

28th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 17 January 2019

This is my Twenty-Eighth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 7th December 2018 – 3rd January 2019.

Executive summary

Publishing City Hall's pay gap data

On 3 January, City Hall published our third gender pay gap report. As Mayor, I am determined to do everything in my power to address the gender pay gap that has existed unchallenged and hidden away for far too long. It does not make for comfortable reading but if we are to correct this injustice we must continue to highlight the gaps and the need for action.

The gender pay gap at City Hall has fallen from 6.14 per cent to 4.82 per cent during the last year. However, the data published paints a varied picture when it comes to tackling the gender pay gap across the functional bodies of the GLA. While there has been a modest improvement at the core GLA and Metropolitan Police, the gap has widened slightly at TfL. Three of the seven GLA Group organisations have a negative pay gap, that is, women are on average paid more than men.

To coincide with the pay gap data, I also released the 'Our Time: Supporting future leaders' toolkit to help employers across the city to introduce my gender equality initiative in their workplaces. One key factor behind the gender pay gap is a lack of women in senior jobs. The new Our Time toolkit works as a step-by-step guide for employers to learn from the approach taken at City Hall to increase the number of women in leadership roles.

Last year, we marked the one hundredth anniversary of women being able to cast their vote in a general election – moving forwards, let's honour this historic milestone by taking bold action to remove the barriers to women's success and ensure that our capital is a shining light in the fight for gender equality.

Third year of fares freeze on TfL services

Fares on TfL services have been frozen again for a third year as part of my continuing commitment to make them affordable for all Londoners – at a time where National Rail fares have increased by 3.1 per cent.

Our TfL fares freeze is in contrast to the private rail companies hiking up fares again, despite the litany of cancellations, delays and overcrowding on services like Southern and South Western Railway. Given the continuing woeful services on suburban rail routes, the increase in rail fares of 8.8 per cent over the last three years is simply a disgrace.

Review recommending Gangs Matrix overhaul published

On 21 December, I published a wide-ranging review of the Metropolitan Police's Gangs Matrix, which recommends a comprehensive overhaul of the database to restore trust in its use and ensure it is used both lawfully and proportionately.

I made a firm commitment to Londoners to carry out a full review of the Met's Gangs Matrix with the aim of restoring trust and confidence in the way it is used by the police.

The review has shown that the Gangs Matrix can be an effective enforcement tool and is helping to tackle violence on our streets. But to many Londoners, the way it is applied and enforced is a cause for concern and it needs to be comprehensively overhauled to ensure it is used lawfully and proportionately.

By implementing the review's nine recommendations, the Matrix can address the serious breaches of data protection laws and ensure only those at genuine risk of causing or being a victim of violence are included. It's important these recommendations are carried out quickly and transparently to ensure Londoners have confidence in how it is used by the Met.

Propose 50p week council tax increase to fight violent crime

My first responsibility is to keep Londoners safe. Over 70 per cent of the Met's funding is controlled by the Government and Ministers have repeatedly refused to reverse the cuts they have made since 2010. As a result, the Met has already had to make cuts of some £850m and I am furious that this is set to continue. I'm concerned that the Government is continuing to shift the burden of police funding from Government grant to Council Tax – which is deeply regressive and hits the poorest the hardest.

On 20 December, I proposed an increase to the Band D council tax precept by 50 pence a week – as allowed and encouraged by the Home Secretary. In total, I propose to commit an additional £95m next year to policing and tackling crime – more than twice as much as provided by the Government. The Government's failure means that the Met still has to make cuts of £263m by 2022-23. At a time when violent crime is rising across the country, this is a total abdication of the Government's responsibility to public safety.

£65 'settled status' applications for City Hall staff to be funded

On 20 December, I confirmed that the GLA Group will pay £65 'settled status' fees for all EU staff after Brexit. This includes Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police.

London is a truly global city where we see our incredible diversity as a strength, not a weakness. Our EU staff are Londoners, they are critical to the work of City Hall and across the GLA, they belong here, and they will always be welcome and valued.

I urge the government to scrap the 'settled status' application fee – no one should be forced to pay to stay because their immigration status was changed through no fault of their own. However, until Ministers do this, I can confirm that we will help our EU staff apply for 'settled status' as quickly and painlessly as possible.

I urge other London businesses to follow our lead and offer all support possible to the one million European Londoners, ensuring that those who have come to our city remain able to

contribute to every aspect of life here, and continue to make London a vibrant, dynamic and prosperous city.

Scrappage scheme for most polluting vans

On 18 December, I announced a bold new £23 million scrappage scheme to help tackle London's air quality crisis and support micro-businesses to prepare for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

Air pollution is a national health crisis that is stunting the lung development of our children and leading to thousands of premature deaths. To truly get a grip on our lethal air we need to take bold action to rid our city of the most polluting vehicles.

It's not good enough to do nothing, and I'm determined to take real action which is why I've already delivered the Toxicity Charge in central London for the oldest polluting vehicles, cleaned up our bus fleet, and brought forward the Ultra-Low Emission Zone. My scrappage scheme is my next step in tackling pollution.

Cycling Action Plan launched to get more Londoners cycling

On 17 December, I unveiled an ambitious plan to create a unified, London-wide cycle network across London, with new quality standards for the building of new cycling infrastructure.

The Cycling Action Plan sets out how Transport for London (TfL) and the London boroughs will use cycling to help address poor air quality and congestion, while improving infrastructure to make cycling even easier safer and more accessible for everyone.

Getting more Londoners cycling is essential for our city's future health and prosperity, and our new Action Plan launched today shows how we're going to go further than ever before to make this a reality.

First use of planning powers to safeguard West End nightclub

On 17 December, for the first time, my new planning policies have been used to protect the space and ensure an entertainment venue will be an integral part of the new office and retail development.

Original plans for the demolition and redevelopment of Wells House on Oxford Street would have seen the loss of the nightclub space that currently occupies the building's basement. My new planning policies have been used for the first time to protect the space and ensure an entertainment venue will be an integral part of the new office and retail development. Both I and my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, are committed to protecting and improving the city's night-time economy and cultural venues and have taken action to ensure London remains an exciting and vibrant city 24-hours a day.

£30 million awarded to projects to help reduce deprivation

On 14 December, I awarded nearly £30 million to 33 projects. These projects will boost local economies, improve the environment and bring people together in some of London's most deprived communities.

The money has been awarded through the second round of the Mayor's Good Growth Fund and will be delivered through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the Local Enterprise

Partnership (LEP) for the capital. Nearly two-thirds of the funding will be invested in areas of London which rank in the top 20 per cent of the country's most deprived wards, according to the well-established Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Emergency shelters open and rough sleeping campaign

For the first time this winter, I opened the emergency cold weather shelters across the capital. Our approach means shelters will now open London-wide if it falls below zero anywhere in the capital, helping us get more rough sleepers off the streets and into support to help turn their lives around.

Even one person sleeping rough is one too many, which is why City Hall is doing everything we can to help rough sleepers, including opening emergency shelters across the capital all at the same time as temperatures start to drop, and expanding services to make sure people get the support they need to end their time on the streets.

It's fantastic to see this year's rough sleeping campaign get off to such a great start, with Londoners donating over £160,405 through the new TAP London contactless points and online. All the money raised will go directly to homelessness charities.

We know members of the public want to help rough sleepers whenever they can, and by referring any people they are concerned about to StreetLink, Londoners are making a real difference by connecting them with outreach workers. I urge Londoners to keep donating, keep referring to StreetLink, and to support my calls on the Government to do more to stop the root causes of homelessness.

London's first Creative Enterprise Zones

On 14 December, I announced six of the capital's first Creative Enterprise Zones as part of a ground breaking initiative to support artists and creative businesses and develop skills and jobs for Londoners. Lambeth, Croydon, Hounslow, Lewisham, Haringey, Hackney and Tower Hamlets will be given funding to support artists, small creative businesses and local people.

Creative Enterprise Zones will create more than 3,500 new jobs and 1,000 new education, training and job opportunities for local residents, along with more than 40,000 square meters of new affordable workspace

These new zones – which were a key manifesto commitment – will create much-needed affordable workspace, turning these areas into creative hubs and providing job and training opportunities that will ensure that the local community benefits from growth. They will ensure that artists and entrepreneurs, regardless of background, will be given the support they need and become our creative leaders of the future.

I've been clear that London is open for business and talent and Creative Enterprise Zones will help the capital remain a creative and forward-looking city for the future.

The launch of the culture and sport strategy

On 13 December, we published two new landmark strategies that will bring Londoners together through improved access to culture and the opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity.

Culture and the creative industries contribute £47bn to London's economy every year and account for one in six jobs in the capital. My strategy – Culture for All Londoners – details how he will keep the city at the top of its creative game and ensure there are cultural opportunities in every corner of the capital.

The sports strategy – which was first published as a draft for consultation in July – highlights the amazing impact sport and physical activity can have in bringing together communities and how it can transform the lives of young Londoners - giving them structure, purpose and a sense of direction. This also includes a wide variety of physical activities that bring people entertainment, enjoyment and relaxation, such as dance, yoga and running.

I'm determined that all Londoners have the opportunity to gain from the benefits culture and sport can bring to their lives, and to use both as a tool to steer young Londoners away from crime and gangs and towards education and employment.

£50,000 donated to pupils affected by Grenfell fire

On 11 December, City Hall donated £50,000 to support disadvantaged students at the Academy's Intrepidus Trust. The Trust was set up in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire to provide additional support to students and help them achieve their potential.

It was a real privilege to return to the Kensington Aldridge Academy today and speak with pupils and staff. Despite unimaginably difficult circumstances, the school and the wider community has been a real beacon of strength and resilience for all Londoners.

Here at City Hall we're committed to tackling inequality across our capital - and the Intrepidus Trust is a fantastic example of how positive opportunities can help disadvantaged pupils. I'm proud to be able to support this innovative project and help the ambitions of these bright young Londoners.

Policing, Crime and Security

Calling for a comprehensive overhaul of the MPS Gangs Matrix

On 21 December, I published a comprehensive Review of the MPS Gangs Matrix, fulfilling my firm commitment to Londoners to do so, with the aim of restoring trust and confidence in the way it is used by the police.

The review has shown that the Gangs Matrix can be an effective enforcement tool and is helping to tackle violence on our streets. But for too many Londoners, the way it is applied and enforced is a cause for concern and it needs to be comprehensively overhauled to ensure it is used lawfully and proportionately.

By implementing the review's nine recommendations, the Matrix can address the serious breaches of data protection laws and ensure only those at genuine risk of causing or being a victim of violence are included. It's important these recommendations are carried out quickly and transparently to ensure Londoners have confidence in how it is used by the Met.

Taking difficult decisions to protect London's policing

Over 70 per cent of the Met's funding is controlled by the Government and Ministers have repeatedly refused to reverse the cuts they have made since 2010. As a result, the Met has already had to make cuts of some £850m and still has to make cuts of £263m by 2022-23. If these cuts were delivered through officer reductions, this is estimated to reduce the number of police officers from 31,000 to 28,215, a fifteen year low. I am furious that, in the recently released funding settlement, the Government has once again failed to step up and fulfil its primary duty to protect its citizens by reversing the cuts and fully funding policing.

I am concerned that the Government is continuing to shift the burden of police funding from Government grant to Council Tax – which is deeply regressive and hits the poorest the hardest. However, the brutal reality of the rise in violent crime and Government cuts means that I have little choice but to increase the policing element of the council tax by the maximum amount allowed by Ministers.

Therefore, on 20 December, I announced my proposal to increase the Band D council tax precept by 50 pence a week – as allowed and encouraged by the Home Secretary. In total, I propose to commit an additional £95m next year to policing and tackling crime – more than twice as much as provided by the Government.

Working together to tackle online content inciting violence

On 10 December 2018, I was delighted to attend an event including representatives of major social media firms, channels and communities at the Google UK Headquarters to jointly announce a new £600,000 grant from Google.org to help charities in dealing with the challenges of how young and at-risk people use social media, and bolster the process of identifying violent online content and preventing it from reappearing. I have repeatedly called for action by social media companies to toughen up their guidelines around violent content and I welcome this move from the digital sector, which is a significant moment in our efforts to tackle violent online content that can have the most serious real-world consequences.

Thanking MOPAC volunteers

On 11 December 2018, I was delighted to be able to attend the annual MOPAC volunteers event to offer a note of thanks and appreciation to our Independent Custody Visitors, members of Stop and Search Community Monitoring Groups and Safer Neighbourhood Boards for their commitment to community-police engagement and oversight. Over the last year, they have given more than 15,000 hours of their time. Alongside Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, I expressed the gratitude of Londoners for their service and their contribution to the safety of our city. I was pleased to be joined at this event by the Chair of the Police and Crime Committee, Steve O'Connell AM.

Transport

Bold action to tackle London's lethal air

On 19 December I joined TfL in announcing a package of measures to reduce air pollution and congestion in central London, with the aim of protecting Londoners' health and giving them the air quality, they deserve.

The measures include

- The replacement of the ULED with the more stringent cleaner Vehicle Discount on 8 April
- The removal of the PHV Congestion Charge exemption for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles on 8 April
- The enhancement of the delicensing support for those who delicense the dirtiest vehicles early from January
- The intention to propose phased changes to the maximum age of Euro 3, 4 and 5 black cabs over time to a 12-year age limit in 2022
- A new financial package to support taxi drivers converting from diesel to cleaner liquid petroleum gas

Bold action is required to tackle London's public health crisis. The taxi and private hire trades are central to reducing the filthy fumes circulating in our city. This package of measures will contribute to fewer vehicles driving where pollution is most concentrated and encourage the switch from diesel to electric.

TfL publishes draft Business Plan

On 11 December, TfL published its updated draft Business Plan, which covers the period from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

The Business Plan, which fully aligns with my Transport Strategy, outlines how TfL will continue to invest in the vital transport improvements London needs, despite an average £700m per year reduction in Government funding, the subdued economy and the financial impact from the delay to the Crossrail project. It also demonstrates that TfL's budgeted operating deficit of £968m in 2018/19 is forecast to have been reduced by more than £200m by the end of 2018/19 as a result of tight financial management.

TfL continues to reduce operating costs across the organisation and will forge ahead with its work to make the organisation more efficient over the coming five years. TfL has a proven track record of delivering against its savings targets – its over-delivery of savings in 2016/17 meant it reduced year-on-year operating costs by more than £150m further reduced like-for-like costs in 2017/18 and is on track to over-deliver in terms of savings again in 2018/19. Prior to 2016/17, TfL's operating costs had increased every year.

Thanks to efficiency plans introduced under my Mayoralty, TfL has been reducing operating costs while absorbing the loss of direct Government operating grant with a plan to achieve a net operating surplus for the first time. However, because of the delay to the opening of the Elizabeth line and the continued reduction in bus passenger numbers, TfL is now forecasting to achieve a surplus on its net cost of operations in 2022/23, one year later than planned.

Ahead of next year's Comprehensive Spending Review, TfL and I will be making the case for long-term steady and sustained investment to ensure critical infrastructure projects can continue and London's transport network can support the demands of all those who live and work in, or visit, the city.

Crossrail finance package announced

TfL has confirmed a financing package with the Government to deliver the final stages of the Crossrail project and open the Elizabeth line to passengers as quickly as possible.

Crossrail Ltd announced in August that it expected the Elizabeth line to open through central London in autumn 2019, rather than December 2018. It has now become clear that more work is required than had been envisaged to ensure the railway opens safely and reliably.

Independent reviews into Crossrail's financing and governance indicate that the likely capital cost impact of the delay to the project announced in August could be in the region of between £1.6bn and £2bn.

To pay this the GLA will:

- borrow up to £1.3bn from the DfT
- make a £100m contribution
- have a contingency arrangement for TfL to be able to take a loan facility from the DfT of up to £750m (should the higher end of the forecast be needed)

This financing deal will replace the need for the £350m interim financing package offered by the Government in October.

The confirmation of this funding agreement will now allow Crossrail Ltd and its new leadership to focus on finishing the remaining construction work on the stations and tunnels and then completing the vital safety testing in order to open the railway for passengers as quickly as possible.

Night Overground celebrates its first anniversary and 250,000 journeys

London Overground celebrated its first anniversary of night services on 15 December, with it proving to be a popular and safe way for many Londoners wanting to make the most of vibrant east London and Islington nightlife at the weekend.

Demand for Night Overground has steadily grown since its launch with 250,000 journeys made along the Highbury & Islington to New Cross Gate route in the first year. This matches original forecasts and is helping to support the booming night time economy including the many restaurants, bars, theatres, and cinemas in this part of London. On the first anniversary, Night Overground services also started to serve Whitechapel station for the very first time.

Customer safety and security remains a priority on the Night Overground with only ten, mainly low level, reported crimes in the first year. All stations along the route are staffed at all times while trains are running, with CCTV, modern lighting and Help Points available across the network to assist customers as required.

Work is expected to begin on new Cycle Superhighway next year

TfL has announced that work is to begin on Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) in summer 2019, between Tower Bridge and Greenwich, subject to final approval.

The new high-quality 4km two-way segregated cycle route in south east London - Tooley Street, Jamaica Road, Evelyn Street and Creek Road - will help reduce danger to vulnerable road users and also improve pedestrian facilities and public spaces between. It forms part of our Vision Zero commitment to eliminate all death and serious injury from London's roads by 2041.

This major new route will make a real difference to the ever-growing numbers of southeast Londoners who are choosing to walk and cycle. Making sure all Londoners have access to high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure is a vital part of our plans to create a safer, healthier and less polluted London for everyone.

Consultation in 2017 saw more than 3,000 responses with 83 per cent in favour, saying it would make cycling safer and more appealing and help reduce air and noise pollution along the route.

New Waterloo & City line entrance for Bank

On 12 December I was joined by Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder, Bloomberg L.P. and Bloomberg Philanthropies and the 108th Mayor of New York City, and Mike Brown, London's Transport Commissioner, at the new Walbrook entrance to Bank station, which will help relieve congestion for Waterloo & City line customers.

The station entrance was built as part of the development of Bloomberg's European headquarters and fitted out by Major Projects Directorate and London Underground. It is the first major milestone in the Bank upgrade programme that will see the station capacity increase by 40 per cent by 2022.

Bank Monument is one of the busiest stations on the network, used by 120 million customers a year. Waterloo & City line customers will now enjoy quicker, easier and more comfortable journeys through the station. The Walbrook entrance, only three minutes' walk from Cannon Street mainline station, provides direct access to the Waterloo & City line and a connection to the existing concourse.

The spacious new entrance also incorporates a display of 24 historic glass panels by celebrated glass artist and muralist John Hutton.

Contractor appointed to build London Overground extension to Barking Riverside

A vital transport infrastructure needed to support the development of one of Europe's largest brownfield sites moved a step closer today, as TfL announce the award of the contract to a joint venture of Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure and VolkerFitzpatrick (MSVF) to extend the London Overground to Barking Riverside.

The 4.5km extension of the Gospel Oak to Barking line, one of the major projects in TfL's Business Plan, is an intrinsic part of the Barking Riverside development, a 180-hectare site on the northern bank of the River Thames that will become home to one of London's most significant housing developments.

Investing in transport infrastructure unlocks and supports homes, jobs and economic growth. Awarding this contract to build the London Overground extension is the next exciting step in the Barking Riverside development, which will enable the delivery of up to 10,800 new homes and the creation of new healthcare and leisure facilities. As many as 50 per cent of the new homes could be affordable, helping to tackle London's housing shortage crisis.

Preparation work for the extension will commence immediately, with main construction due to start in early 2019 and train services commencing from late 2021.

Fire and Resilience

Brexit contingency planning

On 20 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Fiona Twycross AM, chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Project Group.

Food and Brexit

On 14 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM attended a Food and Brexit Roundtable with Central Government representatives of DEFRA and MHCLG to consider the impact and implications of a no-deal Brexit on the food industry and to raise issues pertinent to London with central Government.

Clapham train crash anniversary

On 12 December, I attended a memorial service to mark 30 years since the Clapham rail crash, along with my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM. I joined representatives from London Fire Brigade, Network Rail, London Ambulance Service and other partner organisations to lay a wreath in memory of the 35 people who lost their lives.

Budget and Performance Committee

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, appeared before the Budget and Performance Committee in City Hall, along with the London Fire Commissioner and London Fire Brigade's Director of Corporate Services.

Winter Resilience Preparedness

On 10 December my Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayors for Fire and Resilience, Environment and Transport held a briefing session to assure themselves of the winter preparedness undertaken by key London agencies. This session included updates from and questions to; the Met Office, Environment Agency, utility providers, transport providers (both TfL and Network Rail), Public Health England, NHS England London, a local authority representative and the MPS.

Dagenham Fire Station visit

On 7 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Fiona Twycross AM, with Assembly Member Susan Hall, visited Dagenham fire station. They met with firefighters and were given a presentation on nutrition and well-being.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

European Social Fund 2019-23 Programme Launch

On 20 December, I launched my £71m European Social Fund 2019-23 programme, which will fund a range of education, training and employment services to support unemployed, economically inactive and low-income Londoners.

The programme will focus on young people and adults that are disadvantaged in the labour market including people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, single parents, people whose first language is not English, people without qualifications or with low qualifications and women. My ESF programme will equip Londoners with the skills and knowledge they need to gain qualifications, progress in education and access, sustain and progress in work in London's labour market, and is a key step in making sure that our skills system works for all Londoners.

Mayor's Design Advocate meet-up

On 17 December, my Design Advocates convened for the third meet-up as a full cohort since their appointment in September 2017. This meet-up was facilitated by Centre for London and invited Mayor's Design Advocates' expert views on the emerging Housing Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. In particular, they reviewed and debated the measures needed to assess housing quality as I move housing delivery in London towards a design-led approach. My Deputy Mayors Jules Pipe and James Murray also attended the event.

Supporting inclusive growth across the capital

On 14 December, I announced the award of £30million of funding in the second round of my Good Growth Fund. From a total of 161 initial bids for funding, totalling £125m, 33 projects from across the city have been funded to support Londoners in areas with high levels of unemployment, youth violence and poor mental health, by creating new jobs, investing in community assets and driving sustainable economic growth. Successful projects in this funding round include:

- delivering up to 20,000sq m of much-needed new industrial space in Barking to support local jobs;
- creating new and refurbished performance, rehearsal, learning and play spaces at the Polka Children's Theatre in Wimbledon, to support community outreach and creative learning opportunities for disadvantaged children and hard-to-reach families; and
- investing in Centre 404 to provide much-needed support and services for people with learning disabilities and carers from the LGBTQ+ communities in Islington, Camden, Haringey, Enfield and Hammersmith & Fulham.

Delivered through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the Good Growth Fund supports my aim of building a city that is socially and economically inclusive, as well as environmentally sustainable, by enabling more local communities to influence how their city is shaped. Where communities are undergoing change and development, it is important that existing residents have the opportunity to understand the benefits it can provide them, and the Good Growth Fund has an important role to play in this. I look forward to seeing all the positive impacts these projects will have in the future.

Stage 2 of Skills for Londoners Capital Fund round 2 shortlist

On 10 December, 29 projects were invited to submit a detailed application for the £82 million available through the second round of my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund, including through the Mayor's Construction Academy project.

Following a highly competitive and successful Stage 1, applicants were invited to provide further details on proposals for facilities that will support the delivery of construction, STEM and vocational training skills, among others, across 14 different boroughs. This programme will

help to deliver the aims of the Skills for Londoners Strategy, as well as supporting wider priorities set out in the draft London Plan, the London Environment Strategy and Inclusive London.

Housing

Deputy Mayor James Murray spoke at the launch of Sustainable Cities UK

This year, London was ranked as a top performing 'Sustainable City' by the annual Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index, and my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development James Murray spoke at its launch. I am proud that our diverse economy, vital green spaces and exciting cultural scene helped us win the title, but we cannot be complacent. As our capital's population continues to grow, so do the challenges we face, not least to make sure everyone can afford a decent and secure home. I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure that London remains a sustainable city for all Londoners.

Mayoral visit to Great Guildford Street Staging Post

On 13 December I visited the new No Second Night Out staging post we are funding in Southwark – which offers rough sleepers in-depth support to stay off the streets, alongside additional space for a severe weather shelter when necessary. I had just triggered the opening of the shelters that day for the first time this winter, so as well as being able to meet residents whose lives are being turned around by this service, I was also able to see the shelter in action. I was particularly struck by the passion of the staff working there to make the difference to the lives of those they help.

This winter I have agreed with London boroughs that severe weather shelters will open London-wide if the temperature is predicted to drop below zero anywhere in the capital. Previously, shelters were opened on a borough-by-borough basis, leading to patchy provision – and under the previous Mayor there had to be three days of sub-zero temperatures forecast before shelters would open, which I found unacceptable. I have also persuaded all London boroughs this year to sign up to my 'In For Good' principle – a promise that, when a rough sleeper goes to an emergency shelter, they will be accommodated there until a support plan is put in place to help them off the streets for good.

St Ann's pre-market engagement workshop

On 17 December, my team welcomed members of the new London Development Panel to London's Living Room to discuss the future of the St Ann's Hospital Site, which I purchased from the NHS earlier this year. My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and representatives of my Homes for Londoners team presented details of the site alongside members of the resident and community group, St Ann's Redevelopment Trust (StART). My team shared our excitement about this site with potential development partners and we look forward to progressing this important project in the New Year.

Good Growth by Design

My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, attended a meet-up with the Mayor's Design Advocates (MDAs) on my behalf on 17 December. The MDAs are supporting my Good Growth by Design programme, which aims to enhance the design of

buildings and neighbourhoods for all Londoners, and the event reflected on the progress we have made so far. As part of this, my team are working with MDAs and consultants to develop housing design guidance on how to ensure we optimise the number of homes delivered on sites across London, which will be published for consultation next year.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Immigration White Paper

On 19 December, the Government published a White Paper setting out its proposals for the future immigration system. I met with the Home Secretary on 4 December and have made clear that if the Government moves forward with their proposal to restrict tier 2 visas for skilled workers to jobs paying over £30,000 a year, it would see businesses struggle to fill thousands of key posts in crucial sectors, such as construction, social care, health, retail, hospitality and our world-leading creative industries. With Parliament poised to reject the Prime Minister's Brexit deal when it is finally presented during the week beginning 14 January, the likelihood is that this White Paper will need to be scrapped anyway. The Prime Minister should withdraw Article 50 immediately and allow time for a public vote to be held so the country can decide what course it wants to take.

Engagement with business leaders

On 14 December I met Mark Carney the Governor of the Bank of England. In addition to the impact of Brexit on London's financial services, we also talked about opportunities for London such as our strength in fintech.

I also met with the Group Chairman of HSBC, Mark Tucker on the 5 December. I was keen to hear about the impact of Brexit on the UK's biggest bank. We also discussed HSBC's work on financial inclusion and their plans for London Climate Action Week next July, for which there a number of events we will be collaborating on.

Launch of new London Food Strategy

On 11 December, I published my new London Food Strategy. This strategy sets out my plans to help all Londoners access healthy, affordable and sustainable food - regardless of their background and circumstances. The final strategy takes account of the comments from the thousands of Londoners and 150 stakeholder organisations who responded to the consultation on the draft London Food Strategy in summer 2018.

The London Food Strategy covers a range of key issues, including food insecurity, food growing and climate change. It also includes a number of measures to help tackle child obesity, including a restriction on advertising of food that is high in fat, sugar and/or salt across the Transport for London (TfL) network from 25 February 2019. I look forward to working with partners in the coming months and years to deliver the actions set out in the strategy.

Brexit Preparedness

The Government's botched handling of the Brexit negotiations and its decision to postpone the parliamentary vote on 11 December, means that crashing out of the EU with no-deal remains a significant risk. Several months ago, I instructed my officials to step up our preparations for a

no-deal Brexit. I asked the London Resilience Forum – the partnership responsible for London’s preparedness in the event of emergencies – to establish the impact of a no-deal Brexit on a number of critical areas. The London Resilience Forum’s work to date has indicated that there’s been a lack of information from the Government to inform local planners. I have written to the Prime Minister to share my concerns about this. The lack of information has severely constrained our ability to prepare for the expected outcomes of a no-deal Brexit in key areas – such as food, fuel, energy and essential medicine supplies. The risk of panic buying means that no-deal preparation is needed as a matter of urgency.

Environment

Launch of vehicle scrappage scheme for London microbusinesses

On 18 December, as part of my bold plans to clean up London’s toxic air, I launched a new, £23m scheme to help smaller business owners to scrap older, more polluting vans and switch to cleaner vehicles.

My scheme will initially help London’s micro businesses – defined as those with fewer than 10 employees – to prepare for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) by switching to the cleanest vehicles, including electric. It is planned to be in place ahead of the introduction of the new central London ULEZ on 8 April 2019, which will bring in charges for vehicles which do not meet stricter emission standards that apply 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Diesel vans which do not meet the latest Euro 6 standard will have to pay £12.50 a day to drive in the central London congestion charge zone.

Under my scheme, funding would be available to scrap vans that do not comply with the new ULEZ standards, but which are driven into the ULEZ zone regularly, helping thousands of micro-business owners update their vehicles. I have asked officials and TfL to work out how the money could be spent most effectively, and I will make further details of the scheme available next year.

I’m also asking government ministers to match-fund this £23m scheme, which would enable even more scrappage support for other Londoners, including those on low incomes, and charity vehicles.

New package of measures to tackle taxi emissions

Toxic air pollution in London is a major public health crisis that is stunting the lung development of our children and leads to thousands of premature deaths and increases the risk of asthma and dementia. We have to make tough decisions to protect the health and wellbeing of Londoners and tackle harmful emissions from the most polluting vehicles. On 19 December, I unveiled a package of new measures to tackle taxi emissions and support drivers to switch to new zero emission capable taxis. This includes:

- An enhanced delicensing fund, providing up to £10,000 for drivers who trade in their older, dirtier vehicles early
- A £2.5m fund to help drivers of newer Euro 5 taxis to convert to much cleaner LPG fuel
- A consultation early next year on a phased reduction in maximum taxi age limits for the dirtiest vehicles from 15 years to 12 years by 2022

With taxis currently responsible for 20 per cent of harmful nitrogen oxide emissions, and currently on course to be the biggest source of transport pollution in central London, I have put

these actions in place to deliver vital improvements in air quality to protect public health. This package will help to ensure that we're on track to reduce taxi emissions by 65 per cent in 2025 to protect the health of Londoners.

This work coincides with the 150th rapid charge point delivered by TfL and generous grants of £7,500 to help taxi drivers to switch to electric as soon as possible. There are now nearly 1,000 zero emission capable taxis in the fleet.

Also, on 19 December, I confirmed that private hire vehicles will no longer be exempt from the Congestion Charge. This change will help reduce congestion and combined with the start of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone, will ensure further action is taken to clean up this fleet.

Following my public consultation on the topic, which received more than 10,000 responses, the changes to the Congestion Charge include the replacement of the Ultra-Low Emission Discount with a new phased Cleaner Vehicle Discount (CVD) that will incentivise only the cleanest vehicles to drive in central London. The first phase would mean only zero-emission capable vehicles are exempt from the Congestion Charge from 8 April 2019. The restrictions will tighten further in October 2021 to support my ambition for zero-emission road transport by 2050 (with only pure electric vehicles qualifying for the discount). The discount will expire in December 2025.

Energy for Londoners community energy fund

On 14 December, I revealed the successful projects to have been awarded a grant under phase two of the London Community Energy Fund, part of my Energy for Londoners programme. 18 community energy projects have been awarded a total of £182,000 towards the development costs of community energy projects, covering projects across 13 London boroughs. The successful proposals include those which develop solar projects in time to still benefit from the Feed-in Tariff (ending on 31 March 2019), installing electric vehicle charging points, adding battery storage to solar PV and developing a community off-grid hybrid renewable energy system.

Details of all 18 projects can be found on our website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund>

Launch of 1.5C Compatible Climate Action Plan

On the 12 December, I launched London's 1.5C Compatible Climate Action Plan. London has one of the most ambitious climate action plans of any world city and my Climate Action Plan sets out the routes to reaching my ambition of making London zero carbon by 2050. The Plan uses London-specific building models and spatial data to provide more detail on how the climate actions and targets set out in my London Environment Strategy will be achieved.

Actions required to meet my goals include rapidly increasing energy efficiency retrofits, deploying heat pumps at scale and quickly transitioning to electric vehicles. I'm working as hard as I can to drive these changes through my new London Plan zero carbon standards, Energy for Londoners programme and action to clean up London's air. But the analysis shows that under my current powers and resources I can deliver less than half the emissions reductions needed. We are in a climate emergency, so we desperately need national government to take more action and to provide me with more powers and funding to enable London to achieve these goals.

On the same day the Climate Action Plan was launched I also delivered the key note speech at the Bloomberg and Vanity Fair Climate Exchange, hosted by Michael Bloomberg, to an audience of leading businesses. My speech, outlined my plans to host London Climate Action week in July 2019 and the work we are undertaking in collaboration with other cities on air quality and divestment through C40 Cities. I also announced that the eleven businesses in my London Business Climate Leaders had disclosed their London based emissions, which is the first time businesses have done so globally at a city level. This is an important step in recognising the role that businesses and cities play in tackling climate change in London.

Women in Cleantech Report

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy spoke at the launch of the London Sustainable Development Commission's Women in Cleantech Report. This report outlined the issues, barriers and opportunities for women in cleantech entrepreneurship in London. It also contained an action plan for better gender parity in this growing and vital sector in London which included commitments from key partners across London, such as WISE who committed to undertake further analysis of their patency data to understand the number of women filing cleantech patents, and by opening their mentoring and schools outreach programmes to our cleantech community and team. This work supports two of my priority areas; 'ensuring that London is greener, cleaner and ready for the future' and 'equality for all Londoners'.

Education and Youth

Teach London

In December, I launched the [Teach London 2018/19](#) website for people who want to become a teacher or advance their teaching career in London. Teach London has been developed in partnership with the Teaching School Council and the schools sector.

Teach London has been widely circulated to London schools and the education sector, and the GLA will also run a digital campaign, targeting students and new graduates at London's universities to promote teaching as a career. I am particularly keen to reach London's BAME communities in recognition of their substantial under representation in the workforce, and so help tackle the disparity between the percentage of BAME students and percentage of BAME teachers.

We know that London is facing a shortage of both teachers and headteachers, with recent research showing that more than 4 out of 10 teachers in London quit the profession within five years of qualifying. London also has a steady net outflow of teachers who move to teach elsewhere, particularly those in their thirties and forties. In inner London the proportion of BAME teachers is 26%, while the proportion of BAME pupils is 81% and in outer London the figures are 22% and 65% respectively.

The brochure is available at www.london.gov.uk/londons-teachers and all the Teach London material for prospective teachers and schools to use is at: www.london.gov.uk/teach-london

Early Years in London

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, invited Assembly Members to join her to see first-hand the work of the Wandle Early Years Hub

(WEYH), one of my three Early Years Hubs. The visit took place at one of the Hub's core partner settings, Eastwood Nursery and Children's Centre in Wandsworth.

The visit was attended by Jennette Arnold AM, Chair of the Assembly's Education Panel, and officers supporting the work of Assembly Members. It provided an opportunity to gain insight into the work that the Hubs are doing to improve the quality and take-up of early education in London, find out more about the Wandle Early Years Hub's particular focus on supporting children with SEND, speak to professionals involved in the Hub and see children enjoying high quality early education.

Our Early Years Hubs were launched in January 2018 to bring together local partners to improve access to quality early education for the capital's most disadvantaged children.

Boys on track

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests to a roundtable discussion on 'Boys on Track'.

We launched a report by LKMco which gives an overview of the available evidence of successful interventions to improve the educational achievement and future lives of black Caribbean boys and free school meal eligible white boys - these are the two of the largest under-performing groups of students in London. Stakeholders from schools, local authorities, youth workers and other third sector organisations discussed the issues raised in the report and shared examples of good practice.

My vision is for a truly inclusive London which supports social mobility. Events like the Boys on Track roundtable help us better understand the most impactful approaches in helping black Caribbean and free school meal eligible white boys to achieve their potential.

This event was part of my Schools for Success programme which is a tribute to the many excellent teachers, governors and staff who make a real difference in London schools. It will be followed by an event in March focusing on exclusions and another in June on Roma, Gypsy and Traveller best practice.

Peer Outreach Team Tackling violence against women and girls

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, opened a youth-led Violence Against Women and Girls event at City Hall. This was organised by the Mayor's Peer Outreach Team, working with 'Broken Bride' - an organisation led by both women and men determined to put an end to violence. Issues highlighted included the need to end the isolation that many women feel when they are suffering violence, the need to listen and the importance of working with young men who are perpetrators of violence. A young woman who had survived domestic abuse wrote and performed her own spoken word. The event attracted around 140 attendees.

Communities and Social Policy

London Is Open

On 20 December, I released a new London is Open film to celebrate all of the things that make London such a fantastic city in which to live, study and work. The film, featuring the voiceover

of a TfL station announcer, highlighted many of the wonderful things people love about this great city.

With over 800,000 views already, the film helps us to celebrate London's uniqueness and to reassure Londoners that we will remain an open, vibrant city, with our core values unchanged.

Alongside this film, working with partners we unveiled stickers close to iconic locations across London to showcase some of the real-life examples of what makes London a great city. These included 'London is Proud' next to the lions at Trafalgar Square; 'London is Courageous' in front of the statue of Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square, 'London is Creative' outside the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park and 'London is Open' at Tower Bridge. These stickers were live for three weeks over the busy Christmas and New Year's period, carrying these important messages to Londoners and visitors from all across the world.

London Leadership and Peace Awards 2018

On 21 December, Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke at the London Leadership and Peace Awards 2018. Attendees included leaders of industry, government, members of the voluntary sector and young people, along with nominees and award winners. The Awards recognise the unsung achievements of people who have contributed to greater community cohesion, safety and peace in London. It also celebrates the leadership of individuals and organisations involved in building a better London. It is organised by the Peace Alliance, a not-for-profit organisation committed to creating greater community cohesion across London.

Hillsong London Church Carol Service

On 16 December, I was delighted to speak at Hillsong London Church's annual 'London Carols', at the SSE Arena, Wembley. The event sees thousands of people gather for the largest Christmas carol service in the UK. It was wonderful to meet with church leaders and members and to renew our commitment to work together.

Faith Leaders Meeting

On 14 December, I hosted my third meeting with Black Majority Church Leaders at City Hall. I was pleased to provide an update on our work to address serious youth violence. I also discussed our new Violence Reduction Unit. The Unit builds on the work City Hall, the Met Police, local authorities, youth services, health services and criminal justice agencies have been doing to prevent the spread of violent crime. It builds on existing partnerships, bringing together specialists to work together to reduce violence by taking a public health approach.

Kensington Aldridge Academy

On 11 December, Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard and I visited Kensington Aldridge Academy. The school is opposite Grenfell Tower and pupils and staff were relocated to Wormwood Scrubs until September 2018. During the visit, I announced a £50,000 donation to the KAA Intrepidus Trust. This was set up in the aftermath of the fire to raise funds for extracurricular and academic enrichment activities for students. Despite unimaginably difficult circumstances, the school and the wider community have been a beacon of strength and resilience for all Londoners.

Ascension Trust

On 9 December, I was honoured to join an Ascension Trust service led by Reverend Les Isaac. The event celebrated the Trust's 25th Anniversary, and the 15th Anniversary of Street Pastors. The Street Pastors project was pioneered in London in 2003. Since then, over 12,000 volunteers have been trained to play an active part in strengthening community life and working for safer streets. It was a privilege to support the Ascension Trust during their anniversary. The reassurance and practical support they deliver through programmes including Street Pastors, Rail Pastors and Response Pastors is vital to the wellbeing of our city.

Social Integration Design Lab

On 7 December, Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard launched my Social Integration Design Lab. As part of 'All of Us', my strategy for social integration, the Lab will enable local authority officers from across London to work with social design experts, public sector innovators and citizens to embed social integration and design principles into public service delivery, projects and policies. It will bring together local authorities that wish to lead innovative practices which promote social integration in their local area and provide a stimulating space to design, test and share interventions that support a more socially integrated London.

Health

Draft social prescribing vision

On the 11 December, I published a draft social prescribing vision for London in partnership with the Healthy London Partnership (HLP) and the London Social Prescribing Network. Social prescribing is all about helping people to find ways to improve their health and wellbeing by linking them up with what's going on in their local area.

The draft sets out how we propose to ensure that Londoners, especially those most disadvantaged, have access to a social prescription by 2028. The engagement period for the draft finishes at the end of February 2019 and the final vision will be published in the spring of 2019.

Meeting with Regional Director for NHS England London

On 14 December, I met with Professor Jane Cummings, Regional Director for NHS England London. We discussed how the NHS could contribute to the Violence Reduction Unit's work, and how we can work together to deliver my Health Inequalities Strategy. As the weather gets colder it is vital that City Hall, the NHS and other partners coordinate their approach to homelessness and keeping people off the streets, and we also discussed the wider pressures winter puts on NHS systems across the capital. Jane will be finishing in her role at the end of the year, so I was pleased to be able to wish her a very happy retirement.

London Health Board

On 18 December, I chaired the first webcast meeting of the London Health Board which now has new terms of reference to reflect its transparent proceedings. At the meeting I announced my appointment of Mary Harpley as GLA Group Dementia Champion. Over the coming months Mary will develop and lead efforts to make City Hall dementia-friendly and will work with TfL,

the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to share what works and encourage further action.

The Alzheimer's Society and London ADASS updated on progress towards Dementia Friendly London. The Board also received presentations from the King's Fund on progress that London's Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships are making and from the SPB and London's Director of Primary Care. The Board requested a renewed health and care vision and a work programme to be brought to the next meeting. The Board also received progress reports on mental health support in schools, the London Health Inequalities Strategy and the Violence Reduction Unit.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London supports New Year's Eve 2018

On 31 December, 170 of my Team London Major Events Volunteers supported London's New Year's Eve Fireworks 2018. The volunteers were based at ten locations throughout central London, providing wayfinding services and creating a welcoming atmosphere at this unique event. The event was shown live on BBC1 and celebrated our relationship with Europe and showed the world that #LondonIsOpen.

Sports Strategy – Sport for All of Us

On 13 December, I launched 'Sport for All of Us', my strategy for sport and physical activity in London. This strategy sets out my vision for London to be the most active and socially-integrated city in the world. Sport for All of Us details how community sport and major sporting events will come together to foster social integration, get Londoners active, build stronger communities and reinforce our position as a pre-eminent destination for major sporting events. This is the first time that the power of sport will be used to improve social integration in London.

Culture and Events

New Year's Eve Fireworks

On 31 December, more than 100,000 people from more than 110 different countries came together to watch Europe's largest annual fireworks display on the banks of the Thames.

This year's show celebrated the message that #LondonIsOpen. It reinforced my message that London will always welcome people who want to come work, study or visit here and that it will always be home to the over one million European citizens living in the capital. Millions watched the live broadcast and many more across the world will have seen London once again at the forefront of the global celebrations.

The event was delivered thanks to the joint working of the MPS, TfL and other agencies and local authorities, alongside the teams here at the GLA.

Christmas Carol Service: 17 December 2018

My annual Christmas Carol Service took place on Monday 17 December at Southwark Cathedral and was attended by over 800 people.

This year, the service placed particular focus on marking two important moments this year - the centenary of the end of World War One and the centenary of the first women in Britain winning the right to vote. At the service, I was joined by five leading women from across London; Paralympics GB athlete, Vanessa Wallace, veteran and Director of Fundraising for Royal British Legion, Claire Rowcliffe, British Nigerian poet, Theresa Lola, year 9 student from St Saviour's and St Olave's Church of England School, Miracle Johnson and Educationalist, Dame Jocelyn Barrow.

We enjoyed performances from the Women in Harmony Choir and Southwark Cathedral Girls' Choir 'Gloriana', as well as a wonderful solo performance from Luna Trumpiskyte from Bishop Challoner Secondary School, a scholar from our Music Fund for London. This year, we held a collection for the Robes Project, a charity which provides shelter for homeless people in Southwark and Lambeth.

Creative Enterprise Zones announcement

On 14 December, with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, I launched my first ever Creative Enterprise Zones. One of my key manifesto priorities, this initiative will help the creative workforce to put down roots in areas they have helped to develop and will create new skills and job opportunities for local people. The first six zones are: Brixton (Lambeth), Croydon Creatives (Croydon), Hackney Wick and Fish Island (Hackney, Tower Hamlets and London Legacy Development Corporation), Great West Creatives (Hounslow), Shapes Lewisham (Lewisham - New Cross & Deptford) and Tottenham Pathfinder (Haringey). The Zones are expected to create 3,500 new jobs, 1,000 new education and training opportunities for local residents, and 40,000 square metres of new affordable workspace.

Final Culture Strategy presented to London Assembly

On 13 December, I presented my final Culture Strategy for London, Part 1: Culture for all Londoners and Part 2: Sport for all of Us, to the London Assembly. I was accompanied by Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries and Debbie Weekes-Bernard Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement.

Culture for all Londoners, was updated following public consultation which included meetings, workshops and online engagement with Londoners and stakeholders. Over 3,200 comments were received. Londoners welcomed my priorities and plans and agreed with my broad definition of culture. I have updated the Culture Strategy to reflect the issues Londoners raised, like strengthening the connections between my cultural programmes and health and wellbeing and social integration. I have also provided more detail on my plans for increasing diversity in the creative workforce. The strategy is available on London.gov.uk.

Olafur Eliasson: Ice Watch launch

On 11 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at the Ice Watch launch, alongside philanthropist Michael Bloomberg. Ice Watch, the third edition of this international art work by Olafur Eliasson, opened at two London sites; 24

blocks outside Tate Modern and six blocks outside Bloomberg's London office. On 12 December, I was a panellist at the Bloomberg Vanity Fair Climate Exchange, a half-day summit on climate change, held at Bloomberg and hosted by Michael Bloomberg, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action.

Ice Watch - large blocks of ice which have detached from a Greenland ice-sheet are brought to major global cities. This physically engages the public with issues of climate change as the public touch the melting ice. The art work was timed to coincide with COP 24, the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland.

Fashion Awards

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the Fashion Awards charity fundraiser at the Royal Albert Hall. The UK fashion industry is now worth £32 billion to the UK economy, and the Awards are an annual celebration of the UK's home-grown designers, emerging talent and exceptional business leaders. The event raises money for the British Fashion Council's educational programmes supporting the future pipeline of the UK's creative talent.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Hackney Wick to be designated a Creative Enterprise Zone

On 14 December, I announced that Hackney Wick will be designated a Creative Enterprise Zone. The successful joint bid from Tower Hamlets, Hackney and LLDC is part of a ground-breaking initiative to support artists and creative businesses and develop skills and jobs for Londoners.

Track Cycling World Cup

Between 14 and 16 December, the Lee Valley VeloPark hosted the Tissot UCI Track Cycling World Cup, which saw Olympic and Paralympic champions compete for their countries.

London Stadium seating capacity

On 12 December, LLDC appeared before the Budget and Performance Committee to discuss the recent agreement with West Ham United to increase the number of seats available for sale to 60,000, with scope to expand to 66,000 in the future. This puts an end to the litigation surrounding seating capacity at the London Stadium and I'm pleased that LLDC have made progress on some difficult issues since I commissioned the Moore Stephens review last year.

New deal agreed for athletics at the London Stadium

On 11 December, LLDC and UK Athletics (UKA) agreed a new deal for athletics at the London Stadium. The deal will fix athletics event days, allow flexibility for the booking of other events and revise the seating configuration to allow for faster and fewer moves, as well as delivering significant cost savings.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 27 November 2018 to 17 December 2018

Planning Decisions (Stage III representation hearings)

1A and 1C Eynsham Drive, Abbey Wood, RB Greenwich

Having decided to become the local planning authority for the above case, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, decided to grant planning permission, subject to planning conditions and prior written conclusion of a section 106 agreement.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Morrison's Car Park, Honeypot Lane, Queensbury, LB Brent

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

Land at Belgrave Road and Grosvenor Road, South Norwood, LB Croydon

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

Acton Gardens (formerly South Acton Estate), Acton Town, LB Ealing

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

1 Boord Street, Greenwich, RB Greenwich

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

Phases 3 and 4, Woolwich Central, RB Greenwich

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

Tesco, Kennington Lane, Kennington, LB Lambeth

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

Harrison Gibson Building, 193-207 High Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge

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

136-142 New Kent Road, Elephant and Castle, LB Southwark

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

160 Blackfriars Road, Southwark, LB Southwark

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

82 West India Dock Road, Limehouse, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Wells House, Oxford Street, City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, has sent a letter in response to the following statutory referrals:

Gascoigne Estate West, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

259 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, LB Newham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Newham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Aylesbury Estate, Walworth, LB Southwark

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre and London College of Communication site, LB Southwark

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- 139 North Cray Road, Sidcup, LB Bexley
- 1-2 Broadgate, Liverpool Street, City of London
- The White Hart, Ruislip Road, Northolt, LB Ealing
- 154-172 Powis Street and 125-129 Woolwich High Street, Woolwich, RB Greenwich
- Land at Rainbow Industrial Estate, Trout Road, West Drayton, LB Hillingdon
- Capital Interchange Way, Brentford, LB Hounslow
- 301-303 Ilderton Road, LB Southwark
- 596-608 Old Kent Road and Land at Livesey Place, Peckham, LB Southwark
- 79-83 Beddington Lane, Beddington, LB Sutton
- Poplar Gasworks, Leven Road, Poplar, LB Tower Hamlets
- Westferry Printworks, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets
- Former Webbs Industrial Estate, Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor Planning, Regeneration and Skills has asked officers to send a letter giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- The Hambrough Tavern, Southall, LB Ealing

- Middlesex Business Centre, Southall, LB Ealing
- Car Park Site, Sealand Road, Heathrow, LB Hillingdon
- Riverside Business Centre, Earlsfield, LB Wandsworth
- Site at Regent Street, Oxford Street, Swallow Place and Princes Street, Oxford Circus, City of Westminster
- Compton and Edrich Stands, Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, City of Westminster

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium, LB Merton
- Draft Revised Lambeth Local Plan, LB Lambeth
- Partial review - Publication stage draft Local Plan, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Basildon Regulation 19 Consultation, Basildon Borough Council

Key Engagements

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

- I attended a Christmas reception hosted by Evgeny Lebedev on 7 December
- I attended a Google Roundtable on Youth Violence & Social Media on 10 December
- I visited the National Crime Agency Headquarters on 11 December
- I visited Kensington Aldridge Academy on 11 December to meet with the pupils and staff at the school to find out how they are settling back into their original site since having to relocate following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower
- I met with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 11 December
- I attended the annual MOPAC volunteers thank you event on 11 December
- I addressed The Bloomberg Philanthropies/Vanity Fair "Climate Exchange" on 12 December
- I attended the Wreath Laying in Spencer Park & the Memorial Service in St Mark's Church, Battersea on 12 December to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Clapham Junction Rail Disaster
- I attended the Assembly Plenary on 13 December to answer questions on my Culture & Sport Strategy
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 13 December
- I had an introductory meeting with the new CEO of Network Rail, Andrew Haines OBE, on 13 December to discuss strategic transport priorities in London
- I visited the Great Guildford Street NSNO Staging Post on 13 December
- I attended the Labour Group Annual Reception on 13 December
- I met with Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, on 14 December to discuss the impact of a no-deal Brexit on London's economy
- I hosted a breakfast meeting with representatives of London's Black Majority Churches on 14 December to discuss how we can work together to tackle violent crime in London
- I had my regular meeting with Professor Jane Cummings, Regional Director, NHS England (London), on 14 December

- I attended the launch of the UK's first Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZs) at a stakeholder event in Lambeth for the six successful Zones on 14 December
- I addressed GLA staff at the GLA Christmas Party on 14 December
- I attended London Carols at Hillsong Church taking place at the SSE Arena, Wembley on 16 December
- I visited Edmonton Green, Enfield, to launch the Cycle Action Plan on 17 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 17 December
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 17 December
- I attended the annual GLA Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral on 17 December
- I chaired the London Health Board on 18 December
- I visited the Help Refugees Pop up Shop in Soho on 18 December
- I chaired the London Economic Action Partnership Board meeting on 19 December
- I met with Mark Wild, the Chief Executive of Crossrail, on 19 December, to discuss Crossrail
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 20 December
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 20 December ahead of the Transport Committee
- I attended the Transport Committee on 21 December to answer questions on Crossrail
- I attended the London New Year Fireworks on 31 December
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Peter Hendy, Chair, and Lynn Garner, Chief Executive, of the London Legacy Development Corporation on 3 January
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 3 January

Ends