

31st Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 16th May 2019

This is my thirty-first Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 8th March – 2nd May 2019.

Executive summary

Standing together against hatred and extremism

The world has again been shocked and disgusted by appalling terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka and New Zealand. London stands in solidarity with the victims of these atrocities and their families as they come to terms with the shock and grief of their loss. That the attacks targeted Christians and Muslims in their places of worship reflects the ruthless determination of both Islamist and far-right extremists to strike at the things we hold most dear, to sow hatred and to divide communities.

I have written to the Government to urge them to ensure that security at all places of worship is properly funded. However, it is only by tackling the roots of extremism and creating stronger, more integrated communities that we can find a long-term solution. In London, my Countering Violent Extremism programme is working across London's communities as it produces its final report, which is due to be published later this year. I will keep Assembly Members updated as this important work continues.

20,000 Londoners set to benefit from £57 million investment

Ensuring Londoners have the skills and training to thrive in our dynamic economy is crucial for the future of our city. On 2 May, my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund has committed over £57 million in helping everyone make the most of London's opportunities. This funding will create high-quality facilities and training programmes, working in partnership with businesses to establish a pipeline of talent for employers both now and in the future.

We are also committed to ensuring a diverse, inclusive workforce across different industries. That's why a number of the successful projects aim to increase employment for Londoners who may face barriers to entering the jobs market, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

Part purchase of Edmonton hospital site for affordable housing

On 18 April, I used £12.8 million from my Land Fund to purchase a 1.4-hectare site at the North Middlesex University Hospital in Edmonton. I expect the site to deliver at least 200 homes, with 50 per cent of those being social rented or other genuinely affordable housing, in line with my Housing Strategy. Construction of the new homes will begin before March 2022.

Overground ticket offices to be kept open

On 18 April, I confirmed that London Overground ticket offices will remain open, after providing an additional £5 million of funding from London's business rates. As part of this, both I and Transport for London (TfL) have allocated £1 million to invest in new technology to improve stations and make it even easier for customers to get help when they need it.

Taking action to keep Londoners safe over Easter

On 10 April, I was delighted to join officers from the Metropolitan Police's Stratford Town Centre team to find out about the work they're doing with retailers and other businesses in the area to crack down on violence and antisocial behaviour. Alongside this, we continue to invest in preventative and diversionary activities to keep young people away from crime, activities that are particularly important during school holidays. City Hall continues to publish online, details of hundreds of activities available to young Londoners during the holidays and beyond - from theatre workshops, sports programmes and music sessions to coding clubs and cooking classes.

The world's first 24 hour Ultra Low Emission Zone starts in London

On 8 April, I introduced the world's toughest vehicle emissions standard in central London to help reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health. Polluting vehicles account for around half of London's harmful nitrogen dioxide emissions. The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is the centrepiece of my plans to cut emissions from this source.

The ULEZ is already having an impact. Thousands of motorists have started to change their behaviour by driving less polluting vehicles into the area, and using cleaner transport alternatives including walking or cycling, and public transport. We expect the ULEZ and other actions to reduce harmful nitrogen oxides emissions from road transport by around 45 percent in central London.

New research on the impact of air pollution on lung health

On 5 April, I launched the results of new research which found that on average, four Londoners, including one child, are hospitalised every day due to asthma caused by toxic air pollution. I commissioned the research led by King's College London and Imperial College London, to help us better understand the impact that air pollution has on asthma and lung conditions.

Missing People Matching Tool to help reunite homeless people

On 3 April, I use £62,000 from my Rough Sleeping Innovation Fund to back the new 'Missing People Matching Tool', run by the charity Missing People. If a homeless person is found to have been reported missing, outreach workers can let them know and support them in exploring their options. This could include offering to let their friends and family know they are safe, facilitate a reunion with their consent or simply acknowledging their safety and removing their name from the missing persons database.

It is crucial we do all we can to help people off the streets of London, and I am pleased to be supporting Missing People's work to help reunite homeless people with their friends and family who love them.

New data underlining the scale of London's air quality challenge

On 1 April, I published new data and an interactive map showing that two million Londoners, including more than 400,000 children, live in areas which exceed legal limits for air pollution.

The updated London Atmospheric Emission Inventory (LAEI) models air quality across the city and demonstrates why my tough measures to clean up London's toxic air are so vital. Shamefully, more than 450 schools are still in areas which exceed legal limits for nitrogen dioxide. As a result of introducing the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and my other air pollution policies, including the expansion of ULEZ. This is expected to reduce to zero by 2025.

An extra £200 million to protect affordable homebuilding through Brexit

On 1 April, I provided housing association across the capital with an extra £200 million to ensure the building of affordable housing continues despite the impact of Brexit. The continuing Brexit negotiations continue to affect the housing market, with falling sales and uncertainty over house prices. This is having a knock-on effect on housing associations, who currently receive low levels of funding from Government and therefore, rely heavily on income from selling new market-price homes to help subsidise new affordable homes.

At City Hall we are building record numbers of new social rented and other genuinely affordable homes. We must not let the Government's chaotic mishandling of Brexit undermine our plans. Whatever happens with Brexit, Ministers must at the very least match my support, and ensure we can keep building the homes Londoners need over the coming years.

Calls for Transport for London to take charge of key infrastructure

On 26 March, I called on the Government to make TfL the rail infrastructure manager for its devolved suburban services. This will help pave the way for a metro-style service in south and southeast London.

I have repeatedly said that the current rail franchise system is broken beyond repair, with large dysfunctional franchises simply not suited to the high-volume, high-frequency suburban metro service London's commuters need and deserve. Even the author of the Government's own Rail Review, Keith Williams, said that Britain's current rail franchise system doesn't deliver clear benefits to taxpayers and commuters, and cannot continue as it is.

If responsibility was transferred to TfL and additional funding was made available, train services in south and south eastern London could become almost as frequent as the Tube. TfL's strategic case for 'metroisation' outlines that with additional investment it could introduce a flagship route between Balham and Victoria which could feature up to 18 trains per hour and trains every 7 to 8 minutes from Tulse Hill to London Bridge.

Funding awarded to community groups supporting EU Londoners

I want to ensure that the most vulnerable EU Londoners, including the elderly, disabled and homeless, get the right advice and support around how to proceed with these applications. This is why, on 25 March, I awarded funding of around £5,000 each to six different community organisations as part of my work to engage with European communities and help European Londoners get the information they need to stay in the UK.

City Hall adopts APPG definition of Islamophobia

On 22 March, I announced that City Hall has adopted the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of islamophobia.

City Hall will become the largest public authority to adopt the APPG definition as part of my efforts to tackle Islamophobia. The APPG is investigating prejudice and discrimination against British Muslims and the aim of their definition is to build a common understanding of the causes and consequences of Islamophobia and show a united determination to end it.

Increased air pollution monitoring at London's schools and hospitals

On 19 March, I launched a new air quality monitoring trial to help us understand London's air pollution in more depth than ever before. This innovative study – the largest of its kind in the world – will monitor the air quality exposure of 250 children on their journey to and from school and in the classroom by using special backpacks with state-of-the-art air quality sensors. The study, in collaboration with King's College London, will help improve our understanding of where harmful pollutants are coming from and find new ways to reduce children's exposure to toxic air.

Two days later, on 21 March, I also announced that the Breathe London network of air quality monitors will be extended to some of London hospitals. Ten hospitals in the most polluted areas of London will be equipped with new monitors to measure levels of toxic air and help protect patients and staff. The first monitor is already up and running at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and others will follow shortly.

Dockhead Fire Station Demonstration

On 20 March, I visited Dockhead Fire Station, accompanied by my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and the London Fire Commissioner, to see first-hand new life-saving equipment being used by London Fire Brigade, following investment from City Hall in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire. I saw demonstrations of the Brigade's new drones, personal protective equipment and fire escape hoods, as well as meeting Simba, one of London's fire investigation dogs.

Launch of cultural map of the capital

On 19 March, City Hall launched an interactive online map for the first time ever. This map captures London's cultural facilities and locations, from pubs and LGBT+ venues, to music recording studios, community centres and local libraries – now available online for everyone one to use.

People's Question Time in Bexley

On Thursday 14 March, I held People's Question Time (PQT) at Crook Log Leisure Centre, Bexley. I was joined by Assembly Members in answering questions on issues impacting Londoners, including Transport, Safety, Air Quality and Environment, Housing and Growing London's Economy. The event was at full capacity with over 600 members of the local community in attendance.

New drive to boost domestic tourism

On 13 March, I launched a drive to promote London to visitors from other parts of the UK following a recent decline in domestic tourism. London & Partners (L&P) currently promotes London internationally and will now have responsibility for co-ordinating an industry-led Domestic Tourism Consortium to promote the capital to domestic tourists as well.

That is why I've committed £600,000 to the Domestic Tourism Consortium over the next two years to help address the decline in UK visitors. A number of London's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and landlords have also joined forces to create the Consortium and provided substantial investment towards the campaign.

£42 million Landmark deal secures over 600 affordable homes

On 8 March, I announced a landmark deal to secure more than 600 social rented and other genuinely affordable homes on the former Holloway Prison site.

This ground-breaking £42 million loan from the Mayor's Land Fund to Peabody housing association means four in 10 of all new homes on the site will be for social rent. We've developed planning policies with the council that support this, and that also set out how the development should include public green space and a new centre for women. This shows what is possible on public land.

Policing, Crime and Security

Policing protests in London

The Extinction Rebellion protests in London have highlighted the important and often difficult role that the Metropolitan Police Service performs in facilitating the democratic rights of the public to lawfully protest whilst also maintaining order on the streets of our capital. Whilst I understand and share the passion of those protesting about climate change, I have been clear that the impact of protests on London's communities, businesses and our hard-pressed police service has been unacceptable.

Throughout the protests, I remained in close contact with the Commissioner, Cressida Dick, and I am grateful to her and to the officers and staff of the MPS for their efforts in policing these protests alongside the already difficult job of policing our city. I know the sacrifices that officers and staff made to enable this heightened level of policing. Their commitment and dedication to duty is recognised and appreciated by all Londoners.

Taking action to keep Londoners safe over Easter

On 10 April, I joined officers from the Metropolitan Police's Stratford Town Centre team to find out about the work they are doing with retailers and other businesses in the area to crack down on violence and antisocial behaviour. Following targeted and sustained operations against repeat offenders by the Town Centre team and the Violent Crime Task Force, crime in the area dropped by 40 per cent over a four-month period at the end of last year. This kind of partnership activity to enforce against criminals is a vital element of the work underway to bring violence down in London.

Alongside this, we continue to invest in preventative and diversionary activities to keep young people away from crime, activities that are particularly important during school holidays. I look forward to the next round of bidding to the Young Londoners Fund getting underway in May. Last year, through investment of £20.5 million from City Hall, 179 projects across London benefitted more than 66,000 young people. Details of projects available across every borough can be found on City Hall's interactive online map at <https://www.london.gov.uk/our-london>.

I continue to welcome the support of Assembly Members in advertising this map to Londoners, helping as many young Londoners as possible to benefit from the wide range of positive activities available to them.

Putting victims at the heart of the justice service

On 21 March, I was pleased to be able to address the London Victims' Summit here at City Hall. Organised by Independent Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, the event saw the publication of her comprehensive review of compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice by London's criminal justice agencies. The Review found that compliance with the Code in London is low, with many victims not receiving the support they need and that they're entitled to.

I'm determined to do everything in my power as Mayor to ensure that victims are at the heart of our justice service, and I have asked MOPAC to carefully consider Claire's findings and recommendations. However, ultimately, with much of London's justice service outside of City Hall's control, and with budget cuts having a huge impact on policing, justice agencies and voluntary organisations ability to support victims, it's vital that the Government steps up its investment and commitment to supporting victims of crime.

Government's broken promise on police funding

In the Chancellor's Spring Statement on 13 March, we were told that police forces across the country would receive £100 million of emergency funding to help tackle violent crime.

On 17 April, with the money still not yet distributed and with the final allocations amounting to much less than the £100 million promised, I voiced my disappointment about the delay and about the reduced allocation. Ultimately, this is a drop in the ocean compared to the cuts faced by policing and preventative services since 2010, and I continue to call on the Government to reverse their devastating cuts and properly fund these vital services.

Calling for an end to the 'off-rolling' of pupils from school registers

On 7 March, I joined with Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country to call on the Prime Minister to give local authorities responsibility over school exclusions to ensure a co-ordinated strategic response, to outlaw 'off-rolling' and to reverse the damaging cuts to early intervention services.

Growing evidence shows that the most vulnerable children are more likely to be either permanently excluded from school or not attending school. We also know that truancy and exclusion are risk factors in serious violence. That's why early intervention and support for vulnerable young people both in and out of school is needed, which is why I called for schools to have the necessary resources to deliver effective interventions and support those at risk of exclusion. As part of the new Violence Reduction Unit we will be working with partners, schools and communities to support our young people to stay in school wherever possible and make sure they get the support they need and deserve.

HMICFRS concludes review into 2014 Tower Hamlets electoral fraud investigation

An investigation requested by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime into the Metropolitan Police's handling of electoral fraud in Tower Hamlets has revealed that a lack of oversight from senior officers led to a number of failings in the initial police inquiry in 2014. The failings resulted in a second 16-month investigation, diverting much-needed resources from other priorities.

By contrast, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found that the Met's re-investigation was painstaking, thorough and achieved its objectives. However, HMICFRS warned against complacency and identified steps the Met should take to reduce the risk of the problems of the first investigation arising again. It is vital that Londoners have confidence in the democratic process and in the police, and I am satisfied that the lessons have been learned to ensure that the problems seen in 2014 are not repeated.

Transport

TfL urges Londoners to offer up their seats as research shows it still makes one in four people 'feel awkward'

At the start of TfL's Priority Seating Week, new research revealed that around one in four passengers felt awkward about offering their seat to someone who might need it more. A survey of 1,000 customers also found that almost a third of passengers only believe that they should offer their seat if they are in a 'priority seat'.

Priority Seating Week (23-28 April) aimed to address these issues by raising the awareness of how to make travelling easier for everyone, particularly those who may be in need of a seat. That week customers noticed brand new designs on the fabric covering priority seats on the Jubilee line. Seats that feature six different messages, including 'please offer this seat' and 'someone may need this seat more', will be introduced across the whole Jubilee line over the coming months.

Posters featuring staff will be running across the network and video clips with customers talking about their journeys will be shared on social media. These will be encouraging people to look up and offer their seat to someone who may need it more, whether they are in a priority seat or not. The week highlighted some of the initiatives that TfL has in place to make travelling easier for everyone.

Three new Low Emission Bus Zones to tackle London's toxic air

Just two weeks after the launch of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London, TfL have taken further measures to reduce toxic air in the capital's most polluted areas by introducing three new Low Emission Bus Zones (LEBZ).

The three zones, in Lewisham, Stratford and Edmonton, cover more than 1,330 buses across 79 different bus routes. Only buses that meet the cleanest emission standards operate within the new LEBZs, which have been delivered through a combination of new and retrofitted vehicles. This takes the total number of clean buses introduced as a result of the LEBZs to more than 3,000.

I have pledged to work towards the entire London bus fleet being made up of zero emission vehicles. In working towards this goal TfL has committed to ensuring the entire bus fleet uses the cleanest Euro VI vehicles as a minimum and has already upgraded more than three quarters of its buses to meet or exceed this standard, with all buses due to meet this standard by October 2020. This will mean that next year the entire city will become a Low Emission Bus Zone.

London's bus fleet is already one of the cleanest in the world with all buses operating in central London meeting or exceeding tough new ULEZ admissions standards. London now has Europe's largest zero emission bus fleet, with 68 new electric double deck buses to be in place by summer 2019. TfL is only buying zero emission or hybrid double deck buses, as well as retrofitting older buses to reduce NOx emissions by up to 90 per cent. In addition, all new single deck buses will be zero emission from 2020. The entire fleet of around 9,000 buses will be zero emission by 2037 at the latest.

TfL Budget published

On 20 March, TfL published its draft budget for financial year 2019/20 which showed that its budgeted operating deficit of £968 million during 2018/19 was now forecast to be almost halved to £500 million by the end of 2018/19 as a result of tight financial management.

This is one third of the £1.5 billion deficit of 2015/16 if the former Government operating grant is excluded and shows TfL's continuing progress towards breaking even on the cost of day-to-day operations by 2022/23, for the first time in its history. This is on top of investing billions in vital transport improvements across London, including modernising the Tube network, delivering walking and cycling improvements and pursuing the vision of eradicating death and serious injury from London's roads.

South Woodford Tube station becomes fully step-free

On 18 March, London Underground announced that South Woodford Tube station had become the 78th to be fully step-free. The station serves the Central line, one of London's busiest Tube lines, and sees almost 5.3 million customer journeys each year.

Previously only step-free for customers using the eastbound entrance for services to Epping, the installation of a new ramp at the westbound entrance means the station has become step-free for customers travelling into central London as well.

The continued modernisation of the Tube is a key part of my Transport Strategy to make London a greener, more accessible place. The investment in improving public transport will help reduce reliance on the car and contribute to my target of 80 per cent of journeys made by public transport, cycling or walking by 2041.

Major breakthrough at Bank Station Upgrade

The modernisation of Bank Tube Station reached a significant new milestone on 15 March with the first breakthrough between a new entrance on Cannon Street and the newly constructed Northern line Tube tunnel. The breakthrough will make further construction work easier, helping ensure the hugely important upgrade is delivered by 2022. The project to upgrade Bank Tube station, which is being delivered alongside contractor Dragados, will increase capacity by 40 per cent by 2022, making journeys quicker and easier for the 120 million customers who use the station every year.

First section of new Tube signalling goes live

The first section of brand-new signalling that is set to transform nearly half of the Tube network has now entered service. Built by Thales, the new system will boost capacity on four Tube lines, and is now operating between Hammersmith and Latimer Road, the first part of the network to benefit from the improvements.

Trains on the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines will be able to run closer together, bringing an increase in frequency in central London from 28 to 32 per hour when complete.

This modernisation programme will eventually transform the oldest parts of the Tube network into one of the most modern railways in the world, providing better customer information and making journeys quicker and more comfortable. The new, state-of-the-art signal control centre at Hammersmith is already operational, and the new S-stock Tube trains have been running exclusively on the four lines since 2017. The programme will play a key part in encouraging more people to use public transport, contributing to my target of 80 per cent of journeys being made by public transport, cycling or walking by 2041.

TfL completes 'sale and leaseback' of Elizabeth line trains to 345 Rail Leasing Consortium

TfL completed a sale and leaseback deal for the new Class 345 'Elizabeth line' trains to 345 Rail Leasing - a consortium comprising Equitix Investment Management Ltd, NatWest and SMBC Leasing.

The deal was approved by TfL's Finance Committee in December and will release approximately £1 billion to TfL. This will be reinvested in infrastructure across London's transport network, including delivering a fleet of new Piccadilly line trains, the first of which will appear in London from 2023.

Due to their unique nature, leasing options are currently not suitable for the procurement of new rolling stock on the London Underground network. This is why TfL has pursued the sale and leaseback with the Elizabeth line train fleet. Crossrail Limited is now carrying out Dynamic Testing of the Elizabeth line to make sure all of the railway's systems are safe and reliable.

Train testing is now being carried out through the new tunnels in central London using the new Class 345 trains. Test trains have also recently been running out to Reading station as part of TfL's wider work, along with the DfT, to operate Reading to Paddington services ahead of the completion of the Elizabeth line.

TfL appoints Grainger plc as preferred bidder to be its Build to Rent Partner for 3,000 homes across the capital

TfL has announced that it intends to appoint Grainger plc as its investment partner for its Build to Rent programme.

The programme will deliver 3,000 homes, with a minimum of 40 per cent affordable on all new planning consents. This will significantly contribute towards TfL's affordable housing provision across its entire portfolio, which also includes sites that will be mostly or entirely affordable, and means TfL is on track to deliver 50 per cent affordable housing across its estate.

TfL has identified the first phase of sites at some of London's most well connected locations, such as Canning Town in the east and Southall in the west. Each site will be considered individually, and TfL and Grainger plc will work with the local borough to identify the needs of the area.

The Build to Rent programme is a fantastic opportunity to deliver affordable, high quality homes at pace, while also generating significant ongoing revenue to reinvest back into the transport network

TfL proposes new outer London bus route as it confirms plans for central London's buses

Central London's streets will become more efficient and have less bus-on-bus congestion as TfL confirmed its plans to modernise the central bus network. A number of improvements have been made to its original proposals after thorough analysis of consultation feedback, with the changes ensuring that central London remains well served by public transport.

Additional funding from London's business rates has been allocated to speed up investment in outer London. TfL is now consulting on a new bus route for a growth area in outer London at Kidbrooke. This route was already in the planning, but TfL has been able to bring it forward thanks to the extra funding. The new route 335 will better connect new homes in Kidbrooke to a key transport hub at North Greenwich.

Some of the proposed changes risked disproportionately affecting areas of London with fewer transport options, as a result, TfL has decided not to go ahead with proposed alterations to a number of routes, while some routes will be shortened, providing an interchange onto other services that will continue to serve final destinations.

The changes to routes in central London will make journeys better for many by improving reliability and reducing bus-on-bus congestion. It also allows for increased services in outer London where public transport options are more limited.

Free Wi-Fi at North Greenwich bus station

Customers who change at North Greenwich bus station can now access free Wi-Fi as part of TfL's broader work to improve services on the network to make travelling on public transport an even more attractive option for Londoners.

The North Greenwich area has grown and developed significantly in recent years, and now nearly 75,000 passengers use the bus station every day. This key transport hub - with eight bus routes, the Jubilee line and the Emirates Air Line - supports the area as an entertainment destination. The area is set to get even more popular with the recent opening of Ikea, which is served by seven bus routes from the station. Free Wi-Fi will ensure that customers can remain connected despite the temporary strain on the mobile network during peak times.

Installing free Wi-Fi at North Greenwich bus station is just part of TfL's continuing work to make customers' journeys across London as easy as possible. Last year, TfL launched the free Oyster and Contactless mobile app that allows customers to check their journey history as well as top up their Oyster card or purchase travelcards.

Fire and Resilience

Exercise Safer City

On 1 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, visited the London Local Authority Coordination Centre to meet several London Fire Brigade staff who volunteered to work in the coordination centre during major incidents in London. They were conducting an emergency exercise involving all of London's Local Authorities to prepare for a wide spread water disruption in the Capital.

London's Warming

On 30 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, spoke at London's Warming, an event organised by Caroline Russell AM, bringing together a panel of experts to consider the expected risks that London faces in a 1.5°C warming scenario, in terms of floods, heatwaves and severe weather events and what they mean for key sectors in London.

Brixton Fire Station's Mindfulness Garden

On 27 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM visited Brixton Fire Station. As part of the visit, my Deputy Mayor was shown the first mindfulness garden in the UK Fire Service.

Risk, Resilience and Reward: What does Business think?

On 26 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, spoke at the launch of National Survey on Business Sentiment, conducted by Resilience First and Ernest and Young. The event focussed on business resilience and where companies are focussing their efforts during these uncertain times.

Deputy Commissioner Appointments

London Fire Brigade has appointed two new Deputy Commissioners. Richard Mills, formerly Assistant Commissioner for Operational Policy and Assurance, took over as the Deputy Commissioner and Director for Safety and Assurance on April 15. This followed Steve Apter's departure to become Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. Andy Roe, Assistant Commissioner for Fire Stations, will take up his new post as Deputy Commissioner and Director of Operations in November when Tom George retires from the Brigade after more than 30 years of service.

Resilience in London: Community and Voluntary Sector Perspectives

On 5 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, chaired 'Resilience in London: Community and Voluntary Sector Perspectives'. The roundtable, held in partnership with the British Red Cross, brought together a range of community and voluntary sector representatives to explore the challenges they see to London's resilience in the short, medium, and long term.

London Fire Brigade Long Service Awards

On 3 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, attended and spoke at the London Fire Brigade's Long Service Awards. The Awards recognise the contribution of London Fire Brigade Staff, both uniformed and non-uniformed to the organisation and keeping London safe.

Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 1 April, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Group. The Group continues to oversee the Partnership's preparedness for EU Exit.

London Assembly's EU Exit Working Group

On 28 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, appeared before the London Assembly's EU Exit Working Group, along with John Hetherington, Head of London Resilience and Joe Owen, Associate Director at the Institute for Government. The session provided an opportunity for the Working Group to question the Deputy Mayor and Head of London Resilience on ongoing contingency planning.

Counter Terrorism Preparedness and Societal Resilience Project

On 14 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, attended the Counter Terrorism Preparedness and Societal Resilience Project Board meeting in Stockholm. The project seeks to harness collaboration between domestic and international partners to identify lessons, share experiences and develop arrangements for preparedness and societal resilience in relation to terrorism.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Shenzhen Design Week

This year's Shenzhen Design Week featured London as its guest city, with sustainability as the key topic. My Good Growth by Design programme was highlighted through a film which premiered in Shenzhen on 19 April 2019. The film features my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, and some of my Mayor's Design advocates, including Manisha Patel and Sir David Adjaye.

The film showcases my vision for Good Growth – that all communities in London should share in the benefits of growth. It explores how my Good Growth by Design programme is harnessing our world-leading design talent to promote quality and inclusion in the built environment and to make London work for and improve the quality of life of all its citizens.

Skills for Londoners Framework Consultation 2020/21

On 15 April, I launched a consultation on changes I propose to make to the Adult Education Budget (AEB) for Year 2 (2020/21) and beyond. The consultation will build on the extensive consultation carried out last year on the Skills for Londoners Strategy and Framework, which set out my plans for the AEB and long-term vision for skills in the capital.

While I committed to make minimal changes to the AEB in Year 1 to provide stability for the sector, from Year 2, I plan to phase in some of the changes set out in the Skills for Londoners Framework. Providers and stakeholders have a critical role to play in shaping these changes and I look forward to hearing their views as together we work towards ensuring the AEB supports Londoners to learn and develop the skills they need to succeed.

Higher Education roundtable - Brexit and International Competitiveness

On 2 April, I chaired a roundtable with senior leaders from 18 of London's higher education institutions (HEIs) to discuss the implications of the Government's handling of Brexit and its future immigration proposals. London's Higher Education sector is diverse, and the discussion reflected the unique challenges Brexit poses to HEIs across the capital. It was clear that London needs to stay open to attracting research talent and international students from across the world. There was also a strong desire for the UK to continue in European research and student mobility programmes, such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus, whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations. These were seen as important to London's continuing international competitiveness.

I have written to the Home Secretary and the Secretaries of State for Education and International Trade to reiterate the need for a UK/EU agreement on higher education. I also want London Higher Education to continue to work closely with City Hall and London & Partners to make sure London remains a world leader in research, innovation and business.

Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund

I announced my new Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund in April, making up to £13 million available over 2 years for London's skills grant funded providers to develop innovative projects that support some of the most vulnerable Londoners.

The fund will support innovative and pilot-based interventions that will help to increase the number and diversity of adult learners in London gaining the skills they need to participate in society and progress in education and work.

Following recent research from City Hall which identified a 'black hole' in skills provision for Londoners over the age of 16 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), the new fund will have a focus on widening participation for learners with SEND to access provision funded by the AEB.

The fund will also help to develop opportunities for young Londoners aged 19-24 who may be vulnerable to or at risk of being involved in serious youth violence. This will support the work of my Violence Reduction Unit, which aims to find long-term solutions to reduce violence.

Other priorities of this fund will include increasing ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision, improving support for English, maths and digital skills and addressing the impacts of Brexit, including job redundancies and sectoral priorities.

Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ): Tottenham Enterprise and Skills Procurement

On 22 March, I launched procurement for my Tottenham CEZ Enterprise and Skills programme. This £500,000 European Social Funded (ESF) programme will support skills development within the Tottenham Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ), one of my recently-announced Creative Enterprise Zones. It will support employees of businesses in the Tottenham Creative Enterprise

Zone to upskill and progress in work and help creative businesses and education organisations collaborate on creative training programmes and improve pathways into the industry. Applications are open until 17 May and I will announce the successful delivery organisation in the summer.

Growth, Infrastructure and Connectivity unit – Connected London team

On 15 March, I met with Nick Jeffery, Chief Executive Officer for Vodafone UK, a UK grown company with a growing London office, to discuss their investment in London's digital infrastructure. I made a manifesto pledge to improve Londoner's access to digital infrastructure and this includes London's readiness for 5G. I listened to Vodafone's 5G aspirations, and agreed that my Connected London team will continue to engage with Vodafone to overcome barriers to making London become the world's most connected city. Over the next few months I plan to meet with other providers to encourage them to bring full fibre connectivity and next generation mobile to London to meet the capital's digital needs.

Funding secured from the Government's Geospatial Commission

I have secured over £2.4 million from the Government's Geospatial Commission as one of two pilots in the UK to map underground pipes, cables and other assets. Working with utilities, transport providers, local authorities and other partners, the London pilot is expected to help prevent accidents and reduce disruption to the economy by bringing together data that shows what's underground onto a digital map.

Housing

London Housing Panel

Since I was elected, my team at City Hall has developed housing policies with the involvement of London's diverse communities. To build on my team's work so far, on 11 April I launched the recruitment for the Chair and membership of the new London Housing Panel, which will be run in partnership with Trust for London.

The Panel will enable housing groups across London to shape the capital's housing policy. It will bring together up to 15 voluntary and community organisations to consider housing issues affecting Londoners and engage with me and other decision-makers. The first formal meeting will be held in June with two further meetings in this financial year.

£11 million funding for 'meanwhile' sites to support homeless families

On 16 April, I announced that we will be investing £11 million to help meet the cost of new modular homes by the Pan-London Accommodation Collaborative Enterprise (PLACE). These homes will be used by London councils to provide affordable temporary accommodation on 'meanwhile' sites, primarily for homeless families.

Registration system for short-term lets

On 23 April, I wrote to Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, calling for the introduction of a mandatory registration system for short-term lettings in London.

I believe a new system should be simple, low or no cost to the host and, most importantly, help local authorities with enforcement activity. The letter was co-signed by London Councils, Airbnb, and Camden, Islington, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Westminster, and Kensington & Chelsea councils.

The same day, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Land, James Murray spoke at the inaugural meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on short and holiday let accommodation. This has been set up by Karen Buck MP to act as a forum for discussions about how we can get the balance right between the benefits of short-term lets, and their potential negative impacts on long-term housing and neighbours.

Rough sleeping

Over the winter I worked with charities to launch another rough sleeping campaign, to help homeless Londoners off the streets and show Londoners how they can get involved.

I doubled our street outreach teams, ensured emergency shelters were open whenever freezing temperatures were forecast anywhere in the capital, and persuaded all London boroughs to sign up to my 'In For Good' principle, which meant that a rough sleeper going into an emergency shelter would be accommodated until a support plan is put in place to help them off the streets for good.

To make it easier for Londoners to donate to homelessness charities, I also collaborated with TAP London to roll out over 90 contactless donation points across London. These donation points have seen over 24,000 taps across London, raising over £72,000 in total for the London Homeless Charities Group, which is made up of 22 charities delivering frontline services in our city. This campaign raised a record amount of donations this winter, with Londoners raising more than £247,000 - £50,000 more than last winter's total. My campaign also contributed to a record number of referrals - more than 19,000 - to Streetlink, a service which helps connect rough sleepers to outreach services.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Meetings with our international partners

I met with Mr Won-soon Park, Mayor of Seoul on 2 May. I reassured them that London remains 'Open' – for business and trade, to visitors and students. We also discussed collaboration on climate change issues through international networks like C40 and Mayor Park outlined Seoul's new Green Transport Zone plans.

I visited the Sri Lankan High Commission on 24 April to sign the book of condolence following the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka on 21 April, at which I was met by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, H.E. Manisha Gunasekera.

I met with H.E. Mr Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, the new Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK on 10 April to discuss the opportunities for increasing business links between London and Pakistan.

I met with the recently appointed H.E. Mrs Ruchi Ghanashyam, Indian High Commissioner to the UK on 3 April to discuss how London's relationship with India remains of vital importance and how we can continue to increase our trade and investment links.

Celebrating our strength in innovation and life sciences

On 12 April, I opened Imperial College London's new £167 million Molecular Sciences Research Hub (MSRH) at the White City campus, alongside Imperial College's President, Prof Alice Gast.

This is the University's biggest new academic building in a generation, and the largest investment in a university building in the last 20 years in London. Designed to break down traditional barriers between scientific disciplines, the MSRH will convene the collective expertise of more than 800 scientists, clinicians, engineers and business partners under one roof to address global challenges across areas such as energy, healthcare and sustainability. White City will be home to some of the 21st century's most exciting scientific advances.

As I was touring the laboratories, I met Londoners originally from New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Italy, Spain and Denmark, all proud Londoners. Come what may with Brexit, London will always be a global hub for innovation, technology and business – but it's vital that we remain open and attractive to talent from Europe and the rest of the world.

Engagement with business leaders

On 28 March, I spoke to business leaders at the British Chamber of Commerce Annual Conference, where I highlighted the impacts of Brexit on business confidence, while acknowledging the resilience, diversity and innovation of London businesses. I used the platform to call again on the Government to hand the final decision on Brexit back to the public, with a central voice for business in a new national conversation.

Promoting domestic and international tourism

I recently committed £600,000 to kickstart the promotion of London to tourists from the rest of the UK, bringing together a partnership of London businesses, Business Improvement Districts and landlords, led by London and Partners (L&P).

L&P has not previously held a domestic tourism remit, but with numbers falling in recent years, and UK tourists on average spending more than our international visitors, now is the time to act. I announced this investment at the London & Partners annual 'Tourism Means Business' conference on 13 March, where I spoke to over 300 of the capital's tourism and hospitality businesses.

Supporting SMEs to adopt advanced technology

I opened the Mayor's Technology for Business Service, which was created in response to feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategy calling for leadership on supporting SMEs to adopt new technologies.

This new service – delivered through the London Growth Hub – will deliver several programmes over the coming year, starting with the 'AI for SMEs' programme which I am delivering alongside the London School of Economics, Capital Enterprise, and CognitionX, and which is funded by BEIS as part of the Business Basics Fund.

AI is radically changing the economy, and it is vital that companies of all sizes – not just those with the deepest pockets – are able to make the most of it and remain competitive.

This project will give SMEs working in the retail and hospitality sectors the opportunity to access expert guidance from dedicated caseworkers, first hand demos of some of the most innovative AI products, as well as access to some funding to directly trial these advanced technologies.

Diverse Entrepreneurs Summit

On 13 March 2019, I welcomed over 100 entrepreneurs to City Hall for the Diverse Entrepreneurs Summit. The summit followed a series of roundtables I have been hosting alongside LEAP Board members since September with black women, Asian and Middle Eastern and disabled entrepreneurs. The day was chaired by journalist June Sarpong MBE, who was able to share her experiences and reiterate the importance of diversity and its place in London.

Throughout the day, speakers from different sectors shared their journeys, as well their valuable advice on how to start and grow a business. Attendees were also able to network with business support providers, including Newable, Enterprise Nation, British Library IP Centre, London Business Partnership and the London Growth Hub.

Environment

Responding to water company resource plans

On 26 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, responded on my behalf to draft proposals from Affinity Water, which supplies large parts of West and North London, on their updated plans to meet the water supply and demand needs for London over the next 80 years. This is part of my ongoing work to hold London's water companies to account to ensure they provide efficient, secure, resilient and affordable water supplies to London.

I have been encouraging water companies to take a regional and collaborative approach to future water resources, working together to improve the infrastructure to share water more effectively between companies. I have asked Affinity Water to ensure they work closely with Thames Water to ensure future new water resources are delivered in a coordinated and cost-efficient way for Londoners and to ensure we have secure supplies and are more resilient to drought in the future. I have also asked Affinity Water, as I have London's other water companies, to do more to reduce leakage and reduce the amount of water we waste. I'm particularly concerned that leakage remains stubbornly high, but am pleased to see an ambitious target in Affinity's plans.

Living Roofs and Walls report

On 10 April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, launched a new report *Living Roofs and Walls: from policy to practice* at the European Green Infrastructure Conference held at Here East in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The report was published in partnership with the European Federation of Green Roof Associations.

The first Living Roofs and Walls report was published ten years ago to support the original green roof policy in the London Plan. The new report highlights the significant progress that has been made in greening the urban environment with green roofs and walls. London now has over 1.5 million m² of green roofs and walls which accounts for over 40 per cent of the green

roof market in the UK. The report also sign posts the Urban Greening Factor which I have introduced in my draft London Plan to accelerate the urban greening trend.

The world's first 24 hour Ultra Low Emission Zone starts in London

On 8 April, I introduced the world's toughest vehicle emissions standard in central London to help reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health. Polluting vehicles account for around half of London's harmful nitrogen dioxide emissions. The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is the centrepiece of my plans to cut emissions from this source. The Central London ULEZ operates in the same area as the Congestion Charge zone, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It replaces the T-charge and operates alongside the Congestion Charge. Vehicles that drive in the zone will need to meet new emission standards or pay a daily charge if those standards aren't met.

The ULEZ is already having an impact. Thousands of motorists have started to change their behaviour as in preparation for ULEZ by driving less polluting vehicles into the area, and using cleaner transport alternatives including walking or cycling, and public transport. There has been a 55 per cent increase in the proportion of compliant vehicles in the Central London ULEZ area since I announced the T-charge as a 'stepping stone' measure in February 2017. We expect the ULEZ to reduce harmful nitrogen oxides emissions from road transport by around 45 percent in central London.

Drivers can check if their vehicle meets the ULEZ standards at:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle-35896?intcmp=35896>

New research on the impact of air pollution on lung health

On 5 April, I launched the results of new research which found that on average, four Londoners, including one child, are hospitalised every day due to asthma caused by toxic air pollution. I commissioned the research led by King's College London and Imperial College London, to help us better understand the impact that air pollution has on lung health. It estimated that between 2014 and 2016 more than 4,000 Londoners were hospitalised because air pollution worsened their asthma or, in the elderly, serious lung conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). On average, over the period of the study, two Londoners over the age of 65 were hospitalised every day due asthma or (COPD) made worse by air pollution.

New data underlining the scale of London's air quality challenge

On 1 April, I published new data and an interactive map showing that two million Londoners, including more than 400,000 children, live in areas which exceed legal limits for air pollution. The updated London Atmospheric Emission Inventory (LAEI) models air quality across the city and demonstrates why my tough measures to clean up London's toxic air are so vital. The data shows that between 2013 and 2016 (the latest year for which we have complete data) there were no significant improvements in harmful nitrogen dioxide concentration in London's air, with some areas getting worse. Shamefully, more than 450 schools are still in areas which exceed legal limits for nitrogen dioxide. As a result of introducing the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone and my other air pollution policies, this is expected to reduce to zero by 2025.

London Green Spaces Commission

On 1 April, my London Green Spaces Commission met for the first time. The Commission is chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, who will work over the next 12 months to help develop and test sustainable business models for London borough parks services. The aim is to help services to maintain or increase investment in parks and green spaces within the context of substantial and ongoing constraints on public sector funding.

Establishing the Commission supports my vision to make London a National Park City, a city which is greener in the long-term than it is today and where all Londoners have access to high-quality green spaces. The Commission is also a commitment in my London Environment Strategy, bringing together expertise from a range of different sectors and interests. Initial recommendations will be published in 2020.

Visit to Crossness Nature Reserve

On 26 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, visited the Crossness Nature Reserve in Bexley which is next to the site for a proposed new incinerator. My Deputy Mayor heard from local councillors and residents about their concerns of the impact of the incinerator on the local area. Due to its size and scale, the planning application for the new incinerator is being determined by the National Planning Inspectorate.

I am however a statutory consultee and have opposed the construction of the incinerator. My modelling shows that if London is to meet its reduction and recycling targets, there is no need for additional incineration capacity in London, other than that which has already been approved.

Mayor's Entrepreneur Competition

On 25 March, the finals of my Mayor's Entrepreneur competition took place at City Hall. Each year, students and recent graduates pitch their business ideas to help deliver good growth in the city for a chance to win funding and mentoring to help take their ideas to market. For the first time this year's competition offered three awards categories; low carbon, creative industries and technology. From 500 entries, the top five student businesses from each of the three categories, pitched their ideas to the panel of celebrity judges. The three winners were:

- Low Carbon - Hassan Ahmad with NanoShift (Brunel University) NanoShift, a patented technology which enables the production of Nanocellulose from waste sources. This can be used to significantly expand the proportion of waste that can be recycled.
- Creative Industries - Lauren Bell with Cosi Care (Brunel University) A handheld tool that combines cold, texture and frictionless design to offer the optimal itch-relief sensation for children with eczema. The device safely mimics scratching, stops infections, reduces the risk of antibiotic resistance and stops eczema spiralling out of control.
- Technology – George Winfield with Spyras (Imperial College London). The use of paper sensors to monitor breathing of hospital patients at risk of sepsis which first presents as rapid breathing.

Each winner received £20,000 funding from the Citi Foundation and the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)

First C40 Divest/Invest Forum

On 20 March, London hosted the first C40 Divest/Invest Forum, a global initiative to help cities explore options to divest their city pension funds from fossil fuels and accelerate green investment. The meeting was attended by 11 global cities from Europe, North America and Africa and included an opening event for participants at City Hall. This was followed by two days of workshops enabling cities to discuss shared learnings and challenges, as well as developing common tools and approaches to advance divestment and sustainable investment. Together with the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA), my Environment team presented on the progress we have been making in London to advance divestment, including the delivery of my manifesto commitment to take all possible steps to divest the LPFA of its remaining fossil fuel assets and calling on local boroughs to divest and accelerate green investment.

National Park City Festival

On 20 March, I announced plans for the National Park City Festival from 20–28 July 2019. Working with the National Park City Foundation and other partners, this free festival will celebrate London's green spaces, wildlife, green rooftops and waterways, and aims to help Londoners discover new environmental, cultural, sporting and community activities.

Key events taking place during the festival includes the National Park City Stage in partnership with the National Theatre, on its outdoor River Stage. The programme will also include National Park City Rooftops in partnership with Open City, offering free access to some of London's rooftop gardens. The full programme will be announced later in the year.

Increased air pollution monitoring at London's schools and hospitals

On 19 March, I launched a new air quality monitoring trial to help us understand London's air pollution in more depth than ever before. This innovative study – the world's largest of its kind – will monitor the air quality exposure of 250 children on their journey to and from school and in the classroom by using special backpacks with state-of-the-art air quality sensors. The study, in collaboration with King's College London, will help improve our understanding of where harmful pollutants are coming from and find new ways to reduce children's exposure to toxic air.

Two days later, on 21 March, I also announced that the Breathe London network of air quality monitors will be extended to some of London hospitals. Ten hospitals in the most polluted areas of London will be equipped with new monitors to measure levels of toxic air and help protect patients and staff. The first monitor is already up and running at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and others will follow shortly.

Education and Youth

Young Londoners Fund

On 10 April, I announced that round two of the Young Londoners Fund will open on 15 May, with an additional £15 million available for projects and programmes to support young people aged 10 to 21 to fulfil their potential and help those at risk of getting involved in crime. The next wave of funding will be available with applications open for youth organisations, charities and schools to bid for a share of the £45 million fund.

I also published online updated details of hundreds of activities available for young Londoners across the capital during the Easter holidays and beyond - from theatre workshops, sports programmes and music sessions to coding clubs and cooking classes. Activities stretch the length and breadth of the capital, but especially in the boroughs most affected by knife and violent crime.

Details of projects available across every borough can be found on City Hall's interactive online map at <https://www.london.gov.uk/our-london>.

Ofsted Education Inspection Framework response

On 5 April, my officers submitted a response to Ofsted's Inspection Framework consultation. This gave examples of the work that City Hall is doing to support schools and colleges to develop their curriculum and support all their learners. We emphasised the value of Ofsted's position where it can highlight the fantastic work that our early year providers, schools and colleges are doing, especially those schools that are demonstrating inclusive practices and reducing exclusions, despite the impact that the Government's cuts have had on support for their most vulnerable learners. We will continue to work closely with Ofsted to further develop the public health approach to tackling violence in the capital. All agencies need to work together to make sure that we achieve the best outcomes for our children, schools are integral to this work.

Getting Ahead London

On 27 March I approved expenditure to grant fund Challenge Partners to continue to deliver the Getting Ahead London programme for a fourth academic year. Getting Ahead London has been designed to build the talent pool of great headteachers to lead London schools. Year four will include a pilot to support middle leaders who are aspiring to senior leadership. This has been informed by my research undertaken with National Foundation for Educational Research which found that London's primary and secondary middle leaders are leaving the profession at a higher rate than elsewhere in the country.

Keeping pupils in school

On 25 March, a group of 15 secondary school headteachers and college principals in London attended a roundtable on 'Keeping Pupils in School'. It was co-hosted at City Hall with London Citizens.

The leaders who attended emphasised the need to recognise good practice where schools are being inclusive and reducing exclusions of their pupils, including the need for parents to be involved and supported. They stressed that reductions in funding meant that they had far fewer options for support for their more vulnerable pupils and that narrowing of the curriculum has reduced pupils' options, with courses that have previously inspired young people no longer being offered. Other issues raised were continued challenges around data sharing between schools and youth offending and social care teams in boroughs and the variability in the operation of Fair Access Panels.

We asked them to raise the issues of exclusion and inclusion further with their school colleagues and borough networks and we will continue to seek their input on the GLA's work going forward. This includes further sector discussions following the forthcoming publication of the Timpson Report into exclusions and working with the Association of Directors of London Children's Services and London Councils to undertake research to learn more about current

activity and effective early intervention to tackle exclusions and children missing from education. On 27 March, I approved an education and youth research and dissemination programme to take forward this work in MD2442.

Department for Education curriculum fund pilot launch

On 13 March, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests to City Hall for the launch of the Department for Education's curriculum fund schools' pilot. This aims to support schools and teachers to deliver the National Curriculum better to every child, regardless of their background, including making it easier for teachers to share and access high quality teaching resources.

Participating lead and partner schools heard about research around curriculum resources, discussed their curriculum programmes and shared progress so far. This included how my London Curriculum programme shares this vision and is a valuable tool to support teachers in London, help reduce their workload, contribute to retention and improve pupil outcomes.

Three-fifths of London secondary and nearly a quarter of London primary schools are now registered with the London Curriculum It is also accessed by many schools outside of the capital.

Visit to Anderson School for young people with autism

On 8 March, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Anderson School in Chigwell – a specialist school, run by the National Autistic Society (NAS). The school educates young people with autism (age 11 to 18) and has a focus on preparing pupils for working life. Teachers and pupils spoke about the importance of hands-on learning through work experience and supported internship opportunities.

In September 2019, I will be piloting supported internship placements at City Hall for young people with special educational needs (SEND) as part of Transport for London's Steps into Work programme. I will encourage other employers to broaden opportunities for young people with SEND by following this example.

Communities and Social Policy

Workforce Integration Network (WIN) Construction Jobs Fair

On 15 April, my team delivered the Workforce Integration Network (WIN) Construction Jobs Fair at the Institution of Civil Engineering. WIN is improving pathways for underrepresented groups in the workplace. To start, it is supporting young black men aged 16 to 24 years into living wage employment in the construction industry.

The event was opened by my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, who welcomed 125 young people. There were many opportunities on show from leading employers including Laing O'Rourke, Morgan Sindall, TfL and Wates. My officers will continue working closely with the companies to support them to take further steps to improve the representation and progression of young black men.

Vaisakhi Day Celebrations & 100 Year Commemoration of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

On 14 April, I attended the Vaisakhi Day Celebrations and 100 Year Commemoration of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre at Central Gurdwara. I met with members of the congregation and made a short speech to those who attended.

Universal Credit Rollout

On 8 April, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, publicly encouraged couples who are currently entitled to Pension Credit to submit their applications before a government change on 15 May 2019.

The change, which is part of the Universal Credit rollout, means that Londoners of pension age will no longer be able to claim Pension Credit if their partner is not also of state pension age. This could leave these couples with £7,000 less in payments each year.

Faith and Friendship: Shaping the Future Together Conference

On 7 April, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, took part in an interview session at the Nisa-Nashim Annual Conference on the topic of 'Faith and Friendship: Shaping the Future Together'. Nisa-Nashim aims to bring communities together and promote ways in which Jewish and Muslim women can understand that their similarities are greater than their differences. This is done through a range of shared initiatives that support their leadership journeys and encourage them to form meaningful personal relationships, while benefiting the wider society in which they live. Over 200 Jewish and Muslim women attended the event.

London Romanian Community Meeting

On 4 April, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted a roundtable with Romanian Londoners. The event was an opportunity for her to hear first-hand about the issues facing the community, to reaffirm my commitment to celebrating different communities in London, and to build closer relationships with Romanian Londoners. I want to ensure that the voice of Romanian Londoners is heard across all my programmes and to ensure they make use of the EU Londoners Hub.

Deaf and Disabled Stakeholder Forum

On 2 April, I attended the first Deaf and Disabled Stakeholder Forum. Facilitated by members of my new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group, this was the first of a series of meetings which will inform the development of our policy and programmes. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, also joined me at this meeting.

EU Londoners Hub and community advice roadshow

On 29 March, I launched my EU Londoners Hub to ensure that European Londoners know what their rights are post-Brexit and how they can be secured. The Home Office have an unprecedented task of registering 3.4 million EU citizens resident in the UK. If just 5 per cent do not register by the deadline, upwards of 170,000 EU national would be left in the UK without status.

The online resource provides free information and guidance in 27 EU languages and hosts an eligibility tool as well as a map of advice and support services for those who need help applying for Settled Status. The EU Londoners Hub has already seen over 22,000 visits over the past month.

On this day, I also launched a four-day London Is Open community advice roadshow. This helped provide vulnerable European Londoners with important information on their immigration rights post-Brexit. Our research shows that the hardest to reach and most vulnerable EU Londoners were at high risk of not applying for settled status – either because they could not access the digital service, faced language barriers or were not aware of the need to apply.

Almost 40 immigration advisers joined us on a bus to provide free legal advice to community centres and areas with a high concentration of vulnerable EU Londoners. We held events in ten boroughs, including a City Hall event. The roadshow brought expert legal advice and guidance directly to these communities, providing almost 1,000 EEA+ nationals and their families with free face-to-face advice and support over the four days.

Awarding Micro Grants

On 25 March, I awarded an additional six micro grants of £5,000 each to community groups supporting EU Londoners with help and information on how to stay in the UK after Brexit. In total, I have awarded £50,000 of grants to ensure that the most vulnerable EU Londoners get the right advice and support on how to proceed with their applications.

London Voter Registration

On 19 March, the GLA launched its voter registration programme. This pilot project will reduce inequalities in voter registration amongst young people. London currently has the lowest voter registration levels of the UK regions and nations. The project includes plans to commission London Voter Registration Week 2019 (16–22 September) and will be accompanied by resources delivered by an external partner. The project will be assisted by a newly-established London Voter Registration Strategic Partnership. This steering group will bring together key stakeholders including boroughs, the Electoral Commission and civil society organisations.

Black Majority Church Leaders Meeting

On 15 March, I attended a meeting with London's Black Majority Church Leaders. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the meeting and we had a presentation on my Workforce Integration Network. This is a flagship programme within 'All of us', my strategy for social integration in London. The programme is helping to improve pathways for under-represented groups in the workplace by supporting young black men into living wage employment in the construction industry. Church leaders also heard about ways in which their congregations can get involved in the volunteering and social action programmes that I support through Team London.

Health

London Health Board

On 3 April, I chaired the London Health Board where Will Tuckley, Chief Executive, Tower Hamlets Council; Sir David Sloman, London Director, NHS England and Improvement and Dr Vin

Diwaker, London Medical Director outlined work towards a renewed Health and Care Vision for London. The Board is committed to London becoming the world's healthiest city and to partnership action to achieve this ambitious goal. The Board heard about the significant amount of work that had taken place over recent months including engagement with over 300 professionals resulting in a vision where Londoners will 'start well, live well and age well'. The Board were keen to see future engagement on the vision go beyond professional networks to other public bodies such as health and wellbeing boards and local councillors and the community and voluntary sector. The Board also has a focus on school readiness and the importance of the first 1,000 days of children's lives which shape their health outcomes for their whole lives.

The Board also received an update on the London Health and Care Estates Strategy which was expected to be published by the summer and Mayor Philip Glanville outlined progress and next steps on the Thrive LDN mental health programme. The next meeting will take place on 10 July 2019. As usual, proceedings were webcast and papers and the minutes are available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=438&MId=6326&Ver=4>

Healthy Schools London

On Thursday 28 March 2019, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Hayes Primary School in the London Borough of Bromley to congratulate them on achieving their Healthy Schools London Gold Award. She saw the work that they are doing to improve pupils' emotional wellbeing and mental health by increasing independence, confidence and improving self-esteem.

Meeting with Sir David Sloman, new Regional Director of NHS England and NHS Improvement

On 26 March, I was pleased to meet with Sir David Sloman as he begins his new role. We discussed our shared ambition to make London the world's healthiest global city and I am pleased Sir David shares my belief that Londoners should have access to the best health and care services. We looked at some of the challenges the NHS is facing in London and identified a number of opportunities for us to work closer together; on issues like Dementia Friendly London, support for the Violence Reduction Unit, and on rough sleeping. We also discussed the NHS's support for my Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

London Ambulance Service Meeting

On 14 March, I held my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service Chair and Chief Executive. We discussed the continuing improvements in their performance, despite high demand over winter, and the recent London Assembly Health Committee report recommendations. I am pleased that we are continuing to work ever closer together, and we had an important conversation on how we can strengthen these partnerships in our approach to tackling serious violence.

Healthy Early Years London

On Tuesday 12 March 2019, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Little Adventurers Nursery and Little Poppets Childcare in London Borough of Havering to congratulate them on achieving their Healthy Early Years London Silvers Awards.

She saw the work that they are doing to improve infant and children's health, wellbeing and development.

Since the launch of my Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) programme in October 2018, over 1,100 early years settings are now taking part to improve London's youngest children's health, wellbeing and development with over 800 settings having achieved HEYL awards.

Mental Health First Aid trainers

Last year I committed to improving access to Youth Mental Health First Aid for young Londoners. The end of March saw 100 new Mental Health First Aid instructors trained and ready to begin visiting school staff across the capital. Funding for Year 1 came from my Young Londoners Fund. This programme helps to ensure that young people can get the support they need as early as possible when experiencing mental distress.

Health and Violence Reduction Roundtable

In March, my Health Advisor Tom Coffey and the Chief Executive of MOPAC, Rebecca Lawrence, chaired a roundtable discussion on the Health Service's potential contribution to violence reduction. The meeting brought senior health service leaders together to share examples of existing good practice, and to identify opportunities for the NHS to play an enhanced role in a public health approach to violence reduction in London. The discussion identified a number of opportunities for the NHS and the Violence Reduction Unit to work in partnership to better understand the root causes of violence, opportunities to prevent it, and how best to support those affected by it. The meeting has undoubtedly strengthened the VRU's partnership with the Health Service, and I look forward to building on this as the VRU develops its work programme.

Access to PrEP

Following representations from a number of HIV charities I wrote to London Council's Executive Member for Health & Social Care expressing concern that there has not yet been full roll out of the additional places on the PreP Impact Trial. I was pleased to hear that all of London's local authorities have agreed to roll out more than 4,000 additional places which will ensure Londoners are not turned away, but the situation must be kept under review to ensure that on-going/future demand for this effective drug can be met. As a signatory to the Fast Track Cities initiative I am committed to ending new HIV infections by 2030 and I have also called upon the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to make PrEP available to all and to reverse the cuts in the public health budget.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London Supports Croydon Volunteering Conference

On 19 March, Team London supported Volunteer Centre Croydon's conference on 'Volunteering at the Heart of Civil Society'. The event was delivered in partnership with volunteer centres in Greenwich, Bromley and Merton. Over 100 delegates from local civil society organisations attended. Topics included 'good practice in volunteer management' and 'creating a strong volunteering sector for the future'.

Deputy Mayor visits Muslim Girls Fence

On 18 March, my Deputy for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Muslim Girls Fence. This community project is run by Maslaha and British Fencing and received funding from the first round of London Together.

Muslim Girls Fence tackles divisions, misconceptions and potential tensions between Muslim and non-Muslim women in increasingly segregated communities in east London. It does this through fencing and guided creative workshops. London Together is my £3 million partnership with Comic Relief. It is investing in sport and physical activity projects that improve social integration. This is in line with my ambition to make London the most active and socially integrated city in the world and is part of my Sport Unites programme.

Team London Ambassadors & Major Events Volunteers support London events

On 17 March, Team London Ambassadors volunteers welcomed visitors to the St Patrick's Day event on Trafalgar Square. The team also supported the delivery of the Feast of St. George on 20 April. On 27 April, over 150 Major Events Volunteers acted as spectator guides at this year's Virgin Money London Marathon. They provided information and wayfinding services to Londoners and visitors.

Culture and Events

Fourth Plinth Schools Awards 2019

On 2 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, hosted the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards ceremony at City Hall. This annual competition invites London's schoolchildren to create artworks inspired by the commissions for the world-renowned Fourth Plinth public art programme in Trafalgar Square. More than 3,200 entries by almost 3,600 students were received, with schools from every borough. A free exhibition of the works is open to the public at City Hall from 2 May to 28 June 2019. The awards were presented by artist Gillian Wearing CBE who created the first statue of a woman in Parliament Square - Millicent Fawcett.

New figures highlight the need to widen access to dance spaces

On 1 May, new figures published by City Hall highlighted the number of dance rehearsal and performance spaces across London and the increase in demand for these facilities.

The report shows more than 3,800 people are using dance premises across the capital on any given day, from school halls to state-of-the-art studios. The findings highlight the importance of access to affordable spaces to support all dancers in London, and the need for local authorities and developers to work together to widen access to these spaces.

Vaisakhi celebrations

The Sikh community in London is a shining example of London's diversity, making our capital a better place and showing the world that London is open. I am delighted that Trafalgar Square once again hosted London's Vaisakhi celebrations on Saturday 27 April.

Visitors to the Square enjoyed a community-focused programme with something for everyone to enjoy. It featured live stage performances of kirtan and dharmic music, including performances from local schools, and Gatka demonstrations showcasing the Sikh martial arts. Volunteers from the Sikh community kindly provided visitors with langar - free food, made fresh on the day. Visitors were shown how to prepare dishes traditionally offered as langar, could learn about the Sikh community through a range of stalls and art exhibitions and participate in a turban-tying demonstration and children's arts and crafts.

London Borough of Culture: Ways of Seeing, Government Art Collection

On 24 April, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at the launch of Ways of Seeing, which has put 68 artworks by 33 British artists from the Government's Art Collection in public locations across the borough as part of Waltham Forest's London Borough of Culture 2019. These artworks will be free to view until September 2019 and locations include a hospital, a riding centre, shopping mall, leisure centre, schools and libraries. Alongside the artworks, a full programme of talks and workshops is planned.

Feast of St George

On Saturday 20 April, our annual Feast of St George event at Trafalgar Square, drew crowds of 20,000 people, young and old. The day was a chance for Londoners and its guests of all backgrounds to come together and celebrate England's amazing heritage, culture and creativity - a reminder of what we all have in common and that London is Open to everyone.

This year's vibrant six-hour programme was hosted by Lydia Bright. It featured the Paralympics GB Athlete, Vanessa Wallace, the Frobacks and the Signal House Band. It also included a Comedy Tent, London's Pearly Kings and Queens; Swing Boats and Carousel Rides; roaming entertainers; a food fayre; 'Made in England' craft market and a collection of activities for children and adults.

Opening of London Games Festival

On 2 April, I gave a speech to open the 2019 London Games Festival at Somerset House. I met with Sharna Jackson, curator of "Ensemble", an exhibition celebrating Black, Asian and minority ethnic talent in the games industry. The UK is the fifth largest video games market in the world, worth £5.11 billion in 2018/19. My investment in Games London will deliver over £30 million of new investment into games development shoring up jobs and economic growth in London.

London Borough of Culture: Africa Express

On 29 March, I joined Councillor Clare Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest Council, at a performance by Africa Express in Leytonstone, as part of Waltham Forest's London Borough of Culture 2019 programme. A collective of African and Western musicians, co-founded by Damon Albarn who grew up in Leytonstone, collaborated with local young musicians from the borough in a five-hour show for over 3,000 people. Half of the tickets were allocated to residents, and 100 free tickets were given to community groups. Three days of open rehearsals were held across the borough for local young bands, supported by Africa Express musicians. Musician Damon Albarn visited his old school to lead an inspiring assembly, Africa Express musicians also played a free calm gig in Leytonstone library to children with special needs and held a percussion workshop with toddlers in a local church.

Advertising Week Europe conference

On 19 March, I took part in an onstage question and answer session with Lydia Polgreen, Editor in Chief for the Huffington Post. This was part of Advertising Week Europe, an annual event attended by over 35,000 advertising and media executives and which celebrates Europe's creative industries. London is one of the top four global cities for advertising alongside New York, Tokyo and LA. I discussed the urgent need for the creative workforce to be more representative of Londoners and how London remains open for business, talent and ideas.

Launch of my Cultural Infrastructure Plan

On 19 March, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell, launched my Cultural Infrastructure Plan. This seven-point action plan aims to protect and grow cultural places and spaces for all Londoners. It includes London's first open data cultural infrastructure map, and an online toolbox to help London boroughs and developers to safeguard and build new cultural spaces. The map shows the location of the city's cultural infrastructure, from pubs and LGBT+ venues, to music recording studios, community centres and local libraries.

St Patrick's Day Festival and Parade

The best of Irish arts, culture, food and music was showcased at the annual St Patrick's Day Festival from Friday 15 March to Sunday 17 March. The festival brought together Londoners and visitors to celebrate the contribution the Irish community have made to our great city and to show that London remains open.

The festival culminated with the world-renowned St Patrick's Day parade, where I was joined by this year's Grand Marshal, actor James Nesbitt. The parade ended at Trafalgar Square with a world-class line-up of Irish culture and music on the main stage, compered by RTE and BBC TV presenter Angel Scanlon. I also addressed the crowd from the main stage.

London's Irish community was central to the celebrations with the Irish Cultural Centre, the London Irish LGBT+ Network, the Council of County Associations and the Gaelic Athletic Association hosting stalls at Trafalgar Square. Other activities during the 3-day celebrations included the London Irish Film Festival, Irish community performers busking across the TfL London Underground network, the Camden Music trail and free London Irish history walks in central London.

International Women's Day at the Design Museum

On 8 March, International Women's Day, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired a discussion on New Monuments for Women at the Design Museum. The debate was an opportunity to discuss the lack of representation of women in the public realm and the work we have been doing at City Hall to support gender equality as part of the #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign.

London Legacy Development Corporation

East Bank project

The 30 April marked a major milestone for the East Bank project as the planning application for Stratford Waterfront received approval.

The Planning Committee also unanimously approved detailed plans for the first two buildings in the new UCL East campus on 26 March, following my outline planning approval for the applications last March. Subject to finalisation of planning conditions, this will allow UCL to move forward with Phase 1 construction in the summer.

Events in the Copper Box Arena and London Aquatics Centre

Starting off the Easter weekend, the Copper Box Arena played host to the Federation Cup Play-Off on 20-21 April, bringing the international team tennis tie to east London for the first time. Great Britain's win means the team will return to the World Group for the first time since 1993. This was part of an action-packed Bank Holiday weekend in the Park, with Aqua Splash also returning to the London Aquatics Centre.

The Park now looks to the future with a number of major events scheduled for the rest of the year. This includes the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships, after World Para Swimming announced on 15 April, the London Aquatics Centre would host the rearranged event in September.

Fifth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park re-opening

On 4 April, I paid a visit to London Legacy Development Corporation's (LLDC) Stratford offices to thank staff for all their hard work as they celebrated the fifth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park re-opening after the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On 5 April, the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra helped LLDC mark the anniversary, playing their first pop-up concert in the UK in front of the planned site for the Smithsonian in East Bank. As part of the event, four young local residents have been selected to 'Step into the Smithsonian' and spend three weeks in Washington D.C. this month to help further their careers in the creative and cultural sector.

Hackney Wick Central masterplan

On 13 March, Planning permission was also granted for LLDC and London Borough of Hackney's joint Hackney Wick Central masterplan. This will transform the area around Hackney Wick Station, delivering a vibrant new neighbourhood centre, and much-needed homes and infrastructure. A tiered approach to affordable housing has been agreed, with public sector land owned by the LLDC delivering a minimum of 50 per cent and private sites split between minimums of 35 per cent or – where particular constraints or other requirements apply – 20 per cent. The scheme will also retain over 8,400 square metres of affordable workspace and provide nearly 18,000 square metres of new employment space, offering space for new retail, restaurants, bars and community facilities.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

£250 million of Housing Infrastructure Fund awarded

On Wednesday 13 March, OPDC welcomed the Government's decision to award £250 million of Housing Infrastructure Fund money to kick-start development in the OPDC area. The investment will be used to assemble land and to design and build vital roads and utilities infrastructure, so work can begin at Old Oak North, close to the new transport 'Superhub' where the HS2 and Elizabeth Line will meet. When complete, the wider redevelopment of Old Oak and Park Royal is expected to deliver 25,500 new homes and 65,000 new jobs. OPDC's draft Local Plan has set an overarching target for 50 per cent of the homes in the area to be affordable homes.

Local Plan under Examination

In April, OPDC's Local Plan underwent its Examination in Public, having been informed by 11,000 pieces of feedback over three rounds of consultation. Once adopted, it will shape development in Old Oak and Park Royal over the next twenty years.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 26 February 2019 – 23 April 2019

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Langley Court, Beckenham, LB Bromley

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

Ada Lovelace Temporary School, Oldfield Lane North, Uxbridge, 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.

Chelsea Creek, Imperial Wharf, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

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

276 Bath Road, Sipson, LB Hillingdon

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

141-163 Freston Road, North Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea

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

Lambeth Methodist Mission, Lambeth Road, Lambeth North, 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.

Ruby Triangle, Sandgate Street, Peckham, 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.

Nyes Wharf, Old Kent Road, 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.

Central House, Hoe Street, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

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

B&Q Site, Smugglers Way, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

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

York Road Business Centre, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

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

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:

1-2 Broadgate, Liverpool Street, City of London

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

Leadenhall Court, 1 Leadenhall Street, City of London

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

49-51 Paul Street, Old Street, LB Hackney

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

Tottenham Hale Centre, LB Haringey

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

Brunel University (Site 2), Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon

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

Land off Harefield Road, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon

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

Former Master Brewer Site, Freezeland Way, Hillingdon, LB Hillingdon

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

Heythrop College, Kensington Square, Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Kensington Forum Hotel, Cromwell Road, Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea

Following the High Court issuing a Consent Order, the Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea giving an updated direction that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Vauxhall Island Site, LB Lambeth

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

Former Tesco Car Park, 209 Conington Road, Lewisham, LB Lewisham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lewisham directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Central House, 59 – 63 Whitechapel High Street, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Land at Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Former London Chest Hospital, Bethnal Green, LB Tower Hamlets

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

South London Mail Centre, Nine Elms Lane, LB Wandsworth

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

Compton and Edrich Stands, Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, City of Westminster

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Berkeley Hotel, Knightsbridge, City of Westminster

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that my concerns have been satisfactorily addressed and I therefore withdraw my earlier direction to refuse planning permission.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Argenta House, Argenta Way, Stonebridge Park, LB Brent
- Wembley Stadium Industrial Estate, First Way, Wembley, LB Brent
- 4-20 Edridge Road, Croydon, LB Croydon
- 241 Green Street, Brimsdown, LB Enfield
- Land East of Kellaway Road, Kidbrooke, RB Greenwich

- Ravensbourne Wharf, Norman Road, Greenwich, RB Greenwich
- 48 Eagle Wharf Road, Hoxton, LB Hackney
- Freightmaster Estate, Coldharbour Lane, Rainham, LB Havering
- 628 Western Avenue, Park Royal, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Southernwood Retail Park, Humphrey Street, Bermondsey, LB Southwark

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Former Abbey Retail Park, Abbey Road, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Trocoll House, Wakering Road, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Parsloes Park, Gale Street, Dagenham, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Wembley Youth Centre and Former Dennis Jackson Community Centre, London Road, Wembley, LB Brent
- 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, LB Brent
- St Hugh's Playing Fields, Bickley Road, Bickley, LB Bromley
- Southall Gas Works, The Straight, Hayes, LB Ealing
- Centre House, Wood Lane, Shepherd's Bush, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Hammersmith Magistrates Court, Hammersmith, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- 9 Nestles Avenue, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- Frogsditch Farm, Shepiston Lane, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- 1-1A Bath Road, Heathrow, LB Hillingdon
- 25-30 Bakers Road, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon
- 100 West Cromwell Road, Earls Court, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- 20 Eden Street, Kingston, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Former BBC Sports Ground, New Malden, RB Kingston upon Thames
- Higgs Industrial Estate, Herne Hill Road, Loughborough Junction, LB Lambeth
- Carpetright, Loampit Vale, Lewisham, LB Lewisham
- 74-76 High Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- Homebase, Manor Road, North Sheen, LB Richmond upon Thames
- Skipton House, London Road, Elephant and Castle, LB Southwark
- 135 Park Street and 4-8 Emerson Street, Bankside, LB Southwark
- Former Sludge Beds, Beddington Lane, Beddington, LB Sutton
- The Highway Trading Centre, Heckford Street, Limehouse, LB Tower Hamlets
- Winstanley and York Road Estates, Clapham Junction, LB Wandsworth
- Victoria Tower Gardens, Millbank, City of Westminster
- Dora House, St John's Wood Road, City of Westminster

The Statutory Deputy Mayor has asked officers to send a letter giving comments about the following stage one referral:

- Stratford Waterfront, London Legacy Development Corporation

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Coombe Road Playing Fields, LB Croydon
- Landmark House, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- 1 Nobel Drive, LB Hillingdon
- Cargo Service Centre Ltd, LB Hounslow
- West Ham United FC Development Site, LB Newham
- Regulation 18 stage consultation, LB Bexley
- Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Stage 2, City of London
- Towards a New Local Plan 2036 – Issues and Options, LB Enfield
- Consultation on Proposed submission version North London Waste Plan – Regulation 19, North London Waste Authority
- Thurrock Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation, Thurrock Council

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the Holloway Prison development site on 8 March to announce that the site will be acquired by Peabody Housing Association, working in partnership with developer London Square
- I had an introductory meeting with George Fertitta, CEO of Bloomberg Associates, on 8 March
- I addressed the Women of the World Festival at the Royal Festival Hall on 8 March as part of International Women's Day
- I attended a reception at City Hall to celebrate Newroz, Kurdish New Year, on 8 March
- I met with representatives of the Grenfell Trust on 11 March
- I met with Gareth Bacon AM on 11 March to discuss the subject of the requirement for a written English language test for private hire drivers
- I attended the Excellence in Policing Awards Ceremony on 11 March
- I met with Lord Heseltine on 12 March to discuss his independent study into devolution and the role of the Metro Mayors & Combined Authorities
- I met with Dan Jarvis MP, Metro Mayor for Sheffield City Region, on 12 March to discuss partnership working between London and the Sheffield City Region
- I attended the WWW at 30 Public Celebration taking place at the Science Museum on 12 March
- I addressed the LEAP Diverse Entrepreneurs Summit on 13 March
- I addressed the Tourism Means Business Conference taking place at the QEII Conference Centre on 13 March
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 13 March
- I had my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service on 14 March
- I attended People's Question Time in Bexley on 14 March
- I hosted a breakfast meeting with representatives of London's Black Majority Churches on 15 March to discuss how we can work together to tackle violent crime in London
- I had an introductory meeting with Nick Jeffery, Chief Executive of Vodafone UK, on 15 March

- I visited the East London Mosque on 15 March to attend a vigil following the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand
- I addressed the St Patrick's Day Festival on Trafalgar Square on 17 March
- I attended an event hosted by the Regents Park Mosque on 18 March for people of all faiths coming together in solidarity following the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand
- I visited the Haimo Primary School, Greenwich, on 19 March to launch a new study that uses wearable sensors to measure children's exposure to air pollution on their journey to school
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 19 March to discuss policing and security
- I met with Julian Richer, Richer Sounds, on 19 March to discuss Social Housing
- I addressed an event hosted by the Huffington Post and Advertising Week on 19 March as part of the Advertising Week Europe
- I visited the New Zealand High Commission on 19 March to sign the book of condolence following the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand
- I visited Dockhead Fire Station, Southwark on 20 March to see a demonstration of new London Fire Brigade Equipment
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 21 March
- I addressed The London Victims' Summit on 21 March
- I attended the London Mosque Safety and Security Conference hosted at City Hall on 21 March
- I visited the Keith Palmer Memorial in Westminster on 22 March
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 25 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 25 March
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Peter John, the Chair of London Councils, on 26 March
- I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce hosted by the Home Secretary on 26 March
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 27 March
- I had an introductory meeting with Sir David Sloman, the new joint Regional Director for NHS England & Improvement London, on 27 March
- I addressed The British Chamber of Commerce Annual Conference on 28 March
- I had my regular meeting with the Fire Brigade Unions on 28 March
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 28 March
- I attended the Al Al-Risalah Education Trust 25th Anniversary Dinner on 28 March
- I visited the University of East London Stratford Campus on 29 March to launch a four-day Advice Roadshow to ensure Londoners have all the information they need to apply for settled status ahead of the opening of the Government's EU Settlement Scheme
- I attended Africa Express in Leytonstone on 29 March
- I attended the Serious Youth Violence Summit and Roundtable hosted by the Prime Minister on 1 April
- I met with the full London Green Spaces Commission at their first meeting on 1 April
- I hosted a Higher Education Roundtable at City Hall on 2 April to discuss Brexit and London HE's international competitiveness
- I met with representatives from London's Deaf and Disability Equality organisations on 2 April
- I met with the Clean Air Parents' Network and the Pram Chorus on 2 April
- I chaired the London Economic Action Partnership Board meeting on 2 April

- I attended the launch of the 4th edition of the London Games Festival at Somerset House on 2 April
- I visited Smithfield Market on 3 April
- I chaired the London Health Board meeting on 3 April
- I had an introductory meeting with Her Excellency Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam, the new Indian High Commissioner, on 3 April
- I attended the first Premier League football match at the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on 3 April
- I had my regular meeting with Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 4 April
- I visited Stratford gyratory, which has been transformed to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians following £16 million of funding from TfL, on 4 April
- I visited the London Legacy Development Corporation offices in Stratford on 4 April
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 4 April
- I visited the new Crossrail offices at Endeavour Square in Stratford on 4 April
- I visited the Evelina Children's Hospital on 8 April to mark the launch of the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 8 April
- I attended The Muslim News Awards for Excellence 2019 on 8 April
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 9 April
- I addressed GLA Staff in the City Hall Chamber on 9 April
- I had an introductory meeting with Christophe Cuvillier, the CEO of Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, on 9 April
- I joined the Met's Stratford Town Centre policing team for a patrol through the high street and Stratford Shopping Centre on 10 April
- I had an introductory meeting with Cllr Jack Hopkins, the new leader of the London Borough of Lambeth, on 10 April
- I chaired the AEB Mayoral Board meeting on 10 April
- I had an introductory meeting with His Excellency Mr Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, the new the Pakistan High Commissioner, on 10 April
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 10 April
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 11 April
- I addressed GLA Staff at Union Street on 11 April
- I attended the opening of the Imperial College Molecular Research Science Hub at the Imperial College White City Campus on 12 April
- I attended the Vaisakhi Day Celebrations & 100 Year Commemoration of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre at Central Gurdwara, London on 14 April
- I addressed the Feast of St George Festival in Trafalgar Square on 20 April
- I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce hosted by the Home Secretary on 24 April
- I visited the Sri Lankan High Commission on 24 April to sign the book of condolence following the terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 29 April
- I met with representatives of Extinction Rebellion on 29 April following their recent two weeks of action to discuss their manifesto asks
- I attended the Asian Women of Achievement Awards 20th Anniversary on 29 April
- I opened Hounslow House, Hounslow Council's new offices and civic centre, on 30 April
- I had my regular meeting with representatives of the TUC LESE (TUC London East and South East) on 30 April
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 1 May

- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner and Tony Meggs, Chairman of Crossrail, on 2 May ahead of the London Assembly Plenary on Crossrail
- I attended the London Assembly Plenary on 2 May to answer questions on Crossrail
- I met with Mayor Park Won Soon, the Mayor of Seoul, on 2 May to strengthen the relationship between our cities and promote the London is Open message

Ends