

## London Assembly Mayor's Question Time – Thursday 22 November 2018

### Transcript of Item 5 – Questions to the Mayor

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We now move on to the questions set out on the Priority Order Paper.

#### **2018/3442 - Tram safety**

[Steve O'Connell AM](#)

*What progress has been made to implement the recommendations of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch report on the 2016 tram crash at Sandilands?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, can I thank the local Assembly Member, Assembly Member O'Connell, for his timely question? The second anniversary of the tragedy at Sandilands was just under two weeks ago on 9 November [2018] and I know all our thoughts remain with those who were affected by this tragic event. Seven people lost their lives and 62 were injured. Even though two years have now passed, the pain for the families, friends and the close-knit local community is still raw. We owe it to the victims, the families and to Londoners to ensure the lessons are learned and acted upon.

Transport for London (TfL) is making progress in implementing the recommendations to make the network safer, which were set out by the Rail Accident Investigations Branch. It is also working closely with the Office for Rail and Road (ORR) and the wider UK tram industry to help make this happen.

Many of the most important recommendations have already been met and completed. These include the installation of a device that detects and prevents driver fatigue, which has now been in operation since October 2017, speed reductions, and enhanced signage around bends. TfL has also worked with its tram operator, First Group, to improve its complaints procedure to ensure that prompt action is always taken when a possible safety risk is identified. TfL is about to start work on strengthening the window glazing on London's trams, with the work on the whole fleet expected to be complete by March 2019. Contracts will be let for the automatic braking system and emergency lighting upgrade by the end of this year [2018].

Some of the recommendations are complex and have required a high level of innovative design, testing and procurement. For example, the automatic braking system will be the first within the UK tram industry. It will mean that a tram can be slowed or brought to a controlled stop if it is travelling in excess of the speed limit at key locations on the network. TfL plans to have this system implemented by December 2019.

These new systems and technology that TfL is introducing are a first within the UK tram industry and world-leading in terms of safety for this type of tram network. A number of recommendations in the report are for the wider UK tram industry and are dependent on the Light Rail Safety Standards Board, which is in the process of being set up. I have ensured that TfL is providing its full support to the delivery of these industry-wide recommendations.

TfL has provided an update to the ORR on the progress of the recommendations it is responsible for and is waiting for feedback regarding the work done so far, as well as the work that is still underway. TfL officials are meeting the ORR this month [November 2018] to give further updates.

I would like to end by saying, Chairman, that I have asked the Commissioner of TfL [Mike Brown MVO] to ensure that TfL takes an active leadership role in all of the recommendations so that all networks across the country can learn from the tragic lessons of Croydon.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Yes, indeed, this is a timely exchange around this tragic incident. Only two Fridays ago, it was the second anniversary, as you have commented on, and it is still very painful to the community, particularly the very close-knit New Addington community.

I thank you for your full update. That gives us some reassurance, but two years after the event and indeed one year after the report, which was published in December of last year [2017], half of the recommendations are yet to be delivered. Some, I accept, are outside the direct control of TfL. I thank you for your update on the individual items that I wanted to talk about.

Specifically, on strengthening the windows, the emergency lighting and the automatic speed controls, these were three particular recommendations that have not been implemented. You detailed them all in your response, but can I have your commitment that all of the recommendations within your control will be delivered by March 2019? Am I correct in understanding that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, without repeating the answer --

**Steve O'Connell AM:** No, I do not want you to do that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** -- some of the work will not happen until December 2019. The procurement is happening now and so it depends on that. One of the answers I gave referred to December 2019, but I am happy to set out each of the things and when they will happen in a letter to you.

You are right to chivy at TfL to make sure those that are in our gift and are just for Croydon trams happen as soon as possible. For those that are clearly for the wider UK tram industry, we will chivy them to make sure those happen as soon as possible as well.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** The people of Croydon, New Addington and Sandilands would feel that it is unacceptable that it has taken so long after the recommendations in the report to implement the specific recommendations. Would you agree that the delay has been too long, Mr Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I would agree that any delay is too long, but some of this is not in the gift of TfL. It is the UK tram operators. Some of it is world-leading stuff in relation to automatic braking. How do you strengthen the windows but at the same time allow them to be accessible when a tram is on its side? This is new stuff that the industry is working on, but TfL has been pushing at all times in relation to the industry and has been learning lessons from around the country. I am hopeful that that will not only lead to an improvement in relation to safety in Croydon, which it must, but also lead to improvements in relation to trams across the country as well.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** That is the point because we do not want this awful incident to be replicated anywhere else in the country. I look forward to you writing to me, Mr Mayor, with the details around that and also what you will be doing, in your words, to chivy at organisations that are not directly under your remit. I look forward to that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, that is very fair.

**Steve O'Connell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor.

## **2018/3189 - Demands on police officers**

Unmesh Desai AM

*In a recent survey 95.2% of respondents from Metropolitan Police Service felt that morale within the force is currently low\*. How are you working with the Met to support police officers?*

*\*[1] Police Federation, PFEW Pay and Morale Survey 2018, Metropolitan Police Service*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, at the outset, I would like to reiterate my own support for our fantastic police officers. They perform an incredible job in very difficult circumstances and I know we are all both proud and grateful for the excellent work they do day in and day out to keep us safe.

Police officers and staff at the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) are clearly under tremendous pressure, constantly being asked to do more, at the same time as ongoing cuts. The Government has forced the MPS to make £1 billion worth of cuts since 2010. This means that our police officers are more stretched than ever with the lowest number of officers per head of population in 20 years. All of this is contributing to the terrible level of morale within the force. We take this issue extremely seriously because it is vital that our police officers feel supported.

The Commissioner [of Police of the Metropolis, Cressida Dick CBE QPM], the Deputy Mayor for Policing [and Crime] [Sophie Linden] and I recognise the stress caused by the increase in demand and decrease in resources, and we are doing everything we can to mitigate this. We readily discuss how we can improve the situation with the Metropolitan Police Federation. We have enabled the MPS to recruit 1,000 more police officers than would have been possible otherwise by increasing the council tax policing precept and allocating business rates to support policing. We have continued to invest in the MPS from City Hall, setting up and funding the new Violent Crime Task Force. We are helping officers to manage demand through technology and training. This includes rolling out over 22,000 body-worn cameras, equipping 1,200 vehicles with mobile data systems, and issuing 30,000 tablets.

We are also putting pressure on the Government to implement the recommendations of the Police Remuneration Review Body to consolidate the full pay rise from 2017. The Commissioner [Cressida Dick CBE QPM] has called the lack of a pay-rise for officers a "punch in the nose", and I agree. The MPS has also launched a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, enhancing the support available to police officers.

Chairman, there is no doubt that the last few years have been extremely difficult for our police officers. Even the Home Secretary [The Rt Hon] Sajid Javid [MP] admitted last week for the first time that the police will not be able to tackle violent crime without more Government funding, and so I will continue to fight for the resources and funding our brave police officers need to do their jobs.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. So far in 2018, 328,000 police rest days have been cancelled for MPS officers. The President of the Police Superintendents' Association [Chief Superintendent Gavin Thomas] had this to say back in September [2018]:

*"Policing is now utterly reliant on fewer people working longer and harder. Officers are effectively giving their time for free by staying past their shift times or working on leave days. That exploits police officers and defrauds the public."*

It is strong stuff indeed. Why have so many rest days been cancelled and what impact do you think this has on officers' wellbeing and indeed morale?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** This question is so important. When we talk about officers from the Violent Crime Task Force doing increased stop-and-search, making arrests and taking weapons off our streets, these are not new officers who have flooded in. These are fewer officers, overstretched and under-resourced, cancelling rest days. That leads to a number of outstanding days that have to be rescheduled and a backlog of cancelled rest days, which clearly affects morale and the fitness of our officers.

Just to reassure you, the MPS has set up a Gold Group to try to tackle this growing problem because it is not sensible for us to have a situation where fewer officers are doing the work of more. However, the best resolution to this is more officers.

**Unmesh Desai AM:** Very good. Will you join me and the rest of my colleagues here and condemn the disgraceful attack on police officers in Sutton and indeed on all public servants?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. It is really important that we condemn unequivocally these attacks on our brave police officers and our thoughts are with the injured officer. I understand an arrest has been made. It is really important we assist the police rather than hinder them.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I do not know if you saw an incident that recently emerged, with a police officer being kicked into the path of a bus during a scuffle. I do not know if we are talking about the same incident. What else could be done to restore respect for law enforcement in London, particularly among criminals? What else can we do to restore some respect for our law enforcement officers?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We cannot just rely upon the police instilling amongst ordinary Londoners respect in them. All of us have a role to play, whether a mum, dad, carer or politician, to make sure the public understand the role our police officers perform. Police officers under the original Peel [Robert Peel, 19th century British statesman] vision are peace officers. They are there to keep the peace. By themselves 30,000, 32,000 or 35,000 officers cannot keep the peace. Citizens have a role to play in keeping the peace. That means providing information, providing intelligence, joining the police service, being witnesses when there is a crime.

Also, as Deputy Commissioner - as he is soon to be - Stephen House [QPM] said, if it is possible to do so in a safe way, help the police in relation to individual circumstances. Do not for gratuitous self-pleasure film them or cheer on somebody when somebody is fleeing the police. There was an example, as you will be aware, not too long ago when members of the public cheered when somebody escaped from a police officer in one of the fast-food stores in London. That is not the best way to help our police officers. It means respecting them in the role they do, a very tough role.

The police will not always get it right. Some police officers will make mistakes. Some police officers break the rules and it is really important that they are dealt with, but let us not tarnish the entire police service with the actions of one or two.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** I agree. Last year 3,975 police officers were assaulted and, as we have seen, there is a new Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act that is receiving royal assent. What will you be doing to encourage the increased use of these new sentencing powers? What will you be able to do to help that be used by the police?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is worth just reminding colleagues that it is not simply our police officers who are under attack as public servants. Anybody who goes to an accident and emergency department (A&E) often sees that our nurses and medics can be threatened and our firefighters have also been targeted and our police officers. The blue-light services and first responders should not be treated this way. It is unacceptable.

It is really important that the powers that judges have in relation to increased sentences are used by judges. It is really important when it comes to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) charging anybody accused of attacking our emergency services that the appropriate charge is there. It is also really important when somebody is caught, prosecuted and given an extended sentence that that is made aware to members of the public as a deterrent to anybody who thinks that they can get away with treating our public service heroes this way. We have to support our police officers, our firefighters and those in the National Health Service (NHS) to make sure they are confident doing their job under sometimes very difficult circumstances.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Is there anything you could be saying to the police and the CPS particularly around A&E nurses who are being attacked and are definitely not in a position to defend themselves? Is there something we could do around our police culture to make sure that people are aware of these new sentencing powers and that the police are actually using them to send that deterrent message out? Anything in particular?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** When somebody is caught behaving in this appalling way, the right things happen. The issue is detection and making sure we catch those who do these sorts of things. It is just not acceptable for anybody who goes to work knowing that they are risking their personal safety – it could be a terror attack, it could be a criminal – to have the additional concern of being attacked by members of the public.

We saw in 2017 – and you witnessed this yourself first hand – that our firefighters, our ambulance crews and our police officers running towards terrorist incidents, running towards fires, knowing the potential danger from the incident, but then on top of that the idea that members of the public would attack them is clearly upsetting for all of us who support our police officers, the NHS and the fire service.

You asked in your first question about respect. All of us have a role to play in instilling in young people that respect. That is why when Assembly Member Arnold talked about the Hackney example it is really important because young people see police officers, firefighters and the NHS on their side rather than the hostile experience of some young people who wrongly grew up thinking the police are not on their side.

**Shaun Bailey AM:** Thank you. Thank you, Chairman.

## **2018/3086 - Crime**

[David Kurten AM](#)

*Do you agree with Commissioner Cressida Dick that police should focus on burglary and acts of violence, rather than recording misogyny and other 'hate incidents'?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. I agree with the Commissioner that tackling violent crime should be our number one priority and it is. That is why, despite massive cuts from central Government, we have set up a new dedicated Violent Crime Task Force, tackling violent crime in the worst-affected areas, and it is why we are setting up a new Violence Reduction Unit, which will bring the police and City Hall together with local councils, charities, the NHS, community groups and others to continue our public health approach to tackling violent crime.

However, your question is based on two false premises. Firstly, there are no plans for the MPS to start recording incidents of misogyny. Secondly, where there is hate there is often violence. Tackling hate crime is not simply a nice-to-have; it is also crucial to ensuring safe communities. It is right that hate crime is a priority in the London Police and Crime Plan and that we are taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate.

We have seen big spikes in hate crime in recent years with unacceptable levels of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, attacks on London's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender plus community and other racist attacks. We know this is having a big impact on some communities in London who are feeling victimised because of who they are, what they believe or who they love. This is simply not good enough and we must work to bring this to an end. London is a place where we celebrate, cherish and embrace diversity, and we must seek to stamp out hate crime and continue to send a clear message that we will never let our city be divided by individuals who seek to harm us and destroy our way of life.

Of course, we all know that demand on the MPS has been increasing at the same time as resources have been going down following massive cuts from the Government. We now have 3,000 fewer police officers, over 3,000 fewer Police Community Support Officers and nearly 6,000 fewer staff. This means the Commissioner [Cressida Dick CBE QPM] and I are having to make tough decisions on the priorities. With these difficult decisions we must ensure that those who are the most vulnerable and at-risk within our society such as those who are ill, frail, children or victims of high-harm crimes are prioritised, and this includes victims of hate crime, which can be devastating for the victims as well as the wider community.

**David Kurten AM:** Thank you for your answer, Mr Mayor. I do appreciate you saying that tackling violent crime is going to be your priority and everyone would agree with that, but I think you misunderstood my question because I was talking about hate incidents, not hate crime. Of course any violent crime whatever the motivation - murder, knife crime, stabbing - needs to be tackled, absolutely, but there has been a very widely reported freedom of information request asking the MPS about hate incidents and how much time has been spent dealing with those things. We have things that have been reported, investigated and filed away such as a dog fouling someone's doorstep. That has been classed as a hate incident. We have a disputed line call in a tennis match and a man telling library staff he was campaigning for Brexit. Then, widely reported earlier in the summer in August [2018], the former Foreign Secretary [The Rt Hon] Boris Johnson [MP] made a witty joke about the burqa looking like a letterbox. That was then investigated and Commissioner Cressida Dick [CBE QPM] had to question to see whether that was a hate crime or not.

All of these things that I have just mentioned are trivial incidents; they are obviously not crimes. I do appreciate you talking about serious incidents, but is it time that you and Commissioner Dick [CBE QPM] gave the message to the public not to report trivial incidents like this, which are obviously not crimes, because they waste police time?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Could I just make this point? You have asked a long question. If you are somebody who on a regular basis is having faeces pushed through your letterbox because of the colour of your skin or on a regular basis has racists having their dogs fouling your front doorstep because of the colour of your skin, it has a deep impact on you. That regular experience of being a victim of those events can be quite upsetting. It could be also because of your sexuality. It could be because you have a disability. It could be for another reason.

I know you are not intentionally seeking to trivialise those sorts of incidents. But I know people have suffered these sorts of racist incidents with faeces put through their letterboxes and on their doorsteps on a regular basis intentionally because of the colour of their skin. I have also had examples, which may seem trivial, of

graffiti sprayed outside places of worship and where people live, which can be upsetting for the individual and can send a ripple of hate through that entire community. That is why some of these crimes are called 'message crimes'. They are sending a message to anybody who is of similar ethnicity, similar faith or similar sexuality or has a disability that they are also targeted by this.

Of course the police will prioritise those crimes that are the most serious and of course there is a distinction between reporting a crime and the police investigating, but we do want to live in a city where people are not treated this way.

**David Kurten AM:** I do accept your answer on that one incident that I mentioned, but there are other things such as telling library staff someone was campaigning for Brexit. That is not any kind of crime at all. For something that is that trivial, would you tell members of the public, "Do not report that because it is wasting police time"?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** All I will say is that the police will give those sorts of incidents the attention they deserve, which is not a lot of time bearing in mind the priorities the police have in relation to violent crime. It is worth distinguishing an incident from a crime and there is a definition of what a hate crime is and the police are quite clear on what a hate crime is versus an incident. You are right and I think you are trying to distinguish it, too, between somebody reporting an incident that is not a crime, clearly, and a hate crime that should be investigated. The police know the difference.

That is what both [Chief Constable] Sara Thornton [CBE QPM, Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)] and Cressida Dick [CBE QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis] were trying to say where they recently spoke about this. The police, when they have finite resources and are having to ration their time even more so than before, will always distinguish serious crime versus incidents.

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

## **2018/3040 - Helping Londoners in the private rented sector**

[Sian Berry AM](#)

*When can London's private renters expect to see their Mayor campaigning for any powers to control their rents?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. Both before and since I was elected Mayor, I have been campaigning and leading by example to improve life for London's private renters. Despite having no statutory powers in this area, I have created the UK's first public database of rogue landlord activity to help keep renters safe. It has been checked more than 60,000 times already. We have successfully convinced the Government to ban rip-off fees for renters, which will come into effect next year [2019]. We have ensured 100,000 Londoners have access to interest-free tenancy deposit loans, reducing the cost of moving home. I am supporting fuel-poor tenants in the private rented sector through the Fuel Poverty Support Fund and the Warmer Homes Programme, providing advice, insulation and boiler replacements to help make their homes warmer, healthier and cheaper to run.

I am setting out a radical agenda for future reform with my London Model while the Government dodges the tough questions. The truth is that the Government has dragged its feet when it comes to renting and has been slow in agreeing to consider any changes at all, half-hearted in taking them forward and implacably opposed to the kind of radical change renters need.

Two weeks ago, at our first meeting since he took the job, I pressed the Secretary of State [of Housing, Communities and Local Government the Rt Hon] James Brokenshire [MP] to devolve landlord licensing powers to City Hall. After two years of us campaigning for this power and pushing Ministers to act, the Government is still refusing to commit to this simple change to improve renters' lives. Crucially, despite announcing to great fanfare a consultation on three-year tenancies for renters, Ministers already appear to be wavering on their commitment to any real change in this area. I will keep pushing Ministers on longer tenancies as I believe making them open-ended and scrapping no-fault evictions are essential to strengthening the rights of renters. These features form the basis of my London Model, a blueprint for tenancy reform that we are developing and that we will be urging the Government to support.

As my Housing Strategy makes clear, although I have no power to control rents, once the London Model is complete, we will consider what rent stabilisation or rent control measures might involve and how they can work for London. It makes sense to do this in the context of the completed London Model as no system of rent control can be implemented without first addressing the fundamental lack of security of tenure in the private rented sector.

My team and I will keep working and campaigning to improve renters' lives, but the key barrier is that this Government has been incapable of the kind of radical change renters need.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. Can I just say how pleased I am that you are supporting the campaign to end Section 21 no-fault evictions and that we do at last have a draft of your London Model? It was published as a draft alongside your response to the Government consultation on longer tenancies. It has lots of detail and it goes further than the Government's plans, which is good.

However, sadly, it says, as you set out there just now, that you will only consider what measures might limit unacceptable rent increases once the new London Model is complete and, in response to a Mayor's Question, it seems like that will not happen even in consultation until after Christmas.

I am worried. I am worried that this is further putting off action to really push the Government on rents I know that since very early on your line has been quite defeatist and giving up on getting more powers, but surveys show rent controls are overwhelmingly popular with the public and even more so amongst older people compared with younger people, which is a really interesting finding.

I wanted to ask about some facts about your activity in working for new powers and first about your meetings with Ministers. To be clear, I am just asking for some information to be sent to me. Can I get a list of the Ministers - who have changed quite a lot - you have met, the meetings you have had, on which dates, and whether rent control powers were discussed at each of those meetings so that we can see how you have pressed them on this?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I am happy to provide the Assembly Member with details of the meetings that James Murray, Deputy Mayor for Housing [and Residential Development], City Hall officials and I have had with Government Ministers and officials.

It is really important to address a key point in the Assembly Member's question which gave away what this is about. It is not about bringing about change. It is about doing things simply for the sake of them being popular amongst some Londoners. Important though populist policies are, we have to make sure we can bring about change.

What I have sought to do over the last two years is of course to be critical of Government policies when they deserve criticism and to try to work with the Government to bring about changes in this area. The reality is that any politician being honest with Londoners will explain to them that it is not in the gift of the Mayor or the Assembly to bring about rent control or rent stabilisation. We to make sure we work with the Government to get these powers devolved.

In my answers, I have deliberately talked about some of the other areas we are working with the Government to make progress on. On some examples we have made progress. On some areas we have made less progress.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, for agreeing to give me that information. You do hit the nail on the head a little bit there. What I am proposing that you do is more or less what I am doing with you and have continued to do since we were both elected. It has been three years since I brought this up with you first. In 2015, when we were both not even selected to stand for the jobs that we have, I pressed you when you were an MP to help amend the Cities and [Local Government] Devolution Bill. I will just keep going on at you about this and I want you to do the same with the Government because that is how we get change. If I can point out to you that --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, it is always difficult when the question is longer than the answer. The point is this, Chairman. Look, it simply cannot be right that whenever I do something that is popular the Green Party claims credit for it as if they are the only people who have the --

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** You are not the only person who has experienced that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is a particular skill that the Greens have, Chairman.

**Sian Berry AM:** Mr Mayor, in the time that I have, I will point out to you that in October 2016 we first discussed this in this Chamber and, at the same time as saying that you were not going to get rent control powers, you also said that the Government is not going to ban tenancy fees, and yet we kept up the pressure on that and yet they did that. The thing I am asking you to do is to keep up the pressure, like you are doing --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Here, Chairman, you have seen the Green Party claiming credit not simply for the Mayor's policies but the Government's policies as well, which is another example of not believing everything you see on a Green leaflet let alone in a tweet.

**Sian Berry AM:** This is getting very political and I am out of time, I am afraid. Thank you, Chairman.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Yes. That was a very good note for you to end on.

## **2018/3311 - Homelessness**

[Joanne McCartney AM](#)

*Was the government's budget a missed opportunity to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping? Given the appalling spike in London and the UK of rough sleeping what should the Chancellor have announced in the budget?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. The [Autumn] Budget was a huge missed opportunity to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in London. The Chancellor should have used the Budget to announce a comprehensive plan to tackle rough sleeping. For London, this should have been based

on my comprehensive Rough Sleeping Plan of Action and, crucially, the Government should have agreed to honestly address the causes of rising homelessness and rough sleeping.

My Plan of Action, developed closely with councils and charities in the sector, shows we need more than £500 million over the next five years to prevent rough sleeping and help people off the streets. In contrast the Government announced in August [2018] just £100 million for the entire country and the majority of that money was being recycled.

More broadly than rough sleeping, the Chancellor should have also put money towards tackling wider reforms of homelessness. London councils need far more money to meet their new duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act and are currently providing temporary accommodation for almost 55,000 households including almost 90,000 children. This is a shocking state of affairs in one of the wealthiest cities in the world. The Chancellor should also have used the Budget to address the causes of homelessness such as welfare changes including Universal Credit and this Budget should also have reversed cuts in services that provide support for people with mental health and substance misuse problems. It should have committed the Government to addressing what is now the largest single cause of homelessness in London: the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy through a radical overhaul of the private rented sector. It should have committed to a significant long-term increase in funding for new social housing. On all these counts, the Budget failed.

Since I became Mayor, we have secured an additional £12 million for London-wide services to help rough sleepers on top of the £8.5 million a year we have set aside for these services. This combination of services helped nearly 5,000 people last year [2017]. This extra funding has meant more and better services. My outreach team has now doubled in size and includes a dedicated team working on London's transport network.

Work to tackle homelessness in all its forms will remain an uphill struggle without proper intervention from the Government not just to help those already experiencing homelessness but to change policies that are actively fuelling it.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you. Mr Mayor, you have previously called for a pause to the rollout of Universal Credit. All the evidence, including a new Shelter report [*Homelessness in Great Britain - The Numbers Behind the Story*, November 2018] out today, shows that the transition to Universal Credit and those delayed payments mean that so many more people now are in rent arrears and struggling and therefore being evicted and losing their homes.

With a new Secretary of State now at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) [The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP], will you again write to her and ask her to reconsider the work that is being done around Universal Credit?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, it is my intention to write, as I normally would to a new member of the Government, to [the Rt Hon] Amber Rudd as the new Secretary of State for the DWP. Of course, I will be making the point when I write to her about the impact in relation to Universal Credit. We have seen with the pilots the link with the increase in food banks and the increase in rent arrears. I will be writing to her and asking her to stop the rollout of Universal Credit bearing in mind our experience in London.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you. Shelter is calling for homelessness advice to be available in Jobcentres. Is that something you could perhaps suggest as well?

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

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you. Of course, the weather this week has turned extremely cold. I know last year you made sure that those cold-weather shelters were open sooner and longer than ever before, but what more can you do this year [2018] to make sure, with those rising numbers, that there are more places for those vulnerable people to go?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you for that question. We are doing more this winter than ever before, but it is worth reminding ourselves that rough sleeping does not just occur in winter. It happens all year round. You will have seen the Combined Homelessness and Information Network data for last month, which is very worrying in relation to identifying more rough sleepers than before.

We will be announcing the further measures we are taking this winter. As you remember, last year [2017], rather than consecutive nights [of low] temperature being required before shelters were opened, we opened them whenever we thought we going to get towards freezing temperature. We are doing more work this year and I will be announcing some of those plans in the course of the next few days.

**Joanne McCartney AM:** Thank you.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Mr Mayor, just on the point of rough sleeping and homelessness, we have just had Remembrance [Day] and, as you might know, this particularly affects our veterans. About 9,000 nationwide are homeless and then a proportion of those are sleeping rough. Given that we have just had Remembrance, would you possibly put out a message from yourself about how we should look after our veterans in London. It is appalling the way that they are treated, by successive Governments, I might add. Would you do that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Firstly, I agree with you that successive Governments have let down our veterans. I visited recently an excellent home in east London where great work is being done. We have had those providers in to City Hall to meet with James Murray [Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development] and me to see how we can help more veterans. They are heroes, really, and I am afraid too many are sleeping rough. We are trying to ensure they do not get to the streets in the first place and, if they do, they are assisted out. You will see over the course of the next few weeks some of the fruits of the conversations we have had with experts helping veterans. You are right. It is shocking that they should be sleeping rough in a civilized city like London.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Also, they end up having mental health problems as well.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It is cause-and-effect sometimes. Sometimes it is due to mental health issues that they end up on the streets, but that can compound mental health issues or they can have the start of mental issues or substance abuse as a consequence of sleeping rough. We have good examples, though, of how we can turn them around with dignity. That is really important.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you.

## **2018/3354 - Benefit cap**

[Fiona Twycross AM](#)

*Were you disappointed that despite the Prime Minister's claim that austerity is over, the benefit cap remains in place, meaning the lowest income Londoners are set to be more worse off from April 2019?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. As anyone working in the public sector, in schools, in local authorities or in the police service will tell you, whether austerity is over or not is quite clear in their minds, and you will quickly realise how misleading the Prime Minister's [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] claim was. I was disappointed but not surprised that last month's [Autumn] Budget did so little to ease the pressure on family budgets.

The vulnerable have suffered the most as a result of the Government's welfare reforms. In March [2018] the Equality and Human Rights Commission released a cumulative impact assessment of welfare and tax reforms since 2010. It forecast that 5.9 million children in Great Britain will be living in poverty by 2022 compared to 4.4 million if the reforms had not taken place. That is an additional 1.5 million children in poverty as a result of the reforms and a 51% rise compared to current levels. Single-parent and larger families will be the worst hit and families with at least one disabled person will also suffer significant losses to their incomes. Despite this, next year's [2019] cash freeze in working-age benefits is said to continue.

In [*How to Spend It: Autumn 2018*] Budget Response, the Resolution Foundation calculated that this will save the Exchequer £1.5 billion a year but that it will cost a couple with children in the bottom half of the income distribution £200 a year on average. The Resolution Foundation also confirmed that 75% of the benefit cuts announced by the Chancellor's predecessor [George Osborne MP] in 2015 remain Government policy, including the lower household benefit cap, with half of those directly affecting family budgets still to be rolled out.

We already know that the benefit freeze is hitting Londoners hard and contributing to the sharp projected increases in child poverty. More than 1 million households in the capital have been affected by this freeze, experiencing an average annual loss of £108 for each working-age adult, and that is before you get to the 15,000 London households that have seen their incomes further cut as a result of the household benefit cap.

If the Prime Minister [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] and the Chancellor [The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP] were serious about ending austerity or tackling child poverty, they would be cancelling these cuts and those that are planned to the budgets of local authorities, schools, police forces and prisons. They chose not to.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Thank you. What is your assessment of the United Nations (UN) poverty envoy's report [Professor Philip Alston, *Statement on Visit to the UK*, November 2018] released last week? How can we help Londoners affected in the face of what the report decries as "a political desire to undertake social re-engineering rather than economic necessity"?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** My team, Chairman, wrote to the UN Special Rapporteur ahead of his visit to provide a detailed picture of poverty and inequality in London, including the steps we are taking to reduce people's living costs. However, when you look at the causes of poverty - the benefits freeze, the high cost of living - and when you look at the opportunity the Government had to alleviate these, then it is hard to escape the conclusion the UN envoy reached, which is that this is a deliberate political choice.

Anybody who was on Twitter yesterday will have seen the extraordinary tweet from the UN Rapporteur, Philip Alston, to a Government Minister. Basically, the UN Rapporteur was making the point that the Minister may have had talking points about employment but that, actually, a lot of those who are in poverty are in work. It is in-work poverty. Of those in poverty, 60% are in working families and 2.8 million people are in poverty in families where all the adults work full-time. You cannot escape the conclusions reached by the UN that this is a political choice.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Absolutely. The previous Chancellor [George Osborne MP] pressed ahead with the freeze to benefits that you mentioned, knowing that it would impact the Government's ability to meet the child poverty targets. As you say, a lot of those children are living in working households. Do you expect to see a further rise in child poverty as a result of the continued freeze on benefits and what can you do to help mitigate the impact?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the answer I gave to the original question, I made the point that the calculations are that there will be an increase to 5.9 million children in Great Britain in 2022 compared to 4.4 million if the reforms had not taken place.

We will do all we can in relation to addressing the issue of in-work poverty. Increasing the London Living Wage was really important, which you know about. Joanne McCartney [AM], my Deputy Mayor, has been working hard on the [Living Wage] Commission. That will make a difference. £10.55 an hour will make a difference. The Good Work Standard will make a difference. We will be rolling that out over the next year. If more employers have the Good Work Standard quality mark, it will mean fewer people working for a Good Work Standard employer being in in-work poverty.

There is a huge amount that needs to be done in relation to the causes and some of the welfare benefit changes the Government has made. The Universal Credit should not be rolled out, but also those that are causing an adverse impact should be reversed.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** Will you write to the next Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP] to end the freeze on children's benefits before April [2019]?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I was going to write to her anyway to welcome her to the job and make the point about Universal Credit, but I will also make the point in relation to child benefits that you have referred to as well.

**Fiona Twycross AM:** That would be helpful. Thank you.

## **2018/3286 - Gender Pay Gap**

[Florence Eshalomi AM](#)

*Women effectively stopped being paid this year on the 10th November. How are your policies tackling the gender pay gap and wider gender inequality in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. That is a damning and unacceptable statistic. In 2018, as we celebrate the centenary of the first women winning the right to vote, I have continued to champion the huge contribution women have made and continue to make to London. The gender pay gap in London has closed by only 0.5% in the last 20 years. This is unacceptable.

I am committed to closing the gap across the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group and, in doing so, set an example for London's employers. For the second year running, we have published the gender pay gap - last year [2017], it was 6.4% - and an accompanying action plan outlining what we are doing to tackle this gap. This year [2018] we also published the ethnicity pay gap for the first time - 16% - and I have encouraged other employers to follow suit.

To address the under-representation of women in senior roles across the GLA Group, I launched Our Time, a sponsoring programme which includes a practical toolkit for how other London employers can support women into leadership roles. Already we have seen six employers from both the public and private sectors sign up to implement this initiative. We are also working with employers across London to improve gender equality. Our Good Work Standard will encourage London's employers to create more high-quality, flexible work opportunities so that women can progress in their chosen careers.

I also want to support parents. The maternal employment rate in London at 60.7% is lower than any other region and 40% of unemployed mothers say that finding flexible, affordable, high-quality childcare is a barrier to work. In the GLA Group we are supporting parents with family-friendly policies such as the childcare deposit loan scheme and our new premature birth and neonatal leave, which gives parents back the time and pay that they lost in hospital with their sick baby. More widely, we are actively looking at ways to support working parents across London with their childcare needs, including through the new Early Years Hubs.

However, you are right that gender equality is about more than closing the pay gap and our work on this reflects the range of issues we need to tackle: from supporting diversity in the architecture profession to addressing gender stereotypes in education and play, from getting the advertising sector to be more representative of the diversity of women in their adverts to ensuring that we do everything possible to reduce violence against women and girls. Just to reassure you, I am committed to fighting for gender equality in London.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Great. Thank you very much for that. I congratulate you on the fact that of your 10 Deputy Mayors, seven are now women, and for the first time we have a black female Deputy Mayor. I am very much looking forward to working with Debbie Weekes-Bernard [Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement].

You touched on the fact that TfL and the different groups across City Hall have published their gender and ethnicity pay gaps. TfL's data shows that black and minority ethnic (BAME) women are still way down the pipeline in not applying. That gap has grown by 9.8%.

What more can you do as the Chair of TfL to ensure that there are more women and more BAME women applying for some of those roles and making sure that they are in higher positions across the TfL group?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will know about this because you are living it in relation to intersectionality and in relation to different protected strands being affected by certain Londoners. Being a woman and being black means that the pay gap unfortunately is worse than the gender pay gap, as you have alluded to.

What we have done in TfL is we have over the last year appointed TfL's first-ever Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Staynton Brown, and I would recommend you and other colleagues meet with him so that he can talk to you about some of the things that TfL is doing. He has made sure there is a renewed focus on ensuring there is a strong female and BAME talent pipeline. That is really important.

There is a maximising potential talent management framework. This is essentially about managing the talent. Of course recruitment is important, but once you have them in, how do you manage talent to make sure they flourish in the workplace? Also, TfL is doing some really good work in relation to a leader-led programme and also TfL is part of the Our Time initiative.

I encourage you to proffer your ideas to Staynton [Brown] as well as meet with him so that he can explain some of the things TfL is doing. I want TfL to be a world leader when it comes to making sure we can have everyone's potential fulfilled.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** That is great. You have touched on some of the barriers facing women, especially women who have had children in terms of going back to the workplace, and we know that childcare costs in London are expensive. I know there is not legislation covering this and your hands may be tied, but what more could you do to encourage businesses to look at making sure they advertise all roles as flexible unless there is a strong business case not to do so?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It goes back to an issue that was raised at previous Mayor's Question Time meetings by Fiona Twycross [AM] in relation to apprentices and why they should all have the option of part-time rather than there being a presumption the other way around. You are right about flexible working. It is a similar thing. Most workers can be trusted to either work from home or have flexible working and are conscientious. There is evidence that it helps productivity, helps staff morale, helps recruitment and helps progression.

The Good Work Standard we are working on will have what you have alluded to in relation to helping employers support women to progress in their careers, which includes flexible working and also affordable childcare facilities as well. We hope to launch that formally early next year [2019], but we are working with employers now to make sure we get that in there.

**Florence Eshalomi AM:** Great. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

## 2018/3525 - Stop and Search

[Susan Hall AM](#)

*Can stop and search act as deterrent to knife crime?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Could I also, Chairman, join with you in congratulating the Assembly Member on being elected the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group?

**Susan Hall AM:** Thank you.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** When stop-and-search is based on real intelligence, properly focused and performed professionally, it is a vital tool to keep our community safe. I have been clear that when knife crime and violence is increasing, we should expect targeted, intelligence-led stop-and-search to increase and I support our overstretched and under-resourced police officers using their powers effectively.

The law on stop-and-search is clear. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the accompanying PACE codes of practice establish the power of the police to combat crimes while protecting the rights of the public. Under Section 1 of PACE, a police constable can stop and search any person or vehicle if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that someone is carrying illegal drugs, a weapon, stolen property or something that can be used to commit a crime. There is also power under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 which allows a police officer to stop and search a person without suspicion. Section 60 stop-and-searches can take place in an area where it has been authorised by a senior police officer on the basis of their reasonable belief that violence has or is about to occur and where it is expedient to

provide it or search people for a weapon if one was involved in the incident. As well as the potential deterrent effect of stop-and-search, it is also a vital tool for taking weapons off the streets and arresting offenders.

Stop-and-search has been going down across England and Wales including in London since 2011. This year [2018] in London there have been over 19,000 arrests following someone being stopped and searched. Stop-and-search has been increasing in London recently with around 1,000 more searches taking place in October compared to September [2018] and 1,200 more compared to October last year [2017]. We also know that these searches have been effective with around one in three resulting in a positive outcome including arrests, penalty notices and community resolutions.

However, stop-and-search must be monitored carefully. I know from personal experience that when done badly, stop-and-search can seriously undermine confidence and harm community-police relations. That is why I am pleased that since I became Mayor the MPS has had the biggest roll-out of body-worn videos anywhere in the world. This new technology has been a gamechanger for police accountability.

We must also remember that stop-and-search is only part of the solution and we are doing many other things to tackle knife crime head-on. The Violent Crime Task Force, which has been funded by City Hall, has 272 officers dedicated to tackling violent crime in the communities worst affected.

Vitaly, we are doing more to tackle the root causes of violent crime. Many of the causes of violent crime are extremely complex and involve deep-seated issues from poverty and social alienation to mental ill-health and a lack of opportunities. That is why we have set up the new Violence Reduction Unit. This new unit will complement our £45 million Young Londoners Fund, which offers young people positive alternatives to crime and helps those caught up in criminal gangs to get out of trouble and into employment and training.

I am confident, Chairman, that all our measures - tough policing, a public health approach and investing in opportunities for our young people - can make a real and positive difference, but it is not going to happen overnight and it will require the Government finally stepping up to properly fund our police, local councils and other public services.

**Susan Hall AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I am thrilled that you agree with tough policing because that is the way forward. Do you agree with the Home Secretary [The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP] and the NPCC that it should be made easier for the police to use stop-and-search?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure what he means by that. Maybe you do. What does he mean by that?

**Susan Hall AM:** As an example, I was at the stop-and-search meeting in Harrow last night. The police have to be so careful that they log everything. One of the things that the police have said is there is no room on the forms for them to fit it in. They can see a load of drugs paraphernalia around people and they do a stop-and-search, but because they do not have anything on their person they cannot put it down and so it is not a successful stop-and-search, as such. It is a great shame that that cannot be changed because that they would have reason to stop somebody in that respect but it cannot be logged. That is just as one example.

I am also interested in your thoughts. These are Trevor Phillips's [OBE] words and not mine, if I can make that clear. As you remember, he was the boss of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Trevor Phillips [OBE] said that "white liberals' need to stop 'hand-wringing' and admit the truth that the wave of knife crime is black children killing black children." He called for officers to target high-risk inner-city areas and to be exempt from laws which prevent them discriminating on the basis of someone's race or ethnic origin.

What are your comments around that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I have never been a white liberal and so I am not really sure if I can talk to the experience Trevor Phillips [OBE] has of being a white liberal! What I can tell you is that I remember last week the Deputy Chief Constable of the British Transport Police [Adrian Hanstock] in the morning talking about the rules around stop-and-search being changed and on the same day the Minister [of State for Policing and the Fire Service, The Rt Hon] Nick Hurd [MP] distancing himself from any dilution of the rules around stop-and-search. I am not sure if it is anybody's intention for the Home Secretary [The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP] or the Policing Minister [The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP] to change the laws around stop-and-search.

Where you have a very good point is in relation to the "paperwork" involved sometimes. The police find it really frustrating. By the way, paperwork is there for a reason and the accountability is really important. Question: can we make it easier for police officers in relation to the time they spend recording? What you are alluding to is that there is stop-and-search and there is also stop-and-account. I know the Commissioner [Cressida Dick CBE QPM] is looking at how some police forces do stop-and-account in a far more streamlined manner so that an officer is not reducing the time he or she is spending doing frontline policing because of "paperwork". That is one of the things the police are looking into in relation to streamlining the time they can spend. You and I both want the maximum time of a police officer to be spent on the front line rather than doing sometimes important but sometimes quite resource-intensive paperwork.

That is why the tablets will make a difference. Using the tablets we have given to officers is a lot quicker than going back to the police station and filling in a notebook and stuff. We are hoping that some of these things will help.

**Susan Hall AM:** In your original answer to my question, you said that you were pleased that stop-and-search was being increased, etc. I will not repeat everything you said. Before you were elected you did say that you would do everything in your power to cut stop-and-search. Do you regret saying that now?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, not at all. It is worth reminding you of the figures I referred to. Stop-and-search has been going down since 2011. The Mayor of London from 2011 until 2016 was not me. The Home Secretary between 2011 and 2016 was not me. The two people you may be referring to are [The Rt Hon] Theresa May MP [Prime Minister] and [The Rt Hon] Boris Johnson [MP]. What I welcome is the reduction in industrial-scale, indiscriminate stop-and-search. What is a good thing is targeted, intelligence-led stop-and-search.

The gamechanger in London is the biggest roll-out of body-worn video of any police service in the world. This body-worn video means that a police officer has the confidence when he or she is using this valuable tool to know it is being recorded so that the phenomenon of a vexatious complaint is not there, but also the individual knows the interaction is being recorded. Since we have had the body-worn video, the number of complaints against the police has been low whilst, as you have said, the amount of targeted stop-and-search has increased. That shows we are getting the best of both worlds: more intelligence-led stop-and-search, taking weapons off our streets and making arrests, but also at the same time the public having confidence in our police officers.

**Susan Hall AM:** I know all about the cameras but I did ask you when the stop-and-searches were reducing and you still said, "I will do everything in my power to cut stop-and-search". I am sorry that you do not regret saying that.

The one thing is this. Will you undertake to support our police if they increase stop-and-search? Will you continue to support the police? They do not have confidence that the politicians will not change their minds. They need to know they have us 100% behind them when they increase stop-and-search.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I support our police, which is why I have spent the last two-and-a-half years arguing for more resources. I support the police, which is why I do not --

**Susan Hall AM:** I am talking about stop-and-search.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not the one who goes to the police and says, "You are crying wolf", when the police are warning --

**Susan Hall AM:** I am referring specifically to stop-and-search, Mr Mayor. You will support them, yes? Just a yes would be great.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If there are fewer officers, they are doing few stop-and-searches. The problem is this. You cannot expect there to be more stop-and-searches when there are fewer police officers. What we want is our police officers, who, as we have said, are overstretched and under-resourced, to be able to use all the tools in their toolkit to keep us safe.

**Susan Hall AM:** Maybe you should get on with recruiting them like you promised in February [2018]. Thank you, Chairman.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I am not sure if that was a question or a comment.

**Susan Hall AM:** It was a comment.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If it was a question, which I think it would be because otherwise you would have ruled it out-of-order, the question was this: do I think that we should be recruiting police officers faster? The answer, Chairman, is that we want more resources to be able to recruit even more police officers faster.

**Susan Hall AM:** Then put the money in.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** As it is, what I have managed to do using council tax and business rates is to have 1,000 more officers than would otherwise be the case. What I am hoping the Government announces in the police settlement in the next few weeks is a reversal of the £1 billion worth of cuts but additional resources so that we can have even more police officers recruited even more quickly.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** I am glad you saw that opportunity, Mr Mayor, to make that statement.

## **2018/3339 - Modernisation of London's bus services**

[Navin Shah AM](#)

*Following the consultation on plans to modernise central London's bus services, what strategy do you have for a similar strategic approach to modernising bus services in outer London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. London's iconic buses are known around the world. They play a pivotal role in transporting Londoners to the shops, to school, to work, to the hospital and home from a night out. Two billion bus journeys happen every year.

However, just because routes have historically served particular destinations does not mean that they should stay exactly the same. London is changing and Londoners need buses to be in the places where people want to use them. In central London, demand for buses over the last few years has fallen by 12% partly due to improved rail services such as increased capacity on the London Overground and more people walking and cycling. TfL's proposals in central London will reduce congestion caused by running buses that are only partially full and will give a simple, flexible network with the right number of buses in the right places and at the right times. These changes have been helped by the introduction of the Hopper fare, which provides unlimited bus journeys for the price of one within an hour.

Freeing up underused buses in central London will also allow TfL to invest more of its £700 million annual bus subsidy to accommodate growth in outer London. I have asked TfL to review the outer London bus network to make sure it supports growth and encourages usage. We want to be able to deliver year-on-year increases in bus kilometres in outer London and will work with the boroughs and local stakeholders to identify the areas of highest demand for extra services.

Changes to bus services must and will be delivered at a pace that matches changing travel trends, customer demand and population growth. Some improvements have already been proposed. For example, in Brent there has been a consultation to extend the 440 bus route from Stonebridge Park to the Wembley Stadium area. A public consultation to extend route 483 from Ealing Hospital to Windmill Lane, which serves Harrow and Wembley town centres, opened on 15 November [2018].

TfL will also be modernising the bus network in other ways. This includes greener, safer buses and better information and other customer improvements. As the bus network is reshaped, outer London will be a net beneficiary.

**Navin Shah AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I agree with you that London is changing and particularly outer London is changing even faster and is already under tremendous pressure for growth which is needed and which is planned through initiatives like Opportunity Areas. We have 38 Opportunity Areas, for example, across London. Many are in the outer London areas where we have 575,000 additional jobs we are aspiring for. Similarly, plans for 300,000 homes are planned as well. These are minimum targets by 2031.

What worries me is that whilst for inner London there is a strategic approach to look at the network in terms of a root-and-branch review, there is not similar thinking for outer London. I believe we need that, we need a public transport bus network fit for purpose for now and the future to come. My concern is that in the response I get from TfL they are saying, given the size and the range of bus services offered across outer London areas, one single review of the outer London bus network would be overwhelming and take years to complete. Yes, that may be the case, but the point is we need a clear vision for outer London. If it cannot be done in one hit - and I can understand there are practical reasons - it can be done in sectors. If you are serious about having successful growth which is absolute necessary for outer London, we need to have a root-and-branch look at the strategy for the outer London bus network because we need connectivity.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Do you have a question?

**Navin Shah AM:** Yes. Can you please, Mr Mayor, address this issue and get TfL to look at having a strategic review of outer London as I have explained?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Can I just say, Chairman? Thank you for what you have said. I am very happy to organise for the Deputy Mayor [for Transport, Heidi Alexander] and also the [Managing] Director of Surface Transport [Gareth Powell] to meet with you to explain why the premise of your question does not really work for outer London. Let me tell you briefly why.

Croydon and Sutton are very different to Harrow and Brent. Havering and Redbridge are very different to other parts of London. Therefore, to have one strategic outer London review would not work because the housing coming onstream is very different in Brent as opposed to Croydon. The other forms of public transport are different, for example, where there has been the east London extension to west London. Sometimes it is a town-centre-to-town-centre bus that is required. Sometimes it is a bus to a hospital. Sometimes it is a bus to a new employer. Different parts of outer London are growing at different paces. Therefore, to have one strategic outer London review would not address the rapid changes you are talking about in parts of outer London.

What we are doing is increasing bus capacity in outer London and we are, for the reasons I alluded to in my answer, reducing the number of buses in London. Even then we are talking about 5% of buses we are consulting on, 9,000 buses, of 600 routes, 33 bus routes are to consult on in central London. In outer London we are trying to increase the number of buses going there, but different boroughs and different parts of outer London have different needs.

**Navin Shah AM:** Mr Mayor, I hear what you say, although I am not convinced with the rationale. I look forward to your offer of meeting the Deputy Mayor [for Transport, Heidi Alexander] and other TfL representatives to look at this issue, which is so critical. Thank you very much.

## **2018/2976 - Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge**

[Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM](#)

*When will the proposed Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge open?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I begin by congratulating Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM] on topping the Liberal Democrat Assembly list for the 2020 [London Assembly] election. Well done.

The Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf crossing is an important and unique part of my vision for Healthy Streets. It will be London's first-ever cycling-and-walking bridge of its kind and amongst one of the longest bridges that are open for vessel crossings in the world. It is an ambitious project in this rapidly growing part of London that will not only help more Londoners walk and cycle but will also provide vital connections to existing and planned cycle routes on both sides of the river. A new bridge at this location has been proposed for over a decade but it is only now that it is getting the focus and expertise needed to make it a reality.

The key next steps we are pushing forward are further public consultation and engagement to develop detailed proposals before applying for a Transport and Works Act order (TWAO). The timescales involved in the TWAO process are at the discretion of the Secretary of State for Transport, but TfL expects a decision within 12 to 24 months following an application in 2019. This would include a potential public inquiry, completion of a report by the appointed planning inspector and a decision by the Secretary of State for Transport. This will then give TfL the powers to acquire land and build and operate the crossing. As I have said, we expect an application to be made to the Department for Transport (DfT) next year.

Subject to the outcome of this process, we anticipate that it will take three to four years to construct the bridge and to carry out testing of the operational procedures. TfL is rightly ensuring that it has undertaken a thorough options assessment and worked through the key issues with the relevant stakeholders such as the Port of London Authority. This will ensure a solution is developed that best meets the needs of future crossing users, river users and the local communities either side of the river. New crossings on the river take time to get right.

To put our process in context, the Mersey Gateway Bridge that opened last October [2017] took more than 17 years from when detailed planning started to completion. Although the Mersey Gateway is a road bridge, it does not have to open for large river vessels, whereas the proposed Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge has to have this function.

I would like this new crossing built as soon as possible. The current estimated opening date for the bridge is during 2024, which is an ambitious timescale. There is no doubt there is still a lot of work to do to achieve the opening date in 2024, but this is a high-priority project for London and we have a strong TfL team in place.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Thank you very much for that answer. As you know, I am a longstanding supporter of the pedestrian-and-cycling crossing between Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf. In fact, it was my first question to you back in May 2016.

It is great to hear that there is progress on this, but why was there no mention of the crossing in yesterday's TfL Board papers, all 286 pages? There was not even a passing mention in the Commissioner's report or in any of the papers presented.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It may have been discussed at the Programmes and Investment Committee, Chairman. We do not go through at a Board meeting all the details. Can I go away and come back and write to you?

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** It just seems that if it is such a key project, one of your ambitious projects, it should be mentioned at every meeting and what the progress is.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To be fair, Chairman, there are lots of important projects for TfL and at a Board meeting you would not expect all the priorities to be mentioned. You will be aware - I am sure the Assembly Member is - of some of the things we did discuss yesterday that are equally important.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** You have said it is going to, hopefully, open in around 2024. Does that mean you expect construction work to start before May 2020?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I hope so. I deliberately set out when we are going to apply for a TWAO application. The reason why building work may not start in 2020 is that it depends when we get the response back from the Secretary of State [for Transport]. There is no deadline by which he or she responds. The only way construction could begin before May 2020 is if we had back the response as soon as possible but, even when we get a response, there is further work that, as I set out, we have to do. I can set that out: developing a construction methodology, extensive site clearance, diverting utility services, building access jetties, building foundations, large concrete pours, lifting parts of the bridge decking and ramps, and not disrupting stuff. As soon as the DfT were to give us the green light - forgive the pun - we could get going and there is no reason why we would not subject to the usual procurement needs.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** It would be great if at some point we could put out when the next consultation is going to be as well on this.

What I am concerned about is that TfL is almost trying to avoid another Garden Bridge - quite rightly - and has almost gone to the other extreme and has effectively blocked an existing design from entering the tendering process; yet at the same time they have allowed a competitor, who advised on the procurement, to then bid for the work.

I was wondering. Would you ask your auditors to review this to ensure that TfL has acted properly? I have raised this several times and not felt TfL is really understanding this.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, it is a good example of being damned if you do and damned if you do not. On the one hand, we have had lots of discussion about corners being cut and Mayors having personal preferences in relation to design and that leading to decisions being made that are not sensible. On the other hand, we have due processes being followed and a procurement process being followed but the original designer of the original model not being happy with the outcome.

I am happy to ask my Deputy Mayor [for Transport] Heidi Alexander to look into the concerns you have raised. I am not sure if an audit is necessary, but subject to what the Deputy Mayor [for Transport] concludes, of course I would be happy to have TfL looked into. I am reassured from the conversations I have had with the Commissioner and others that there are no rules broken, but I will ask the Deputy Mayor of Transport to look into the very serious concern that the Assembly Member has. What I would not want to do is set off on a bad foot, obviously.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** I would like auditors to look at this because something does not quite smell right. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

[Evacuation alarm]

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Meeting adjourned.

(Adjournment)

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We are still with Assembly Member Pidgeon [MBE] and the bridge.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Yes. Really, I want to say to the Mayor that something does not smell right to me with this procurement. I really would like you to get your auditors to review this to make sure TfL has acted properly and to make sure we have time, learn from the mistakes and get this bridge delivered.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** That was it, really. You are going to agree with that, are you not?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** No, Chairman. What I am willing to do is to ask the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander, to meet with Assembly Member Pidgeon [MBE] to discuss her very serious concerns.

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Thank you very much.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Thank you, Chairman. Mr Mayor, Assembly Member Pidgeon [MBE] is right in that this is a very high-profile project about which there was much noise quite a while ago and there has been very little noise about it for quite some time. How much is this bridge going to cost?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I am not sure if we at this stage have put a figure on it for commercial market reasons. I am sure that in the draft Business Plan, soon to be published, we will set out the parameters there. We set aside some money for the preliminary work in the previous Business Plan. The exact figure we will not give at this stage but there will be a ballpark figure. I suspect that it is - with the caveat that I have not looked at the figures - hundreds of millions rather than tens of millions for the total cost, but I am sure on some terms we can provide that information to you.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I will help you out a bit on it, Mr Mayor, because the most recent figure that I have been able to unearth is the consultation report figure, which was published a year ago and which, understandably at this stage this far out from the project, had a range of £120 million to £187 million based on 2016 prices. Based on your answers earlier on, you said that you thought construction probably would not start until post-2020 and so, clearly, that would need to be revised and probably revised upwards. Do you accept that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Inflation is going one way, but also it could be revised for other reason, which is that now we know more about where the bridge is going to go and, as I explained, the width of the river there is three times what it is at Tower Bridge. Therefore, aside from the inflationary pressures, there could be pressures because of the model of bridge that would be needed as well. I could not put a figure on it, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that the figure is going to go higher rather than lower.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** My understanding is that because of, as you have outlined, the width of the river at that point and of course also the shipping that passes back and forth, it means that the bridge will have to be a lifting bridge. It is just a question of how high the bridge part is above the water. It could be 10 metres like Tower Bridge. It could be as high as 20 metres to allow big shipping, of which there is more at that end of the river than there is here.

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

**Gareth Bacon AM:** How practical do you think that is as a model for a pedestrian-and-cycle bridge?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The responses were very positive. You are answering the question in a better way than I did with Assembly Member Pidgeon [MBE] in relation to why you cannot just accept the first design given because things have moved on. Whilst we may be tempted to accept the design that was there originally, things have moved on. We know where the bridge is going to go in our response.

The advice I received is that there is no reason why it cannot happen. In fact, at TfL there is a team working on this, but you are right and let me just underscore your point. The only one that TfL can find that is bigger than this in relation to opening is a massive railway bridge over the Suez Canal. That is the sort of scale we are talking about. It is big. There are other opening bridges that are not for cars. This is going to be quite a feat of engineering and it will be fantastic once it is open.

The main opening section would potentially be 180 metres long, putting it in amongst the longest opening bridges in the world. You are right, yes.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** From an engineering perspective, I accept that it is feasible. From an engineering perspective, almost anything is feasible. However, it would need to be open for quite a significant period of

time because large ships, particularly if they are cruise ships and other big ships that moor beside HMS Belfast, would not have sufficient time to stop after they have passed through Tower Bridge if they are heading east and so the bridge would have to open at the same time as Tower Bridge opens, which could be an hour delay according to the consultation report that TfL produced a year ago [2017].

Again, it comes back to the practicality question. If it is a pedestrian-and-cycle bridge, do you think that that might limit its attractiveness to users?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** All the advice I have received is that there is still a very good case for this. You will be aware of our ambition to get more people walking and cycling. Another thing that has been looked at is the issue of alternatives in relation to a crossing in that part of the city, making the ferry, for example, more attractive than it currently is. All the advice I have received is that the Rotherhithe-Canary Wharf bridge is the best option in relation to getting more people walking and cycling in that part of our city.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You said it is likely to cost hundreds of millions or you accepted that it would probably go north of the ballpark range that TfL put in there for timing reasons as much as anything else, plus potential engineering complexity. How is it proposed to fund it?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** That is one of the things we will be looking into in relation to the next stage. The next stage is the consultation and then an application goes into the DfT and the DfT will want to have answers in relation to funding, of course. That is one of the reasons why and I appreciate it is frustrating in relation to an apparent lack of urgency but those are the things that have to be looked into.

I mentioned a ferry. The other option would be of course a tunnel. Tunnels are even more expensive than bridges. TfL has looked at all options in relation to this, but I am happy when we are at a further stage in the draft Business Plan to discuss with you the sorts of figures we are talking about. However, as I said to you, I do not think it is unreasonable - and I am not an engineer - to, like you, suggest that the figures are going to go upwards rather than downwards.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Yes. I am going to pursue a little bit more on the funding, Mr Mayor. River crossings are by their nature expensive. We know that Silvertown is going to be funded by being tolled and, as a result of that, Blackwall will need to be tolled as well so that we make sure people go through both of them rather than just one. However, if you are going to rely on a model like that, you could not really toll a pedestrian-and-cycle bridge.

What options is TfL exploring? Is it exploring any options in terms of how it is going to fund this?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** In the next phase it will be. The first phase was the consultation. Did people want this? Is this the best option? There was a very positive response there. The next phase that TfL is working on before it goes back for further consultation is the sorts of questions you are asking. Without encouraging potential bidders to go to the bid we are going to budget for but within a big envelope, give an idea, roughly speaking, how much it is going to cost, work out if that can be afforded and how it would be paid for.

There are a number of different models for payments. You have mentioned tolls. Another model that has been used for other projects is a form of - not the form that has had a bad rap - private finance initiative. That could be one way of funding it. I am not prescribing the method of funding. What I am saying is that there are a number of different options aside from the tolling option you referred to. Clearly, the idea that you will encourage more people to walk and cycle by making them pay for it is not attractive.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I accept everything you say about future consultation and more plans being worked out. Are you confident sitting here today that this is going to be a bridge that can be affordable and, if you get a second term, delivered within your second term as Mayor?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** 2024 is ambitious. During term two construction will be under way. I would be disappointed if construction was not well underway. As I learnt from recent experience, construction beginning does not necessarily mean it is completed by due date, but 2024, in the words of the official who wrote my briefing, is ambitious. When you have worked with civil servants you realise the word 'ambitious' is -- construction will be well underway in 2022. It will be all hands to the pump for it to be completed by 2024.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** In civil servant speak, 'ambitious' means unlikely and 'courageous' means foolhardy. Which do you think this is?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It will happen. We have to get through the DfT. I experienced in the Silvertown project - it is not a party-political point - that the DfT, rightly, goes through plans in detail before it gives them the green light. You would expect it to go through this plan with sufficient rigour. That is why it is important for us to do the work in advance of submitting it for a TWAO application. At that stage I will have a better idea, by the way, in the definition of ambitious or courageous, what this is. If, for example, TfL is not optimistic about succeeding with DfT, that is the stage where you would want to pull it rather than spending time and hassle. So far I have seen no evidence of any reasons why we should pull this. The consultation is very positive. We are now going to go to the next phase, go back to consultation, with a bid going to, according to the advice I received, 2019. I have been told, whether it is 12 months' response or 24 months' response, it is not how good the bid is, it just depends on the workload of DfT and other questions it may have.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** You will have picked up it is the business plan I am going to be very interested in.

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

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I will accept your offer to go through that when it is released. I will leave it at that.

**Len Duvall AM:** Mr Mayor, I was not going to intervene but I do want to go back to an earlier point made by Assembly Member Caroline Pidgeon [MBE]. It is not about being in favour - or it should not be about being in favour - of one set of designs or the other. You may have misunderstood. It is about the processes. We have been here before. When an Assembly Member raises a question about the process, we need to clear the air. What has happened in terms of questions, in my understanding, that have been asked of TfL is that it has not managed to clear the air. It is about the process. These processes were changed because of the process followed on the Garden Bridge, which were wrong before. This is *déjà vu* with some of the comments that Assembly Member Bacon was raising. The issue is you can have a meeting with your Deputy Mayor for Transport [Heidi Alexander] but we need a very clear and comprehensive report that nothing untoward has happened in the processes. The reason I say that is that TfL has form. I am not suggesting you are involved in that. We have officials giving you advice; we had the same officials giving advice to your previous Mayor [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP], etc, and telling us the processes were right, and the processes were not right and they have been found out not to be right. There is a trust and confidence in TfL over its procurement practices that need to be cleared. If it cannot answer in a clear manner in terms of outside this forum, there has to be some questions.

You have rightly offered a meeting with Heidi Alexander [Deputy Mayor for Transport], but I do not want you, as a Labour Mayor, to be tainted with the processes followed by officials who quite frankly either have learnt the lessons or not learnt the lessons. You need to have some decisive action of clearing the air and making sure that we are clear we are following the rules. At the moment that is not clear from the information I have seen. You may have seen something different to us but that is what this Assembly should be looking for.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I am very happy for the Deputy Mayor to meet with Assembly Member Pidgeon and anybody else who wants to meet with her. What I have been advised in relation to the procurement for the design team is that TfL has appointed a number of specialist suppliers to support it in developing the scheme from the TWAO process. Following a competitive process, TfL appointed Atkins earlier this year to provide engineering and architectural services to TfL on the project. Other suppliers included Mott MacDonald on environment, Marico on navigation, and Quod on town planning. The procurement processes were generally structured to test bidders' knowledge and experience of developing similar schemes, not to select a specific design.

**Len Duvall AM:** Mr Mayor, I would not normally interrupt you and there is some great information there, but this is almost like *déjà vu*. We had the same information, the same Acts quoted, the same processes quoted and then we found out something different had happened. It is best that you look into it. You have your brief. You may want to share that information in writing with the [Assembly] Member to check, but some clear statements should be made following that meeting with Heidi Alexander [Deputy Mayor for Transport] that say, "This process is now clear", because we have had some of that information from your officials and it is still unclear.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I have made the offer for the Deputy Mayor [for Transport, Heidi Alexander] to meet with relevant [Assembly] Members. By the same token, we have to be very careful allowing a cloud to stay over TfL. I accept the point made by the Assembly Member that some of the same people may or may not be involved in this process or involved in the Garden Bridge fiasco, but it is a bit unfair to allow an impression to be left that somehow this procurement process is, in the words of Assembly Member Pidgeon [MBE], smelly. All I would say to you is I am very happy for Heidi [Alexander] to meet with relevant Assembly Members. If it is the case that the questions you have are not addressed by the Deputy Mayor [for Transport], of course I am happy to look at it again.

Learning lessons from history is really important. The definition of insanity is not to learn lessons from errors made and repeat the same behaviour again. Len, in that spirit, can I suggest a meeting? I should be looking at you, Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM]. If you are still unhappy, come back to us and I will then see what else we can do. Does that, Chairman, address the concerns?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** It seems an appropriate way to proceed.

## **2018/3180 - Crossrail 2 funding**

[Tom Copley AM](#)

*How crucial is it for Crossrail 2 to be properly funded in order to unlock the new homes London needs?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. It was a nice segue from the Garden Bridge to Tom Copley [AM]. Crossrail 2 is vital for us to unlock the new homes London so desperately needs. New housing cannot come forward without the right transport connections, and 85% of all new housing in London since 2000 has been built within 1 kilometre of a station. Crossrail 2 would give a boost to new housing in

places such as the Upper Lee Valley where there is huge untapped housing potential that is held back by its current transport provision. By transforming an infrequent rail service and bringing in trains every few minutes, those areas of brownfield land will become prime development sites. Crossrail 2 would unlock at least 200,000 homes across London over and above those that would otherwise have been built. Around 40,000 of these could be delivered before Crossrail 2 is even operating.

Crossrail 2 is crucial for both transport and housing in London, which is why the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the GLA housing team and Homes England are all involved in its development, alongside TfL and the DfT. Crossrail 2 is at a crucial point in its development. An independent affordability review has this year looked at ways of making it more affordable and the [relevant] Secretary of State and I can now consider the recommendations set out in its draft interim report. I will shortly be considering with him the remaining questions over route and possible phase-in.

Prior to last month's [Autumn] Budget, I asked the Chancellor [of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP] that Government make a decision about the project's future. It is already more than two-and-a-half years since the National Infrastructure Commission recommended that it be taken forward as "a priority". The Budget confirmed that the Treasury will consider Crossrail 2 as part of next year's [2019] spending review. The project will need further funding to get to a Hybrid Bill. However, well before the Chancellor announces the results of this review at next autumn's Budget [2019], we need confirmation of the route so we can update the business case and, crucially, consult to safeguard the route. It is an essential project for London and the wider southeast. This is not just because of the vital transport capacity of a large city of over 10 million by the time it opens but because of its transformative effect on homes, jobs and economic growth.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you for that answer, Mr Mayor. The 200,000 homes you mentioned that Crossrail 2 will unlock represent 12.5% of the total number of homes we need to build in London by 2041, according to your new draft London Plan, which is a huge number. Would you agree the Government would struggle to meet its own targets for national housing delivery, let alone those for London, if it fails to properly fund this project?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. It is also worth reminding colleagues that this benefits other parts of the country as well. It will improve transport links from Portsmouth to Cambridge. The housing will not just be in London, the housing will be outside London as well, so it is really important. Also, frankly speaking, if you look at major stations like Euston, Waterloo and Victoria, they will grind to a halt without increased capacity.

**Tom Copley AM:** Absolutely. Of course, the wider country does benefit, which is why, although London is committed to paying for half of the total cost, we do need the Government to fund it properly and come up with those financial contributions.

What new mechanisms are you looking at to ensure that councils and the GLA can best capture the uplift in land value? This is something we have talked about before and something that TfL has done some work on. We will need this land value capture to invest in affordable housing and local services. Are you confident the Government will give you the powers that you need to implement these?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** One of the conversations that we are having with Treasury is how we pay for half the cost of construction in real time. It is worth reminding colleagues around the country that not only did we pay a big proportion of Crossrail 1 as a city, even though it is a national project, we are offering to pay a lot for Crossrail 2. One of the lessons we have learnt from Crossrail 1 is we did not fully capture the increase in value of land in Crossrail 1 - there are a number of reasons why - many, many years in advance. TfL estimates

that Crossrail 2 will deliver an uplift in land values of up to £60 billion and so we are looking at new innovative ways to try to capture the value of that. We piloted the Development Rights Auction Model in relation to land value capture and we are looking at other models to try to capture the value of the increase, particularly around stations.

**Tom Copley AM:** That is an enormous uplift in land value. Finally, in terms of the politics of this, we have lost the Minister for London, [The Rt Hon] Jo Johnson [MP], who resigned over the Prime Minister's [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP] approach to Brexit and is asking for a people's vote. Have you met with the new Minister [The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP] yet or do you intend to soon to discuss Crossrail 2?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Firstly, I should put on record my thanks to [The Rt Hon] Jo Johnson [MP], who was a very good Minister for London. The new Minister for London, [The Rt Hon] Nick Hurd [MP], is a Londoner as well and is also very personable and somebody who I think will work with us collegiately. I have written to him already and one of the things I mentioned in my letter, the priorities of our city, are Crossrail 2 and working with us in relation to Crossrail 2. The advantage with [The Rt Hon] Jo [Johnson, MP] was he was in the DfT and [The Rt Hon] Nick Hurd [MP] is not, he is in policing, but maybe he can assist us in there as well with his policing hat on. I am looking forward to a good relationship with [The Rt Hon] Nick Hurd [MP] going forward.

**Tom Copley AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** I had not intended to come in on this question, but following on from Assembly Member Copley's line of questioning about land value capture, land value capture is fine in theory but is illiquid. One of the ways of capturing value from land would be to charge higher taxation in the form of council tax or some kind of surplus in the immediate locality, particularly around stations.

Given that it is illiquid and people in property that is by the Crossrail 2 site will not be able to benefit from it until they sell their property, will you specifically rule out any kind of taxation attached to their property?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You mean across London?

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Along the route of Crossrail 2. The land value capture that we are talking about is along the route primarily. It could be said that they would benefit because they could sell their property at a much higher rate because it is close to a transport hub, but that only works if you sell your property. If you do not, then you cannot access the value.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, the Assembly Member asked a very good question. In the submissions we have made to the independent review in relation to the question Government asked, which was how do you pay the 50%, what is not in there is making residents pay an increased tax. One of the things that is worth looking into is how the Northern Line Extension was paid for in relation to business rates retention. There are models out there and the Treasury did a pilot work with us on how you pay for the Bakerloo Line Extension in relation to businesses paying an increase. Another thing we explored with Chancellor [The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP] at a meeting with him was the issue of the value of the air above stations, obviously development going up.

To reassure you, and I will double-check to make sure, subject to that, in the modelling we have done the 50% does not include residents paying increased taxes as you alluded to, but I will double-check. Subject to me not writing to you say that I have it wrong, that is the reassurance you can have.

**Gareth Bacon AM:** Could you write to me and confirm that you are right? If I do not hear from you I will assume --

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes, I will do that. We are not being facetious. We cannot publish the business case but what I can do is to give the reassurance to the Assembly Member that the business case does not include what he has alluded to, which is a legitimate concern, you can understand, people having across a potential route going from southwest to northeast of London.

## **2018/3087 - Hate Crime**

[Peter Whittle AM](#)

*According to Chief Constable Sarah Thornton, Head of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), investigating hate crime risks distracting police from their core role of handling emergencies, solving violent crime, burglaries and neighbourhood policing. Is she correct in this assumption and will this result in fewer Metropolitan Police Service officers sitting at computer terminals and policing London's streets instead?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. That is a misrepresentation of what of what Chief Constable Sarah Thornton said. She said that the priority must be tackling violent crime. I agree and this is what we are doing in London. Sarah Thornton said that, although desirable, she has reservations about the police having to investigate misogyny as a hate crime, which is currently being considered by the Government. This is all within the context of police funding. The main point that Chief Constable Sarah Thornton and the MPS Commissioner [Cressida Dick CBE QPM] repeatedly make is that police forces up and down the country are far too stretched because they are having to deal with massive cuts from the Government.

Both support the police cutting down on hate crime and that this should be a priority and neither has said that the police should not be investigating hate crime. Where there is hate there is often violence, so attacking hate crime is not simply a nice to have, it is also crucial to ensuring safer communities. It is right we are taking a zero-tolerance approach towards this. I know some people are trying to give the impression that there are hundreds of MPS officers sitting behind desks scouring the internet or elsewhere looking for insignificant crimes to investigate, but this is simply not the case and it is unfair to give that impression of the police.

The truth is that 81% of MPS officers work on the frontline, which is higher than the national average. Of course we want to see as many police officers working in the community as possible but we know there are appalling activities taking place online and it is right that we, the police and society take that seriously. That is why I support the work of the online hate crime hub. Hate crime matters. Londoners who are victims of these appalling crimes will be let down if it was implied that they are somehow triggering offences that are not worthy of police time.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I assume from that that you are saying that Sarah Thornton was misrepresented?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** She was saying that incidents that are not crimes should not have time from the police spent on them when they have violent crimes and other serious crimes to be investigated.

**Peter Whittle AM:** The thing is, Mr Mayor, that nationally something like 94,000 hate crime incidents are reported. A mere 14% get referred by the police to the CPS. I am sure that that is proportionately the same for London. That means that 86% of the rest of them are taking up a huge amount of police time. I notice, and wonder whether you could comment on this, that over the weekend it was reported that there are 900

officers dedicated to hate crime in London. References to that have all disappeared from Twitter. They have all been taken down. What I would ask you is a straight question. Those 900 dedicated to hate crime, which you have made a lot of and indeed so have the MPS, is there any chance, given the level of assault that is happening now - 122 people killed - that those 900 all, if possible, could be transferred over - or at least a proportion of them, half of them - to helping the police fighting what is an epidemic of violent crime?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, the question demonstrates a complete lack of understanding about the Community Support Units (CSUs). There are 900 officers in the CSUs, and the CSUs do work like dealing with domestic abuse and domestic violence. They are involved in neighbourhood operations that are very important in relation to burglary. They are involved in Safer Neighbourhood Teams and they also work in relation to hate crime. Therefore, it is not true to say they are not doing frontline policing. If an impression was given --

**Peter Whittle AM:** I did not just say online, Mr Mayor, I did not just say online. The point has been made quite clear that in fact 900 officers are dedicated to hate crime. That point has been made time and again. How does one misunderstand that?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, can I clarify a misunderstanding the Assembly Member in this great city has, which is there are not 900 officers working full time on hate crime. There are 900 officers who are part of the CSU. They do a variety of things, from domestic violence and domestic abuse to working with Safer Neighbourhood Teams, work with neighbourhood watches, addressing issues of burglary and hate crime. The idea that you have 900 officers doing just hate crime is simply not true.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Given that they do those other things in that case as well, although you would not know that from what has been said, could they not, therefore, as a matter of urgency, be put directly on to the violent crime squad, as it were, that you announced recently. We need as many people as possible.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** We are never going to know the answer to this one, Assembly Member Whittle. You are out of time.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Are you simply saying, no, that is not possible?

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** He is not going to answer the question because you are out of time. We now move on.

## 2018/3164 - Plastic tax

[Leonie Cooper AM](#)

*Does the Mayor share my disappointment with the lack of ambition for the environment demonstrated by the Government at the Budget, for example, stopping short of a taxation for single use plastic cups that could be hypothecated to improving recycling services in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. The [Autumn] Budget was an opportunity for the Government to deliver on its commitment to improve the environment, but it failed to do so. It failed on a range of environmental areas and did not provide the new funding we desperately need. Like you, I was also disappointed by the Treasury's ambition on reducing waste, including plastics.

We are taking action to cut waste and increase recycling in London, hoping to cut unnecessary plastic waste through the reintroduction of drinking water fountains through London, including a new £5 million partnership with Thames Water. This will help people refill bottles rather than buying new single-use ones. London needs investment for our recycling services to meet our aim for London to achieve 65% of its waste being recycled by 2030 and a 50% reduction per head in food waste by 2030. To achieve this, we need Government support.

Boroughs need more funding and in London we estimate that more than £100 million is required to meet our recycling target by 2025. A plastic tax could have helped support this. We know from the introduction of the plastic-bag charge, which resulted in a reduction of around 9 billion bags a year in the UK, that small economic incentives can significantly change both consumer and retail behaviour.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor, I am glad you share my disappointment with the Budget. Could you tell me - or perhaps you could write to me afterwards - about what meetings you and your officials have been having with [The Rt Hon] Michael Gove [MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] and his officials to try to make sure that this is pushed forward? Clearly you are saying we need help from the Government and it would be nice to know what City Hall has been doing to get them onside.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. One of the areas where, for example, it could give us assistance was in relation to reforming the package and producer responsibility system, which needs to happen by 2022. I will write to the Assembly Member and send out all the work we are doing lobbying the Government, where there are promising responses from the Government and where we think they need to go much further.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** There is another tax that people have been talking about, which is an incineration tax. Could you indicate to us whether you might be in favour of that as well - going with some element of hypothecation - to try to fill the gap that has been left by the Treasury failing to assist London with the £100 million that you have just referred to? We are not going to meet our 65% recycling target at this rate, are we?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. Can I say there are examples of taxes changing behaviour in this area with the landfill tax? You will know that the landfill tax led to a big change in relation to the UK's ability to meet the targets to restrict municipal waste that was sent to landfill. The idea of a well-designed and implemented environmental tax like the incineration tax would be welcome. It has to be hypothecated, though. What we do not want to do is to provide a windfall - forgive the pun - for other parts of Government spending.

**Leonie Cooper AM:** However, I was disturbed. As you know, we have started the scrutiny of your budget and one of the things we looked at in the [London Assembly] Budget and Performance Committee yesterday was the fact that you seemed to be planning to remove any budget for next year in terms of air quality beyond the money that is going to be left in the transport budget. Clearly, Londoners do have concerns when they live near incinerators and it seems a shame not to have any money in your budget to support them and questions they might be raising.

Are we not going to support them or are we just going to signpost them to the complexities of the Environment Agency? Surely we should be supporting and listening to Londoners who live near incinerators.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** You will be aware of the huge amount of work we are doing on air quality and I am surprised that is not being celebrated more by Members of the Assembly. Only last week I was in Lewisham to launch the new low-emission bus service, which will make a big difference in relation to improving

the quality of air in other parts of London that you have seen benefited in Putney. Putney High Street has seen the hourly breaches reduced by almost 90%. Brixton has seen similar reductions by 90% and we are seeing a rollout across five further areas, a good example of air quality being improved as a direct consequence of us spending to retrofit buses and buy new electric hybrid or hydrogen buses as well. We are currently doing those works.

In relation to incinerators, we are not supporting any new incinerators in London other than those already given permission. It is really important that anybody thinking about applying for permission for an incinerator in London realises the message from City Hall and what we set out in our draft London Plan as well.

## **2018/3383 - Housing**

[Andrew Boff AM](#)

*Are your housing policies working?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. The housing crisis has been caused by decades of failure to build enough council, social rented and other genuinely affordable homes for Londoners. I have been clear that we need a step change in funding and powers from National Government to truly end the housing crisis. I have also been clear City Hall will use every tool and resource we have to make a difference now. The facts show some of the progress we have already made. Earlier this year we launched the first ever City Hall programme dedicated to council home building, after securing the first money from national Government for social rent in a decade. Over £1 billion will now support 28 local authorities to build over 14,000 council homes, including more than 11,000 at social rented levels. This is a five-fold increase in council home building over the next four years compared to the last four.

More broadly, this funding means that more than 12,500 social rented and other genuinely affordable homes were started in 2017/18. That is the highest number since responsibility for affordable housing was devolved and, crucially, includes nearly 3,000 at social rent levels. Towards the end of my predecessor's term, just 13% of new homes given planning permission were affordable. Narrow schemes I have considered between pioneering new planning rules have been adopted, and summer this year affordable housing has jumped to 38%. Savills recently reported 35% affordable housing threshold is becoming embedded in land values.

We have also introduced our country's first funding rules requiring resident ballots over estate regeneration plans. We have now seen the first such ballot take place in Barnet, where residents of Westhorpe Gardens and Mills Grove estates voted 75% in favour of the offer put to them by their landlord, Metropolitan Thames Valley. Our policies are also helping the millions of Londoners in the private rented sector. Every London council is now part of our Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker, which already contains around 1,200 records, compared to zero on the Government's attempted national rogue landlord database.

Our policies are also helping people who sleep rough. We have secured an extra £12 million from national Government for new services to help people off the streets. We are using this funding to double the number of London Street Rescue outreach workers, boost local weather shelters with a £600,000 small grants programme, expand the No Second Night Out service, including the funding two new stadium posts, and to improve access to mental health services with a specialist team to assess rough sleepers. GLA services are now helping a record number of people, 200 more each month compared to the end of the previous Mayor's [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP] term. Our approach is making a real difference to Londoners' lives, but I am clear we need proper funding and powers from National Government to truly fix the housing crisis.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you. Haringey councillors recently applied to the GLA for an exemption to your requirement for a ballot for tenants, as you referred to in your response there, at a development on Broadwater Farm in respect of the demolition and replacement of Tangmere and Northolt blocks. They are a recipient of GLA housing funds, of course. Will you be granting such an exemption?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have not seen the application yet. I have seen what has been in the media. There are some exemptions in relation to if there are concerns around the fabric of the building, the bricks and mortar. If there is a danger, for example, then it is a danger. I have not seen the application but there are some criteria where ballots are required. Depending on the 'merits' of the application, the officers will look at the scheme.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Can you think of any reason why the leadership of Haringey Council would want to avoid a ballot with its residents? After all, it broke its own manifesto commitment to its residents that was put to those residents in May this year [2018].

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I cannot speak on the specifics of that application, but in general terms I think councils should be consulting with their residents via a ballot when they come to regenerating their estate. If they want funding from City Hall - and there is a lot even in one social home - the expectation is a like-for-like replacement, more social homes, but they have to have a ballot. There are some exemptions, as I have said, where it can be excepted. I am not sure councils should be trying to use that as a loophole to avoid, as you are suggesting, consulting residents.

**Andrew Boff AM:** One would have thought that the residents themselves would not particularly vote in favour of staying in a building that was demonstrated to be unsafe. I wonder why you think that Haringey might not want to consult residents with regard to that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The purpose behind the exemption was not for that reason; it was because of the time it takes to have a ballot done. Chairman, I am talking hypotheticals; I do not know the merits. If it was the case, for argument's sake, that a particular council was concerned that a building was not safe now, then requiring a ballot in X months' time may not be the sensible thing to do. I do not know the merits of that particular case but that is the reason why the need for the ballot was exempt, rather than people who were in fear of danger not voting to have a regeneration.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Certainly in terms of timing I agree with you. One has to have a good amount of time in order to organise a ballot. That is a minimum requirement, except the Haringey Council has been planning to redevelop this site since June [2018]. Surely that is enough time to organise a ballot of residents.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I have not seen the application, but if it has been made to us we will be making sure we ask those sorts of questions that the Assembly Member is asking.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Just to confirm, Mr Mayor, you do stand by your press release from 18 July this year [2018] that said that the Mayor is:

*"Determined to use his funding and planning powers to their fullest extent to protect social housing and give its residents a voice in the capital."*

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

**Andrew Boff AM:** Would granting an exemption to Haringey be in keeping with that commitment?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** It depends on the merits of the application. The exemptions are there for a reason and if a council satisfies the grounds of an exemption being satisfied, then of course that is legitimate. I do not know enough about the application that is going to be made by Haringey Council. What I am clear about is our intention. Our intention is to make sure that residents are consulted properly, via a mandatory ballot, whenever anybody has plans to regenerate the estate, particularly with the loss of social homes. I will give you one example in my answers where one council with a housing association has already done that, which is in Barnet.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Would you say that if you did end up giving Haringey this exemption, it would be an example of you not having confidence that the residents know what is good for them?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I cannot talk about specifics. In general terms, if an exemption is granted, it is because a council has satisfied the officers that it is eligible for an exemption.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, do you think that Haringey's refusal to hold a ballot benefits the many or the few? It does not seem to be consistent with the undertakings that you have made in the past, and I welcome those undertakings, but not consistent with the undertakings that they made to their own electorate.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Talking about a hypothetical application made by Haringey, they are concerned, according to this, as the Assembly Member was saying, more about the safety of that building. If it is the case that they are concerned about the safety of the building, you would want them to take action sooner rather than later. Haringey is a good example of a council that has bid to build 848 council homes. Haringey is an example of a council building council houses for the many, not the few. Building for the few is what the previous Mayor [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP] did with luxury developments, penthouses, sitting empty - the few, these examples of 80% of the market value - when we know many people want council homes and want social homes. I commend Haringey for applying successfully to start building 848 council homes, not the con for the few but real housing for the many. I commend them for the work they are doing.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, I am assuming that if I look through the list of applications that you have granted, I will find absolutely no luxury developments that you have approved.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** For council housing, no. There were no luxury development for council housing.

**Andrew Boff AM:** There will be no luxury developments. Is that correct?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** For council housing?

**Andrew Boff AM:** Luxury developments that you have approved within your remit.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, we are talking homes for the many, not the few. Luxury penthouses are for the few. Council homes, homes for which you pay a social rent, homes where you pay a London Living Rent, homes that are in shared ownership, are for the many. That is why I ditched the dodgy definition that the previous Mayor [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP] had for the few of 80% market value. That is why we have negotiated £1 billion towards building council homes over the next four years. Eleven thousand council homes have been started in London and there will be five times more in the next four years than in the last four years. That is an example of a Mayor being a Mayor for the many and not an Assembly Member for the few.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I am impressed and emboldened by your words, Mr Mayor. Will you therefore give the undertaking that you will not approve any luxury developments? You are saying these words, Mr Mayor. I am holding you to account for what you have just said. Will you not be approving any luxury developments in future?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, it is worth explaining to the Assembly Member some of the fruits of the changing policies in relation to housing construction.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** He has asked you a simple question.

**Andrew Boff AM:** It is a very simple question. Yes? No?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** To answer the simple question requires an explanation of the policies that lead to permissions being granted.

The two biggest tools a Mayor has are the Housing Strategy and the London Plan. The Housing Strategy and the London Plan are both quite clear in relation to my expectation for accelerated permission which is for 35% to be genuinely affordable. The other 65% is up to the developer. Of the 35% fast track, 50% are to be genuinely affordable - and by the way that means genuinely affordable for the many, not the con that there was previously for the few. Of course, the developer will want to cross-subsidise the affordable housing by various means; some of it could be market value and some of it could be luxury. The key thing is having a Mayor who is governing for the many rather than one who is governing for the few.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Does that answer mean, "Yes, I will be approving schemes that will contain luxury developments", or, "No, I will not be approving schemes that include luxury development"?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Let me try again, Chairman.

**Andrew Boff AM:** It is a very simple question, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** We will be granting permission for mixed developments. Mixed developments will include a range of homes. The key thing is that there will be far more homes for ordinary Londoners than there were before I became Mayor. Of course there will be homes for all sorts of income scales. It is really important that we cater for those wealthy Londoners and others who live in our great city, but it is as important, if not more important for this administration, to make sure we cater for those Londoners who are struggling to make ends meet. That is why I am really pleased that Haringey Council is one of 28 councils that have reached an agreement with me to start 11,000 council homes over the course of the next four years, which is five times more in the next four years than were started in the last four years. I would hope that any Assembly Member worth his or her salt would welcome that and would commend it.

**Andrew Boff AM:** That is great and I am sure Momentum in Haringey will relish the idea that it now has a Mayor who will build luxury developments. Thank you very much, Mr Mayor.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Was that a question?

**Andrew Boff AM:** No, it was a statement, pretty obviously.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I thought it was a question.

**Andrew Boff AM:** It was a statement.

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** He has made a statement. You have had loads of opportunities today, which you have seized, where you have interpreted a statement as a question. This time it was a statement, and that was the end of it.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I should not have done it, Mr Mayor. I am sorry.

## **2018/3041 - Night time economy workers**

[Caroline Russell AM](#)

*Following the publication in February 2018 of the London Assembly Economy Committee report, Rewrite the night: the future of London's night time economy, what action have you taken to support night time workers in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Night workers are vital to our city. Night workers are the emergency service workers who keep us safe, workers who drive our Tube and buses, entertain us in our theatres and music venues, clean our streets and workplaces, and keep our NHS running.

In response to recommendations in the report by City Hall and the London Night Time Commission, I have undertaken ground-breaking research to better understand London at night. *London At Night - An Evidence Base for a 24-Hour City* gives us the most comprehensive picture of London between 6.00pm and 6.00am ever produced. We now know that 1.6 million Londoners, one-third of the capital's workers, usually work evenings and nights and that jobs in the night time industries are growing faster than the those in the wider economy, at 2.2% per year. That is why it is important that we support night workers through the Night Tube and London Overground Night Service, which has allowed many of those people to get home at night safely, quickly and affordably. I would remind the Assembly that the previous Mayor gave up on the idea of London having a Night Tube.

The demand for the Night Tube has increased with 8.7 million customers using the service last year. The Night Tube generates an additional £190 million for London's economy. In addition to this, we continue to provide a comprehensive Night Bus service with 130 routes across London and 918 buses serving them. 50% of people who use the Night Bus service are going to or returning from work. Early-morning and late-night shift workers can benefit from the Night Tube and Night Bus services.

The research revealed that over 500,000 night workers are paid below the London Living Wage. Every Londoner is entitled to a decent standard of living no matter what time of day or night they work. That is why I have called upon night-time employers to step up and ensure the welfare of their employees by paying them the London Living Wage. Every Londoner is entitled to a decent standard of living.

Time is short and so I will allow the Assembly Member time for questions.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Thank you, Mr Mayor. I also thank your Night Czar, Amy Lamé, for picking up the [London Assembly] Economy Committee's recommendation in our *Rewrite the night* report, last year [2017] when I was Chair to research the proportion of workers in the London night time economy who receive the London Living Wage.

As you said, your report highlights some really shocking statistics; for example, the fact that 1.6 million people in London are working at night and over 530,000 of them are paid less than the London Living Wage. Almost one-third of night-time workers are getting less than the London Living Wage, which is almost double the number of people who are paid less than the London Living Wage during the day. That is completely unacceptable.

The London Living Wage got going because big companies got behind the campaign. Are you going to work with companies that employ people at night to get their commitment to pay the London Living Wage?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you. First, thank you for what you have said and for the way you have said it. Yes, we are going to work with companies.

Can I give you some other pieces of potential good news in this area? The Good Work Standard is an initiative to encourage more employers to pay the Living Wage. To be a Good Work Standard accredited employer, an employer has to pay the London Living Wage. The evidence shows it is good for business; it improves staff morale and it helps with recruitment and retention.

**Caroline Russell AM:** Excellent. Thank you. Your study showed that four out of five visitors to London say that culture and heritage are the main reasons for their trip and that more than half of the people working in the culture and leisure industries at night are paid less than the London Living Wage. Those workers make London an interesting and attractive place to visit but they are not being paid properly. It is not OK to make people work for less because of their love of what they are doing in the arts.

Will we see a more robust policy in your final Culture Strategy on making the London Living Wage the standard in the cultural and creative sector?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, there are at least 12 points in that question, which all deserve a response.

**Caroline Russell AM:** The question is about people in the arts. Will you update your Culture Strategy in the final version to be more robust about the cultural sector committing to paying the London Living Wage?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Which way do you mean?

**Caroline Russell AM:** There was a hint in the draft Culture Strategy that in the arts people are not being paid properly. Your research has just borne that out. Is the research that you have just done going to mean that you will update your Culture Strategy with a more robust recommendation on the cultural industries paying the London Living Wage?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I have already said that I want to see everyone who works in London receiving the London Living Wage. If you do a hard day's work or a hard night's work, you should get decent pay for doing it. That means that the Good Work Standard I will be launching early next year [2019] will encourage employers of night-time or daytime workers to be Living Wage employers, so of course.

**Caroline Russell AM:** I thought the Good Work Standard was being published at the end of this year [2018], but it will be good to see it at the beginning of next year [2019].

Will you have a target for the number London businesses that you want to sign up to the Good Work Standard in the first year?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I should explain the confusion. The “soft launch” is this year [2018]. That is when we will get some employers on side. The idea is to have a bigger launch next year [2019]. Once we have some employers onside doing the Good Work Standard, it will encourage others that it is good for businesses to join the Good Work Standard.

**Caroline Russell AM:** That sounds great but will you have a target for the numbers after it has been in place for a year?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Once we launch it properly next year [2019], yes, that is a good idea. We will have a target and metrics about how we go forward.

We did this sort of thing with the Living Wage. Since I have become the Mayor, the number of Living Wage employers has gone up hugely at the same time as the Living Wage itself has gone up. That shows there is a good business case for paying decent pay for a decent day’s work.

**Caroline Russell AM:** That is great. There will be a target in the Good Work Standard when it comes out.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I do not see why it should not. It is important to have aspiration, but it is also important to have metrics to measure success.

**Caroline Russell AM:** That is great. I am out of time.

## **2018/3303 - Planning permissions and build out rates**

[Nicky Gavron AM](#)

*What is your assessment of the findings and recommendations of the Letwin Review into build out rates and how far do you think these will help London build the homes it needs more quickly?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Thank you, Chairman. When I met the Chancellor [The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP] ahead of the November Budget in 2017, I drew his attention to the fact that there was planning permission for 270,000 homes in London that were not being built. I was clear that more of the same would not accelerate home building. London needs a different approach if we want to speed up buildout rates. I therefore welcomed the Chancellor’s [The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP] decision to ask Sir Oliver Letwin MP to conduct a review of buildout and I was pleased that my team was able to work closely with him. I also met with him.

The review’s core conclusion, that we are currently far too reliant on large developers building expensive homes for sale for the few and not the many, is one that we support. When 80% of the new market sale homes in London are affordable to just 8% of London renters, building more of the same will not work. To increase buildout rates, we need to be building more council housing, social housing and other genuinely affordable homes, the sort of housing for which there is massive demand. I made this very clear to Sir Oliver Letwin [MP] when we met and I welcome his including it in his recommendations.

How far these recommendations are translated into action depends on what the Government does next. We are already showing what a difference we can make by using the powers and resources we have to make more of the homes in London genuinely affordable. Our pioneering planning policies have boosted affordable housing in planning consents, embedding a minimum of 35% in land values, according to Savills. Likewise, our

affordable homes programme has helped to start a record number of new social rented and other genuinely affordable homes. Meanwhile, our interventions in the land market using the £250 million in the revolving London Land Fund show what a more interventionist role for the public sector looks like, as recommended by Sir Oliver Letwin's [MP] report.

Through the Land Fund, my team is helping to unlock otherwise stalled opportunities, raising the level of affordable housing on sites to 50% or more.

To really meet the scale of the challenge, we need a step change in powers and funding from the Government. Supported by the conclusions of Sir Oliver Letwin's [MP] report, therefore, we will continue to urge Ministers to act.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** Thank you very much, Mr Mayor. I have been very struck, apropos of the Letwin Review, that in terms of the permissions granted in London, boroughs are exceeding the very high targets that you currently have in the new London Plan but the homes are just not being built out, let alone started. You mentioned a figure there. This year [2018], the total number of homes not built out will probably rise to about 300,000. As you say, [Sir Oliver] Letwin [MP], who is good on this, points out that one of the problems is that there are too many of the same type of housing - for example, one-bed market flats - and that you need more diversification and that you need a range of homes for people from all sorts of income backgrounds, including social rented housing.

The legacy, and it is rather a terrible legacy, left by the last Mayor [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP] - I am talking 2014 figures - is that of the hundreds of thousands of not built out homes, only 3,000 are going to be for social rent.

My question is this. Will this legacy be tying your hands when you want to build - I know you want to build, and let me recommend that you do - affordable housing alongside a range of market housing?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes. One of the conclusions that [Sir Oliver] Letwin [MP] drew was that there was a question about whether new market sales homes could be absorbed into the local housing market at the rate at which were being built. That is why we did our diversity of housing research and generally affordable homes is the answer. When we have a situation where we know that it is not possible to absorb the sales of properties of a certain value - we know what has happened to macroeconomics in the concern around Brexit - that provides an opportunity to build more social rented housing, more council housing, and more generally affordable housing. It is an opportunity for the Government.

If the Government means what it says about increasing the number of homes being built, the solution is not going to be in market value properties. That is why it is really important that we get some proper investment for council housing and other forms of affordable homes.

The good news is that the deal we have made with councils this year - £1 billion, 11,000 council homes, 40,000 if you include social rent and other types of homes - is a start. We do need to see more homes that have been given permission being started. The good news in relation to permissions granted - 35% to 50% affordable - is that we hope to see an increase in the number of homes completed.

The Letwin Review concludes that we need more diversity in the housing supply. We can provide that in relation to more affordable homes if the Government gives us the resources and the powers.

**Nicky Gavron AM:** On the powers, I noticed that you and Deputy Mayor [for Housing and Residential Development] James Murray had various meetings with [Sir Oliver] Letwin [MP] and I wonder if you asked for more powers. I believe that the Letwin Review is really only tinkering around the edges of the system. What is absolutely crucial and is a missing element in the Letwin Review is that we need to reform the Land Compensation Act. It has tied your hands because neither you nor boroughs can actively assemble and purchase land.

Are you going to lobby the Government to go further than the Letwin Review when it comes out with its response after Christmas or early in the New Year [2019], perhaps? When the Government comes out with that response, are you going to lobby it to reform the Land Compensation Act, which is so out of date and not fit for purpose for these times? After all, it was passed in 1961.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Yes, we are already lobbying and the good news is that not only are we lobbying - when I last met with the Secretary of State [of Housing, Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP] we lobbied again on this issue in relation to value and land assembly - but there are Conservative MPs who also understand the impact the Land Compensation Act has on housing supply through the ridiculous system of valuation of land. There are examples in London. I mentioned Savills, which said that they are embedding 35% for affordable housing in the value of land. There is a good example in Islington where the council said in its Local Plan in relation to the Holloway Prison site that the expectation is for half the homes to be affordable to try to keep the price of the land at a sensible level.

We do, however, need reform from Government. We are hoping that the MHCLG, the Treasury and other Government departments will listen to some of the lobbying that we and others are doing.

## **2018/3206 - London Living Wage**

[Andrew Dismore AM](#)

*What action are you taking to encourage London's businesses to pay the new London Living Wage rate, particularly during these uncertain economic times due to Brexit?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The Living Wage is a win-win for employers and employees. It can help employers with recruitment, retention and productivity. In short, it makes good commercial sense.

I was proud to announce during Living Wage Week in 2018 that the London Stadium is now an accredited Living Wage employer. We are still working to get the pay rise to everyone. This will happen before the end of the year [2018] and will be backdated to August 2018.

I have always believed that it is important to lead by example and that is why one of my first tasks was to ensure that all GLA staff were being paid the London Living Wage. I continue to support the Living Wage campaign and have committed to once again providing the campaign with free advertising space on the TfL network throughout this month to coincide with Living Wage Week.

I will continue to urge employers to become Living Wage accredited through a variety of channels and especially institutions such as big businesses, sports clubs, and venues, museums and so on, which Londoners identify with and which can play such an influential role.

I was delighted recently when, following a letter I had sent, Fulham Football Club announced it would be seeking accreditation. I have also written again to London's other Premier League clubs and will continue to write to other key employers urging them to do the same.

I am deeply concerned about the challenges faced by the large number of businesses in the capital that trade with and recruit from the EU. It is my responsibility to stand up for these businesses and I am dismayed that the UK Government has failed to help those businesses to prepare.

Over 80% of Living Wage accredited employers nationally are small and medium-sized enterprises and, although small businesses are facing many pressures, I have confidence that they will be able to apply the new rates within the next six months.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Thank you for that. Can I go back to the report of Professor Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur [*Statement on Visit to the UK* ], which you mentioned earlier?

Do you agree with his conclusion about the impact of in-work poverty? For example, families with two parents working full-time at the National Minimum Wage - deceptively rebranded by the Conservative Party as a 'National Living Wage', when it is not - is 11% short of what is needed to raise a child. This shows the necessity of the London Living Wage, but the proportion of jobs in London that pay below the London Living Wage - now £10.55 per hour - has gone up so that one in five jobs - 820,000 - still pay less than that.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** I agree with everything you have said. The idea that you can increase people's remuneration by simply rebranding the National Minimum Wage as the 'National Living Wage' and expecting things to improve is ridiculous. That is why I encourage all employers to look at the benefits that businesses which pay the London Living Wage have seen in relation to morale, reduced sick leave, easier recruitment, better retention, and progression. Paying the London Living Wage really is a win-win.

**Andrew Dismore AM:** Would you also agree with the conclusion of the UN Rapporteur that poverty in the UK since 2010 has been a political choice and that "austerity could easily have spared the poor if the political will had existed to do so", and that given the failure of the Conservative Government to address growing rates of poverty, the London Living Wage is vital to the wellbeing of less well-off families in London in overcoming the current shortcomings of the social security system, especially when you look at the rollout of Universal Credit across the capital?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Absolutely. There is a cause and effect in relation to Government announcing policies and the impact that has on the people of our city and our country. A direct consequence of the Budget in 2010 and subsequent Budgets from this Government has been more people going into poverty than otherwise would have been the case.

What should also worry us is: that going forward the evidence is that the continuation of these policies will mean more people going into poverty than would otherwise be the case.

Welfare benefits reform is a sensible thing when it is done correctly and in a sensible way. We now know from the pilot that Universal Credit leads to there being more foodbanks, more rent arrears, more families having problems. Knowing this, rather than looking at the evidence and pausing the rollout, the Government is rolling Universal Credit across the country. That is why it is important for the new Secretary of State [for Work and Pensions, the Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP] to look at the evidence and to do a U-turn on her Government's policies in relation to Universal Credit.

## 2018/3385 – The greenbelt

Andrew Boff AM

*Are you still committed to the greenbelt in London?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** The draft London Plan provides that the Green Belt will be given the strongest possible protection from inappropriate development.

The Green Belt serves multiple important functions for our city. They include food growing, mitigating the impacts of climate change, preventing flooding, providing important habitats for wildlife, and allowing space for recreation and relaxation for Londoners. I am committed to preserving the Green Belt.

City Hall has taken a robust approach to refusing development proposals that would cause harm and any inappropriate attempts to de-designate Green Belt are not supported. For example, I directed Harrow Council to refuse an application for development where a new sports building would result in harm to the openness of metropolitan open land that would not be offset by the proposed land swap arrangement. I directed Bexley Council to refuse an application for a rail/freight interchange where the proposal involved inappropriate development in the Green Belt. I directed Barnet Council to refuse an application for a school in a Green Belt. Although I do recognise the importance of meeting educational needs, the proposed build footprint and the extent of the development on Green Belt land and open space was excessive.

We are prioritising the protection of the Green Belt from development that would undermine its role or cause harm through planning decisions. Where required, I intervene in the local plan process where the Green Belt was being threatened at borough level.

London's Green Belt serves to prevent urban sprawl, driving the re-use and intensification of previously developed land to ensure that the city makes efficient use of its land and infrastructure, and that inner urban areas benefit from regeneration and investment. This is a key part of the approach of the draft London Plan.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Mr Mayor, thank you for those words. Will you formally object, therefore, to Enfield Council's Local Plan consultation, which includes the aim of releasing Green Belt for development?

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** If it is the case that their Local Plan is in breach of our policies, then I will do what I normally do, which is to object to it.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Thank you. Will you also therefore be more flexible when it comes to de-designating Strategic Industrial Land (SIL), especially for those sites located within housing zones? Enfield is using the SIL restrictions on it as a reason for now seeking to develop the Green Belt.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, I am happy to look into the details but SIL is quite important in relation to not just the employment needs of our city but other needs in relation to logistics, planning and other issues. In general terms, I would not be happy and would normally object if somebody was trying to de-designate SIL. I do not know the details here. I am prepared to have Jules Pipe (CBE, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills) look at the detail but it has not reached us yet, I believe. I am happy to look into it.

**Andrew Boff AM:** Your office has already listened to representations from the Conservatives on Enfield Council. I hope your office will now listen to the representations from the Labour Party on Enfield Council, which say that this very strict interpretation of SIL is the motive behind the Council wanting to look at Green Belt. I am asking you to talk to your own party.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Chairman, with respect, this Member is asking me to talk to the council and of course I am happy to talk to the council, as I do any to council irrespective of party affiliation if their policies are in breach of other London policies. It is really important to protect the Green Belt, particularly if there are other parts of the borough that can be used. Sometimes that means increased intensification. However, of course I will look at the case.

**Andrew Boff AM:** I anticipate that the Labour Party in Enfield will follow the lead of the Conservative Party in Enfield. Thank you very much.

### **2018/3162 - High Court SEND funding challenge**

[Jennette Arnold OBE AM](#)

*Did your summer and half term activity programmes have fully accessible events for children and young people with SEND?*

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** All children and young people should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential and make the most of the opportunities London has to offer. Families are facing barriers in getting support for their children needs and parents can often bear the burden of the impact that has. It is vital that the voices of those who care for children and young people with special education needs and disability (SEND) are heard.

Local authorities have the statutory duty to be sure that children and young people with SEND receive the support they need. Local authorities, however, desperately need proper funding from central Government. Councils up and down the country are already on the brink and are facing a potential funding shortfall of over £500 million. The Local Government Association (LGA) projects a £356 million funding gap this year alone. That is more than double last year's shortfall. To add to this, the number of children and young people who need SEND support in London is increasing. London councils identified a shortfall of £75 million in the high needs funding block in 2017/18 and this is only going to get worse. This means that despite their best efforts, schools and local authorities are facing significant budget challenges and are at risk of failing to meet their statutory duties.

I raised this issue of SEND funding and the increasing demand for support with the [former] Secretary of State for Education [The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP] in 2018. I also raised it with the current Secretary of State for Education, [The Rt Hon] Damien Hinds [MP], last month and will continue to make the case for increased funding for children and young people with SEND.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** Thank you for that and your really good reply. It shows that you are fully aware of the SEND funding issue and know that it is an issue that is certainly not going to go away.

Putting numbers on the statistics, 2,340 more young people of secondary school age, many with complex needs, will be in the system over the next five years and that is without funding. We have with us here today guests of Assembly Member Duvall, showing their support for this very important issue. It is an issue that is not going away. It is critical as anything else that we face in London and I welcome your support. The

[London Assembly] Education Panel has received your response and we have put together a submission to the Parliamentary [Education] Select Committee inquiry that is going on. I shall be endeavouring to attend the inquiry to speak up on behalf of parents and carers who find themselves in a sense of desolation because there is not the funding available to support their valued children, who are as important as any other Londoner.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** What the Assembly Member has just said is so important. This is about fulfilling the potential of Londoners and giving them the helping hand they need to fulfil their potential.

**Jennette Arnold OBE AM (Deputy Chair):** Absolutely.

**Sadiq Khan (Mayor of London):** Deputy Mayor [for Education and Childcare] Joanne McCartney AM is working closely with the Deputy Mayor for Hackney, Anntoinette Bramble, who is the LGA lead in this area and met as recently as three weeks ago to discuss the issue at the London Education Officers Group meeting. Can I reassure you that we will make sure that we follow up on the needs of our city? At a time when the needs of our city are growing, the resources we have are falling and that cannot be right.

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

**Tony Arbour AM (Chairman):** Thank you very much. That is the end of questions. Thank you, Mr Mayor, for your answers.