. In 1970 alone, councils delivered over 27,000 homes. In the two decades to 1980 they built nearly two-thirds of all new homes in London. Together the London government built the mixed communities that are still essential to our economic and social success today. This was abruptly ended by Government in the 1980s.

Although reforms in recent years to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) system have given councils some greater freedoms to build again, meaning 1,800 homes have been built in London over the last six years from a standing start, councils have remained severely constrained by arbitrary national borrowing caps. Almost everyone agrees these caps should be scrapped. When I heard the Prime Minister's speech to a party

conference in October I hoped we might finally see this happen. Unfortunately, in the Autumn Budget the Chancellor failed to do so. Rather than freeing councils from arbitrary borrowing limits, councils in “high-demand areas” will have to go to the Government for a slice of limited new allowances to invest in new housing. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) itself has recognised that this bureaucratic approach would put councils off and is forecasting that 20% of the earmarked money will be left unspent. On top of this, the Budget failed to announce an extra penny of Government grant for affordable housing, leaving current spending less than a fifth of what we really need. Londoners need Government to do much better than this. Alongside the lifting of caps on council borrowing they must provide significantly greater investment in affordable housing and infrastructure, and give City Hall and councils powers to bring forward land so we can unlock a new generation of council house building and build a city that works for all Londoners.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I agree with you that the Budget was a missed opportunity to do something about this, particularly given the wide consensus that you mention. We have written to the Chancellor asking that the cap is removed for all London boroughs. It is absurd to suggest that any borough in London should prove they are a high-demand area for housing, it is self-evident.

Can you tell us what conversations or communication you have had with the Treasury about this since the very poor announcement?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Ahead of the Budget I wrote, with 20 London councils, to lobby the Chancellor on the grounds you know about. Since the Budget my team has been engaging with Treasury civil servants explaining the serious concerns about the cap. You are right, the whole of London is covered by the definition. The coalition Government made a not dissimilar announcement, but the red tape led to not many councils utilising that. The OBR itself says there will be a 20% underspend. We are therefore lobbying the Government to free up the bureaucracy. Of course, as and when there are any developments I will let the Assembly know.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you. A report by the National Federation of ALMOs back in 2012 found that removing the HRA borrowing cap nationally for all councils would free up an additional £4.2 billion for new homes. Are you aware of any work that would determine how much extra investment would be raised if the HRA borrowing cap was lifted in London across the 29 stock owning authorities that we have?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** London Councils did some work a few years ago in this area. That was before the new rent settlement. We are speaking to London Councils about them doing new work to build on the National Federation of ALMOs work you talked about. Obviously, the old work that London Councils did is now outdated. With the new work done we are hoping to persuade the Treasury it will make sense.

**Tom Copley AM:** Good, that is very welcome. Finally, the £1 billion, which is all this is, that the Government is putting towards partially lifting the borrowing cap is very much in stark contrast to the £10 billion they are spending pumping up house prices with Help to Buy. Do you agree they have things the wrong way around? If you were Chancellor would you do it the other way, and put £10 billion into social housing and less into Help to Buy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** They have to deal with the supply-side. They have it wrong in relation to trying to tweak the demand-side which leads to inflation in relation to homes that are being sold. By the way, you mentioned £1 billion. The OBR says 20% of that will not be used up because of the red tape and the bureaucracy. Absolutely, they have it the wrong way around. What a good Chancellor would be doing is investing hugely in not simply affordable housing in London but also freeing up councils who want to borrow

prudentially and lift the HRA cap so that they can do that. They have their arms tied behind their backs. They want to do it. Even things like allowing councils to swap the cap and the ceiling so Council A can use the difference Council B has. There are simple things the Government could do that would not cost much money and would help the plight of London's homeless who need affordable housing.

## **2017/5292 - The London Ambulance Service**

[Peter Whittle AM](#)

*Will you make representations to the Government regarding making the London Ambulance Service [LAS] democratically accountable - in much the same way as the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade are already?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for that question. Can I begin by expressing my admiration and support for the paramedics and other staff in the LAS who work tirelessly for Londoners, especially at this time of year when they can find themselves extremely stretched? The LAS is accountable to the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for providing a comprehensive health service. I have a regular meeting with the Executive of the ambulance service to seek assurances that Londoners will receive the high-quality and timely services they need and deserve.

If you are asking whether the LAS should become a functional body of the GLA Group, I am not sure I support this idea. My understanding is neither does the LAS. The ambulance service is part of the National Health Service (NHS). It is a provider of health services and also needs to maintain vital relationships and levers of influence within the NHS in order to improve patient handover times in acute trusts and develop alternative non-emergency care services. All that being said, it is critically important that the LAS works closely with London's other emergency services. There already are many shared initiatives that currently exist between the LAS, the fire brigade and the MPS. These include a joint response unit between the LAS and the MPS in 12 boroughs where demand is very high, a dedicated team in the LAS call centre to handle police calls, a new mobile communication system for 'blue light' services in development and co-responding between the LAS and the police in all London boroughs. The 'blue light' services are also exploring closer collaboration on prevention and response activities, control rooms, back office and support functions, estate information, communication technology and an air quality measure for fleets. Of course, all 'blue light' services are represented at the London Resilience Forum, which enables those involved in emergency preparation and response to collaborate on planning and preparation for emergencies.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I take it from that you are not keen on the idea of it being brought here, as it were? It seems to me it is bit of an anomaly really. We have the police and the fire brigade under scrutiny here. The LAS seems to lack scrutiny. There is a democratic deficit there somewhere.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not ruling out. My concern is the fragmentation and lack of 'joined-upness' with the NHS. None of us wants the NHS to become fragmented. Also, if you think about it, if we did that we would be dealing with people taking patients from home to accident and emergency departments (A&Es). The LAS does much more than that. I am not sure that would resolve the challenges there are because, if you like, the LAS deals with the symptoms of problems in the NHS. I am not sure if it addresses the mischief you are trying to address, which is a better LAS, more accountability, a better service for Londoners and patients in general.

**Peter Whittle AM:** I was thinking that, obviously, with the increasing risks to London we have seen this year it would seem to make sense, if you like, to regularise it with us. If that is not something you want to do that

is a great pity. We have talked about this in the Assembly before. James Cleverly [MP, former Assembly Member] did a report for the Conservatives about it but there was no recommendation made.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Whittle, you will not be able to have an answer to this question because you are out of time, sadly.

**Peter Whittle AM:** I had a good old go today.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** We have Assembly Member Gavron, who has withdrawn her question on the London Plan.

### **2017/5066 - Autumn Budget: Diesel**

[Leonie Cooper AM](#)

*Does the Mayor think that the Government has done enough in the autumn budget to tackle the impact diesel cars are having on London's air quality?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Government's Autumn Budget did not announce any help for Londoners to clean up our toxic air. The Budget made some very minor changes to vehicle excise duty (VED) and company car tax to discourage the purchase of more polluting vehicles, and provided some further funding for air quality from the revenues of those tax changes.

However, we asked for a vehicle scrappage fund to help low-income residents, charities and businesses to have the lowest emission vehicles possible or switch to clean alternatives to meet new emission standards being introduced across the country. The Government failed to meet this request. Instead the Government committed only £220 million for a national Clean Air Fund to support mitigation measures, and approximately £255 million to help cities implement clean air zones like the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). Remarkably, London will not be able to access any of this funding. Instead TfL is expected to shoulder the cost of implementing the ULEZ with no support from Government. As a reminder, TfL will now receive no Government subsidy and so air quality improvements are being paid for by public transport farepayers, putting pressure on investment in other infrastructure Londoners need. The Government is happily banking these efforts without contributing towards them. Nor are they providing us with the additional powers or complementary national action we have repeatedly requested.

Most concerning of all, we now have a situation where Londoners not only have the highest pollution levels in the UK but, unlike residents of other cities, will receive no help from their Government. This is despite Londoners contributing to the new Clean Air Fund through higher VED on sales of new diesel cars in London. This is unfair, unjust and unacceptable. With roughly 40% of the UK's roads that exceed legal limits being located in London it would be reasonable to expect London to receive a share of any national funding available proportionate to the scale of the air quality challenge this city faces. This would equate to nearly £200 million in extra funding for London. I call on all Members of the Assembly to stand up for London and to make the case to the Government and help me secure this additional funding for Londoners.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Mr Mayor, not surprisingly, I think you are as disappointed as I am that the Government did not take this opportunity to try to support the work you have been doing in London to try to improve and clean up London's dirty and filthy toxic air. Do you think it is also fair on the boroughs across London that they are being expected to take on the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at a time when the Government has also been imposing austerity cuts on their budgets? What more can we do to support them?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I commend the local authorities across London who are facing tough cuts imposed upon by them by central Government but who are trying to do the right thing in relation to air quality in these difficult times? We have secured funding for helping local authorities, £5.2 million for residential and £2.3 million for car clubs. Twenty-five boroughs have now secured funding from this pot. You will see some installations beginning very shortly, which is really important, across London. We have also seconded an officer to London Councils to help them in relation to this.

There is a Bill going through Parliament which I know you are well aware of, the Autonomous Electric Vehicles Bill. What we are saying to the Government is it could help councils fast track planning by giving permitted development rights for the rapid charging points. It would speed things up. We are also helping councils in relation to the installation of rapid charging points by parking spaces. There are things the Government can do aside from more resources.

I am not going to criticise local authorities faced with tough decisions because of cuts made upon them by central Government. Many Londoners will not realise but we are one of the most centralised democracies in the Western world. Local authorities get most of their money from central Government. They are trying to do the right thing in these tough times.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Yes. For all the song and dance people make about council tax, it does only cover about 5% of local authority services.

Given the increase in commercial vehicles on London's roads are you concerned that the Government is not targeting those vehicles that are the main polluters, which are causing much of our poor air quality and also elsewhere in the country as well?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I will give you an idea of the scale. 13% of the nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the air comes from vans and 20% comes from heavy goods vehicles (HGVs). What I am saying to the Government is you have to help these vans and HGVs move away from the polluting stuff. The vehicle scrappage scheme is a way of helping charities and van and HGV drivers move away from diesel to clean forms of vans and HGVs. By the way, good news: the Euro VI HGVs are very clean. The latest Euro VI standard is showing 80% to 90% NOx reductions in older vehicles when tested in real-world conditions. The Government could help in relation to rapid charging points for the commercial fleet. Electric vehicles are pioneering the new technology, but we need rapid charging from the Government to help.

I am not in favour of punishing HGV drivers, punishing van drivers or punishing charities. Many of them were encouraged to buy diesel many years ago because we were trying to move them away from petrol carbon emissions to diesel, which has less carbon emissions. We now know diesel causes particulate matter problems through nitrogen dioxide. The Government has to help them with a vehicle scrappage scheme. The irony is London diesel drivers are paying higher road taxes towards a scheme we cannot benefit from.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** I suppose there is no news at all about any kind of Clean Air Act in the additional powers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Secretary of State in this department, Michael Gove MP, has been posing in the media for the good work he is doing around animal welfare and I commend him for the work he is doing around animal welfare. It would be great if Michael Gove MP did some work around clean air as well, not simply to respond to a legal challenge but because we can be the generation of politicians who pass the

Clean Air Act for the 21st century, walking behind those who passed the Clean Air Act in 1956 that cleaned up the air in London, the Great Smog. We can be a generation that cleans up the air in London as well.

My plea to Michael Gove and the current Government is to seize this and pass a Clean Air Act because with the best will in the world, all the stuff we are doing – more than any city in the world – will only deal with about half of the pollution caused by transport. What about housing? What about the River Thames? What about construction? What about making sure we have a replacement for when we leave the EU? Who is going to be in charge of enforcement? Who is going to be in charge of compliance? Who is going to be in charge of monitoring? There is justification for a new Clean Air Act. I just hope Michael Gove MP will seize the initiative.

## **2017/5226 - Industrial Strategy**

[Fiona Twycross AM](#)

*Does the Government's Industrial Strategy satisfactorily address the challenges that London's economy is currently facing?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for the question. I support the UK Government's overall approach to the Industrial Strategy and look forward to producing London's own Industrial Strategy and to working with cities across the UK to support key growth sectors and maximise economic opportunity across the country. London, however, faces longstanding changes around inequality that are not fully addressed in the Industrial Strategy White Paper, in addition to huge challenges post-Brexit. Further devolution of powers and funding are a requisite if London is to continue its significant contribution to UK growth. London has specific infrastructure challenges that will need addressing, such as ensuring access to charging points for electric vehicles, which we have just talked about.

As London grows, so does the rest of the country. Diverting resources for vital infrastructure from the capital will undermine London's international competitiveness. My fear is that investors will look to other global cities. The loss of this investment will damage the national economy. There can be no doubt about that. The anti-London stance from the Government is reflected in the budget, which clearly fails to deliver the funds the capital desperately needs to fix the housing crisis, keep Londoners safe, tackle toxic air pollution and invest in infrastructure.

My approach to the Industrial Strategy is set out in my draft Economic Development Strategy, which was published yesterday. London needs further devolution in order to support innovation and business growth across London's key growth sectors and help Londoners to access those opportunities.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. Do you think the Government is entirely ignoring Brexit or have they taken it into account while they have been developing the Strategy?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The behaviour of David Davis MP [Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union] over the last few weeks is the best answer to your question. On the one hand, you would expect a Government to carry out, or have carried out for them, impact assessments of the various scenarios in relation to the outcomes of discussions with the EU. Are we going to leave the EU but be in the single market? Are we going to leave the EU but be in the single market and customs union? Are we going to leave the EU and be in neither? David Davis MP gave the impression the Government had undertaken various impact assessments in the various sectors that are responsible for jobs and growth in our country. It now transpires that no assessments were carried out by the Government.

What I have done as a consequence is to ask independent experts, Cambridge Econometrics, to carry out impact assessments in the nine different sectors that create the most jobs in London, including finance, construction, hospitality and care. I have asked them to let me know the impact of the various possibilities with negotiations with the EU. They hope to respond in January, and do you know what I am going to do? I am going to publish them.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Fabulous. Thank you.

## **2017/5087 - TfL Business Plan**

[Tom Copley AM](#)

*How will your latest TfL Business Plan improve transport in the capital?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for your question. The TfL Business Plan delivers on my priorities for London. It sets out a bold agenda for delivering on the aims of my Transport Strategy over the next five years, improving the health and quality of life of all Londoners and providing an easy-to-use, affordable and accessible public transport system. It shows how TfL will deliver my pledge to prioritise people, their health and their experience of being in London in everything we do.

The Plan contains significant investment in streets, making them more pleasant places and improving the quality of London's air. We will be investing a record £2.2 billion in street schemes and initiatives, including major schemes like Old Street Roundabout, Highbury Corner and of course the transformation of Oxford Street.

We will be opening the Elizabeth line in 2018, adding 10% capacity to the rail network. Tube upgrades will provide 33% more capacity on the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines. We will complete the extension of the Overground to Barking Riverside and begin work on our deep Tube programme to upgrade the Piccadilly line. In the next five years we will complete major station upgrades in Victoria and Bank, two of the busiest and most crowded stations on the Tube, and at Bond Street, and begin work at Camden Town and Holborn stations. I am committed to making London's transport more accessible and this plan includes record levels of investment in step-free access. By 2022, at least 30 more stations will be fully step-free. This is in addition to the Elizabeth line, which will also be step-free when it opens fully in 2019.

My Hopper fare has been hugely successful in its first year and I have pushed TfL so that from early next year customers will be able to make unlimited bus or tram transfers within the hour. I have achieved this all while keeping my commitment to freeze TfL fares and protect travel concessions so that travel stays affordable for all Londoners. This is in stark contrast to the previous Mayor and the Government, which continues to hike up national rail fares. We have worked hard to develop a plan that maintains investment despite the removal of Government funding. My fares freeze is helping to keep passenger numbers up, protecting TfL revenues from the significant fall in usage that has been reported on the national rail network.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. There is much to welcome in there, but I want to raise the matter of the bus network with you. Last year's Business Plan showed that you were aiming to have a bus service volume of 497 million kilometres for every year of the Plan, but your new business plan shows you plan to cut this provision of bus services by 10%. How will you ensure there is not a deterioration of the bus service given such a dramatic reduction in bus mileage?



**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What we are doing is we are reconfiguring the buses from the central to the outer. If you look at central London, part of the work that Dr. Will Norman [Walking and Cycling Commissioner] is doing is encouraging more people to walk and cycle. TfL is doing something that a private business would never do, which is that we are losing revenue by encouraging people to walk and cycle. It could be argued that the more people who use public transport the more revenue we gain, but we realise that for a healthy city, the more people who walk and cycle the better. In central London, more walking and cycling, Healthy Streets, Oxford Street pedestrianisation and the Elizabeth line will lead to people coming to Oxford Street and that part of London using that rather than buses.

We are moving the bus network more to outer London and the suburbs where there will be additional housing in relation to meeting the needs of Londoners. What we are doing is changing bus routes based on the needs of Londoners. The final piece of the jigsaw is that from early next year, there will be unlimited bus travel within an hour. People can jump on and jump off. Some of the routes we currently have in central London, we hope people will not need.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I still want you to press you on the issue of the 10% cut. It is right that you have highlighted the fact that you are trying to move bus services out of central London, but can you satisfy residents in outer London with a 10% cut in bus mileage?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The 10% is across greater London. By the end of the five-year business plan, there will be an increase of 1% in bus kilometres in the whole of London. People in outer London will see more buses and more routes in outer London. You will see a reduction of bus services in central London. Already in Oxford Street we have had a huge reduction in buses: 40% fewer.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Cooper.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much, Chair. There have been great improvements in Putney High Street since the cleaner buses started in March and there was the most recent launch this week of the cleaner bus routes through Brixton. Even when we see the fully expanded, beefed-up ULEZ coming in, there are still going to be some hot spots beyond that central area. I just wondered if you could tell us a little bit more about how we are planning to deal with hot spots, Tooting Broadway being one and Heathrow being another, as well as some in Kingston, Croydon town centre and so on. Give us some idea because obviously there is still dirty air even outside of that expanded ULEZ.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. The 12 ultra-low emission bus services I announced are not the sum of the work we are doing to clean up the air. We chose the 12 ultra-low emission bus zones because they were outside central London, because they had the worst air and because our buses were contributing to the bad air. In less than six months in Putney we have seen, as a consequence of that being the first low emission bus zone, a 90% reduction in hourly breaches and the amount of NOx reduced by 40%. I was very pleased this week, although it was freezing, to be in Brixton for the launch of the second low emission bus zone. Do not forget it is not simply the areas in which the buses operate that get the benefits. These buses go outside those areas as well. They will receive the benefits of the ultra-low emission bus zone.

The ULEZ comes to central London in 2019. All the buses in the ULEZ area will be Euro VI compliant, cleaner buses. They also go outside of central London. Subject to consultation, in 2020 all of London will be covered

by ULEZ for buses, coaches and lorries. That will lead to a big improvement in air. There are a number of measures - low emission neighbourhoods, low emission bus zones - to clean up the air in the neighbourhoods you referred to. That includes Healthy Streets, which Dr. Will Norman [Walking and Cycling Commissioner] and Valerie Shawcross [CBE, Deputy Mayor for Transport] are working on. A lot of the Healthy Streets work is outside of central London to encourage a cleaner environment in those parts of London you referred to.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. Perhaps I could write to you about some of the detail of how that fits together because people are contacting me - with my Environment Committee hat on - and I am very keen to know more. Thank you for your time.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Sure. Of course.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Eshalomi.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Just on the Business Plan, Mr Mayor, I am sure you will be aware of Monday's tragic accident on the South Circular, near the Tulse Hill gyratory, where a young woman lost her life. Four vehicles, two cars and two trucks, ran over her and no one stopped. In the last business plan your predecessor did look at this and my predecessor, Valerie Shawcross CBE, is also looking at the Tulse Hill gyratory. In that Business Plan your predecessor did state that the Tulse Hill gyratory would be excluded in the ten-year Business Plan, which is currently scheduled for delivery in 2020/21. Following Monday's tragic accident and an accident earlier this year in February, can you update me on when this scheme will be delivered? Is it still going to be delivered by 2020/21?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** First, I know your thoughts, but all of our thoughts are with the poor woman who lost her life as a consequence in the accident in Tulse Hill earlier this week.

The current plan is as you say but I am very happy for you to meet with Valerie [Shawcross CBE, Deputy Mayor for Transport] to see if we can accelerate that. Although the Vision Zero work we are doing will lead to huge improvements going forward, it is clear to me from the reports I have read that this is a hot spot that needs addressing. Chair, could I, through you, undertake to arrange for the Deputy Mayor for Transport to meet with the Assembly Member to discuss this particular case and see if we can expedite matters?

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

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Thank you.

## **2017/5146 - Acid Attacks and Preventative Policing**

[Unmesh Desai AM](#)

*How successful has the rollout of 'acid testing kits' for officers in East London been in preventing acid attacks?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me be clear. Acid attacks are a truly horrendous crime, one that gives victims a life sentence of trying to recover from the mental and physical damage that has been inflicted on them and one that has no place on the streets of our city. The initial response to an acid attack can be vital in minimising the harm caused to the victim and the MPS have therefore rolled out acid attack response kits to over 1,000 police cars and key patrol points across London. More recently, they have also supplied these kits to security industry authority staff working at Christmas markets across the city. The kits include large bottles

of water, gauntlets and goggles that enable respondents to safely administer initial treatments to victims in the aftermath of an attack. The MPS and National Health Service (NHS) have also set out a three-step model to inform the public of what to do in the event of an acid attack: remove contaminated clothing carefully, rinse skin immediately with running water, and report the attack by dialling 999.

The acid testing kits that you refer to in your question are different. They were trialled in east London and consisted of litmus paper and colour charts, with the aim of proactively deterring potential offenders. However, they were not as effective as the MPS would have hoped, with inaccuracies in some results, and as a consequence they are not being rolled out more widely. Preventing attacks using corrosive substances and improving the response are priorities for the police and I offer my full support to them in dealing with these horrendous crimes.

I am pleased that the Government listened to our calls and those of Assembly Members to strengthen current legislation and policies on this. I am also pleased to see the Government has responded by releasing a proposal to ban the sale of acids to anyone under the age of 18 years. It is vital that those measures move forward and are enshrined in law. I should be clear that acid attacks represent a small but extremely concerning proportion of offences in London.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. As you mentioned, the ban on the sale of acid to under-18s is something we welcome but there is something that does concern me, and that is that they are ignoring online sales, just like with the sale of knives. Would you agree that in order to be more effective, the legislation relating to acid should also stipulate that acid bought online must be picked up in person at a local store that can then carry on identification (ID) and age checks to ensure that the product is not sold to under-18s?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I agree. This would help the police and the trading standards as well.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Absolutely.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** And similar legislation for knives.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** I have written to the Home Office urging them to do this. There was a consultation that finished last Friday [8 December 2017]. Thank you.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Can I just ask the Assembly to agree to suspend Standing Order 2.9(a), in accordance with the provision?

**All:** Agreed.

## **2017/4961 - Burning waste**

[Caroline Russell AM](#)

*Is London burning too much waste?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you. In my draft London Environment Strategy, I have been clear that we should not be burning any more waste in London. It is only squandering valuable resources that could be reused in the economy. It also emits pollutants that can contribute to London's toxic air and carbon emissions that cause climate change. The best way to prevent more waste going to incineration in London is

to reduce the waste we produce in the first place and significantly increase our recycling rates. That is why my draft London Environment Strategy has set a London-wide target to recycle 65% of London's waste by 2030, with a target for local authorities to recycle 50% of the waste they collect by 2025. I also want to see zero biodegradable or recycling waste to landfill by 2026.

There is some good news. Government statistics released last week show that in 2016/17 London's household recycling went up by 1% to 33%, the first year London has experienced an increase since 2011, and household waste produced per person is the lowest of all regions in England. To reach the 65% recycling target, we still have some way to go. That is why I have proposed in my draft London Environment Strategy that all London boroughs should collect the six main recyclables from all kerbside properties and flats where practicable, as well as have separate food waste collections. Through the London Waste and Recycling Board's Resource London programme, I am providing up to £9 million from 2017 to 2020 to support the authorities to provide better recycling services, especially in flats.

Where incinerators have already been built or approved before I came into office, I want them to be as efficient as possible. Proposals for refurbished waste incineration facilities would need to meet strict air quality criteria set out in my draft London Plan for all developments, and my draft London Environment Strategy has set a carbon intensity floor that requires all waste that goes to energy-from-waste plants to be genuinely residual and non-recyclable. In addition, I want all of London's facilities to use waste heat as well as the electricity produced, as this will help contribute toward my goal for London to become a zero-carbon city by 2050.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. It is good that the recycling rate has gone up by 1% but it has come down an awful lot over the last few years. Back in 2010 Wandsworth was up at 26.8% and last year they were at 21.9%. All over London, there is a long way to go on our recycling levels. The Western Riverside Waste Authority boroughs, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Kensington and Chelsea, found their recycling rates dropped significantly once they started to use the Belvedere incinerator in 2012. This suggests that there is a risk that incineration is keeping recycling levels down. The South London Waste Partnership boroughs, Kingston, Croydon, Merton and Sutton, are going to start to use the new Viridor incinerator in Sutton next year. What will you do if the same thing happens and their recycling rates drop once they start to use the Viridor incinerator?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure why there is a link between the incinerator and the recycling rates dropping. Maybe it is a perverse incentive. I am happy to look into the point you have raised and maybe speak to my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy about that. I have been quite welcoming of the partnership between Merton, Sutton, Kingston and Croydon and the approach they are taking, procuring a waste treatment contract and waste collection contract together. Now that you have warned me about what could happen, why do I not speak to the four councils to make sure we do not inadvertently reach the position you referred to with Belvedere?

**Caroline Russell AM:** That would be very helpful. I realise none of us can predict what might happen, but if it does --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I take your point, yes.

**Caroline Russell AM:** -- you do have the power to direct a waste authority that is not in general conformity with your policies and targets. If the recycling rates of the South London Waste Partnership boroughs fall once the Viridor incinerator is onstream, will you consider using your powers of direction to get them to boost their recycling?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Hopefully we will not get there because you have told me about it. We will look into it. We do not want to get there but you are right, as a last resort we do have tools in the toolkit that can be used. The local authorities know this and they can be reminded of this. Because you have alerted me to a precedent that is not a good one, let us speak to them and see what we can do.

**Caroline Russell AM:** OK, but as a last resort, you would push them?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I hope I would not need to.

**Caroline Russell AM:** This morning I visited Bio Collectors, which is an anaerobic digester plant for food waste in Mitcham, with Assembly Member Cooper. Bio Collectors raised the concern that your draft Environment Strategy proposal for zero waste, specifically no biodegradable or recyclable waste being sent to landfill by 2026, is not tough enough. They are worried that incinerators are burning food waste that should be being anaerobically digested to produce biogas and liquid fertiliser. Will your final Environment Strategy and London Plan say that not only should no biodegradable or recyclable waste be sent to landfill but also that this unavoidable food waste should be collected and separated so it can be anaerobically digested to prevent unnecessary burning?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Why did you not respond to the draft consultation? It is a consultation.

**Caroline Russell AM:** I have already and I did say that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Fine. That is one of my concerns about the push towards waste to energy. There is a perverse incentive to try to do that, for the reasons you have said, because of residual benefits. That is why I am not as keen an advocate as some people are, for the reasons you say. Please respond to the consultation. Ask the company you referred to to respond as well. We will look into the specific points you raise.

**Caroline Russell AM:** There is one other problem, which is that boroughs are not separating enough food waste from recycling and residual waste. Bio Collectors said the second most useful thing they thought you could do would be to set a policy to ensure that all food waste that is separated and sent for anaerobic digestion is treated in London, so that we reduce the amount of lorry movements. It is possible to have that capacity in London. Will you consider that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I smile because it seems like a self-serving suggestion from that company.

**Caroline Russell AM:** No, I appreciate that, but they are not talking about themselves. Other companies --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I bet they are not. They are lobbying for other companies to make profit, are they?

**Caroline Russell AM:** It is much better to anaerobically digest food waste than to incinerate it in terms of our environment, carbon emissions and so on.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will see what we can do to increase the amount we do not send to the incinerator. I am happy to look into that as well.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Assembly Member Cooper.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much, Chair. Yes, Assembly Member Russell went down to my constituency to visit Bio Collectors this morning, which I had visited previously. What is really encouraging is that the draft Environment Strategy talks about separating the six main recyclables and encouraging the separation of food waste. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has made it absolutely clear in all its reports that once people start to separate, the amount goes down.

The concern about potential issues relating to the South London Waste Partnership probably is one step behind the possibility of us encouraging people, if they have break clauses at the moment with their arrangements for sending material to Belvedere, to exercise a break clause and take the food waste out. For example, Wandsworth does not segregate food waste. I suspect that might be to do with why the figures have gone down for the Western Riverside Waste Authority. There are some problems in east London with the Shanks contract. Would you ask the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy to work closely with those boroughs on how they can most effectively exercise break clauses so that we can start to get more food waste into the anaerobic digestors that are available in London? Evidence submitted to our waste inquiry at the Environment Committee has shown that they are all underused.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** First, can I suggest that I ask my Deputy Mayor to speak to London Councils about what advice and guidance London Councils can give these councils, as well as us, providing them with the expertise that we have? Secondly, one of the reasons why we are providing £9 million to London's waste authorities is to help them with recycling, especially in flats. I suspect part of the reason why there has been a reduction in recycling is because there are more flats, a proliferation of flats, and fewer kerbside facilities available. That is one reason I am trying to help local authorities with kerbside recycling and flats. I am happy to take up your suggestion. That is what I will probably ask Shirley [Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy] to do, to speak to London Councils and see how we can provide those councils with help in relation to, question, "Are there break clauses? Can they look into the contracts they currently have?"

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

## **2017/5207 - Sustainability and transformation partnerships**

[Dr Onkar Sahota AM](#)

*How will the recent Health and Social Care Devolution deal impact the implementation of sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) in London and how is the London Health Board measuring the success of the implementation against the six assurances to be met before STPs receive Mayoral support?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you. The ground-breaking devolution agreement I agreed with the Secretary of State [for Health], Jeremy Hunt MP, London Councils, the NHS, Public Health and wider health and care leaders will bring health and care services closer together, localising decision-making to London to bring improvements to the services Londoners receive. It is a very important step in the right direction in our journey to becoming the world's healthiest global city. In future, the NHS in London will be incentivised to sell unused land and buildings. It is one of the largest landowners in London with money reinvested in health and care community and public services. Surplus land will be available to develop more housing. The London

Health Board, which I chair, is the body that will provide political oversight of the developments in health and care across the city.

With respect to the King's Fund report [Sustainability and transformation plans in London: an independent analysis of the October 2016 STPs] and the six assurances that I set out, I have accepted the recommendations for me to provide system leadership, to sustainability and transformation partnerships. To this end, my Mayoral Health Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey OBE, and GLA officers are currently discussing with STP leaders and the wider NHS the options to secure their commitment to ensuring greater democratic transparency of the proposed implementation plans.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Mr Mayor, first of all I want to congratulate you for commissioning the report from the King's Fund because this is the first time we are looking objectively at what is happening in London, rather than the previous Mayor saying, "I have been informed XYZ". I congratulate you for that. The challenge, of course, is that this report is very critical of what has happened across London. You have asked for six assurances and I want to know, if those assurances are not being given to you, what you can do about it. While the STPs are being questioned, the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are still implementing some of the direction of travel of those STPs. Damage is being done as we speak, right across London. I want to know what you want to do now you have the report on your desk.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** A number of things. First, we cannot run away from the fact that the NHS in London is underfunded by £4.1 billion. Secondly, one of the reasons why many people believe that STPs are making the decisions they are is to save money. Thirdly, their plans do not equate to the projections of our population and the needs we have as a city. I have made it quite clear to STPs that I can only support their plans if they satisfy the six assurances. The good news is that some of the STPs are now undertaking refreshes in light of the King's Fund report. I would encourage all of the STPs to refresh what they are doing in light of the King's Fund report. They are saying to us that they are already doing some of these things. For the interests of transparency, they should do it sooner rather than later and let people know.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** One of the worst STPs is in northwest London, in my part of the world, and they are not refreshing. Of course, we know the boroughs of Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham have not signed up to those STPs. I really want to push you on this. If they do not do this refresh, what other steps can you take?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will not support their plans. As the Mayor of London, as someone who is chair of the Health Board, that will carry a lot of weight. I meet directly with the person in charge of NHS London, NHS England, Professor Jane Cummings. She will understand our views in relation to this. A good STP understands that if they want to serve the community they need to take key stakeholders with them, including councils. I would be disappointed if STPs ignored the six assurances set out by the King's Fund.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Thank you for that, Mr Mayor. The other thing, of course, is that the London Health Board is a very important body through which you want to do extra scrutiny work and also make sure to give leadership to London. One of the criticisms of the Health Board has been that it is not transparent. Can you tell us what you want to do to make it more transparent, please?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I know these guys do not like talking about the previous administration, but before I was the Mayor there were no minutes published and no records kept publicly of what the Health Board was doing. They had selective amnesia. We are now publishing the minutes of all Health Board meetings and we are looking towards how we can make it even more transparent. It is not acceptable for men

and women to meet in closed rooms and make decisions that no one knows about. We are trying to see how we can be more transparent as we go forward.

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM:** Great. That would be very helpful, Mr Mayor, and I look forward to seeing it become much more transparent.

## **2017/5217 - Cancer Care**

[Navin Shah AM](#)

*The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey by Macmillan shows Cancer patients in London's most deprived areas are experiencing worse care than the rest of England. It also shows that patients of black, Asian or mixed ethnic backgrounds reported worse cancer patient experience on 87% of the questions. What role are you able to play to support the deprived and the BAME cancer patients?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for raising this important question. I applaud Macmillan for publishing this research and for the excellent services they continue to provide for Londoners. Many of us have friends and family who have used their services. They are a remarkable service.

The findings of the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey are concerning. Everyone should be entitled to the same level of health care, no matter their ethnicity or where they live. Last month we hosted a Macmillan-led event at City Hall where we launched the London Cancer Community campaign. As I made clear when launching that campaign, by working together with excellent organisations such as Macmillan we can help to raise awareness and tackle inequalities in care that are far too prevalent in London today.

Unfortunately, in terms of the delivery of cancer services my powers and responsibilities are very limited. That is the reason we have not focused my Health Inequalities Strategy on patient experience or access issues. These are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health. It is his statutory duty. However, I do regularly meet NHS leaders, including Professor Jane Cummings, the new Regional Director at NHS England, who I met last month. We discuss a range of issues relating to NHS performance. I am informed that most of the trusts are not meeting the national cancer targets and Jane Cummings and the Health Commissioners are funding cancer improvement programmes in order to address this. My Health officers will be monitoring progress.

I know the NHS welcomes the Macmillan survey publication and are working with them to improve both the experience and outcomes of BAME patients, as well as those in deprived areas who are living with cancer. I should add that the cancer survival rates in this country are the highest they have ever been. There have been huge improvements in the last 15 years and I take my hat off to the frontline doctors and nurses who have made this possible. Cancer service provision is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health and I repeat that all of us, including the London Assembly, should keep pressurising the Government to properly fund the NHS and to tailor cancer services to deliver a consistent service to Londoners regardless of their ethnicity or where they live.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I appreciate that you have constraints in terms of the responsibility you have in this area but like you said, the survey findings are extremely worrying. The question is, is there any way you can have any figures or data available borough-wide across London to measure the scale of the problem? If there are any such figures available, perhaps within your Health Inequalities Strategy you can put in some measures to see how those problems can be addressed through agencies, joined-up working and so on, and the outcome based on those measures as well.



**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** When I received your question I asked for the London-wide data and you are right, we do not hold it. It is not held in City Hall, it is held by NHS England. As a consequence of the concerns you have raised, I will ask NHS England for the data they have for London. This information is crucial for us to look at where the patterns are, in the communities that all of us know. This is not a party-political point. What this survey uncovers is areas of deprivation and areas where there are high BAME populations are receiving a less good service than they should, though you can see the innovations in science and how brilliantly the NHS doctors, clinicians and nurses work. That is not acceptable. As soon as I receive that data, I will pass that on to all Assembly Members.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for that. Given that this the last question, we have plenty of time left so all that remains for me to say is to wish you a Merry Christmas and also wish you a very happy and special New Year. Thank you very much.

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

**Len Duvall AM:** Given the answers that you have given, Mr Mayor, and given the focus that you can bring to the issues that Assembly Member Shah brought up, do you not think it is time on the devolution agenda to democratise the NHS in London? We can be part of the national NHS, and rightly so, but there is something wrong when the focus is not always on tackling the difficult issues. I am aware of the challenges you have mentioned, the underfunding of the NHS and maybe the difficult decisions, but I would feel safer as a London resident if it was not just left to national Government or a quango such as NHS England to look after the interests of London and take decisions for Londoners. What do you think about that? Where are you standing on this issue, especially when we have issues like cancer care being highlighted and some of the inadequacies of their decision-making?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a really good question. Recently I hosted a meeting in City Hall with all of the metropolitan mayors across the country. It was a very productive meeting and one of the issues raised by the Mayor for Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, was some of the piloting work they are doing around health and social care. They have had good conversations with the Government in relation to pooling the budgets. If you think about it, we still work in silos. Social care is here and health care is here. There is a separate issue about the democratic deficit.

Assembly Member Whittle referred to the National Ambulance Service (NAS) and who they were accountable to. Question: should they be accountable to a civil servant in NHS England, as good as she may be, to the Secretary of State, who is juggling so many balls and all parts of the country, or to City Hall, who have a bird's-eye view of London, know the areas and understand the issues? You would expect us to say this, but the view from the metro mayors - of all parties, by the way; the majority of the metro mayors are Conservative - was that we need more devolution.

There is a separate conversation about fragmentation of the NHS. I think you can still keep a National Health Service but have more accountability. It is not one size fits all. For example, you could have the NHS centrally deciding what needs to be done but us deciding how it is done. Just think about the concept of - it is a horrible phrase - bed blocking. You will be aware of the issue. Because of social services cuts, people sometimes have to stay longer in hospitals because local authorities cannot provide them with safe places. Now, they have different budgets and arguably it is not in one person's interest to help the other. That is where we could help, in relation to City Hall, the Mayor and the Assembly, through that devolved route, on top of the point you made about the democratic deficit.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** Now I can thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answers to the questions?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I just say this, Chair? We have had a tough year as a city and I would like to thank the Assembly for your hard work over the last 12 months. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a good break.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Chair):** The same to you, Mr Mayor. Thank you.