

38th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 16th January 2020

This is my Thirty-Eighth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 6th December – 2nd January 2020.

Executive Summary

New Year's Eve fireworks celebrate UEFA EURO 2020

On 31 December, I was delighted to join over 100,000 people who came together to watch Europe's largest annual fireworks display on the banks of the Thames. Welcoming in 2020 with such a spectacular display of fireworks was a truly a wonderful way to remind the world that despite Britain leaving the EU, London remains an open, outward looking, European, global city.

The fireworks this year marked London's starring role in the UEFA EURO 2020 Championship this summer, with the soundtrack featuring some well-known footballing anthems. I was also pleased to announce that Potters Fields Park, next to City Hall and Tower Bridge, will host a family-oriented, free 'Football Village' throughout the tournament.

Millions watched the live broadcast and many more across the world will have seen London once again at the forefront of the global celebrations.

To ensure that the event was safe and enjoyable for all, my events team worked closely with a range of partner agencies including the Metropolitan Police Service, Transport for London, local authorities and the emergency services.

Rough Sleepers festive lunch

On Christmas Eve, for the first time ever, we opened the doors of City Hall to provide a special festive celebration for 100 homeless Londoners receiving assistance from services we fund.

Through the support of our partner St Mungo's and the generosity of volunteers and donors, the guests enjoyed a festive meal, entertainment and services, such as hairdressing and opticians, which homeless people often find difficult to access.

As well as raising the issue of homelessness, insecure housing and rough sleeping in London, the event provided a chance for some of the most vulnerable people in society to experience what we all take for granted at this time of year.

Whilst one day won't solve London's homelessness crisis, I believe it is vital that we continue to shine a light on the real people behind the awful statistics. Since becoming Mayor, I have made it a priority to do everything in my power to tackle the issue, including more than doubling my rough sleeping budget. Londoners can also help. That's why, on 16 December I launched my winter rough sleeping campaign to raise money for the 29 charities in the London Homeless Collective and encourage everyone to use the StreetLink London app and website.

www.streetlink.org.uk

Chanukah

On Sunday 22 December, I joined members of London's Jewish community to help light the Menorah in Trafalgar Square, in celebration of Chanukah which, this year, took place between 22-30 December 2019.

Delivered in partnership with the Jewish Leadership Council, the London Jewish Forum and Chabad Lubavitch UK, the event was compered by comedian Rachel Creeger, and included performances from Jewish bands and the Matilda Marks Kennedy school choir. Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis was in attendance and gave a blessing.

Chanukah is a joyous time of year - but we must always remember that Chanukah celebrates freedom from religious oppression. It is a timeless story that has given hope for more than 2,000 years to Jewish people, and to many others. It is vital that everyone has the freedom to practise their religion and beliefs and our Chanukah celebrations in Trafalgar Square are a great example of that.

Additional investment in London's Violence Reduction Unit

On 18 December, I announced my intention to invest an additional £3.2 million in London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). London's Violence Reduction Unit is leading our public-health approach to tackling the complex causes of crime and increasing the Unit's ongoing annual budget from £1.8 million to £5 million will allow it to invest in more projects and programmes to make crucial early interventions in a young person's life.

£4 million boost for more than 1,000 new EV charging points

On 20 December, together with London Councils and TfL, am investing £4 million across 29 boroughs to install 1,000 new electric vehicle charging points in residential areas.

This will build on work that has already seen 1,500 charging points installed across the capital to help Londoners without access to off-street parking, using innovative solutions such as retrofitting lamp posts. Delivering electric vehicle charging points in residential areas is one of London Councils' Pledges to Londoners. The £4 million allocated to boroughs is part of a £13 million award London received from the Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles' Go Ultra Low City Scheme, a nationwide programme to increase electric vehicle use and tackle the twin dangers of air pollution and the climate emergency.

This supports my overarching goal to ensure 80 per cent of journeys are made by public transport, walking or cycling by 2041.

Seven boroughs compete to be next London Borough of Culture

On 19 December, seven boroughs from across the capital were invited to City Hall to present their bid to be the next London Borough of Culture.

Croydon, Greenwich, Hounslow, Lewisham, Haringey, Hammersmith & Fulham, and Sutton will compete to become the London Borough of Culture for 2021 and 2023.

The two winning boroughs will each be awarded £1.35 million to deliver an ambitious programme, placing culture at the heart of their communities and celebrating the unique

character of local people and places. Boroughs can also win Cultural Impact Awards, each receiving up to £200,000 to deliver cultural projects.

The London Borough of Culture is a major initiative I launched inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture programmes. The competition has fulfilled one of my key manifesto pledges by strengthening London's reputation as an international powerhouse for culture.

The successful bids will be announced in February.

Additional £3.2m for London's Violence Reduction Unit

On 18 December, I published my draft budget for 2020-21 and announced my plans to invest an additional £3.2m in the capital's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) this year and in future years.

The VRU was set up by my team and I last year, and brings together specialists from health, police, local government, probation and community organisations to tackle violent crime and its underlying causes. In my 2019-20 budget I invested £1.8m per year in the VRU together with an additional one-off £5m in new funds allocated from business rates.

I'm proposing to increase my ongoing annual investment to £5m for the next financial year, reallocating funding from the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and the Greater London Authority to ensure the VRU has the resources to continue leading the public-health approach to tackling the complex causes of crime. This additional investment will also continue in future years.

Annual Mayor's Carol Service

On 16 December, I was delighted to host my annual Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral. Over 800 people from across London came together to celebrate, showing that London's diversity makes us stronger and that London is open to all.

Before the service started, the congregation took a moment of silence to remember the victims of the recent terrorist attack on London Bridge.

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun presided, with the Dean of Southwark, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn leading the Service. A short address was also given by The Most Revd John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark.

The London International Gospel Choir gave an amazing performance during the service, as did Olasumbo Aigoro, a year-7 student at East London Science School and London Music Fund scholar. We also had the pleasure of hearing readings from five Londoners who have been involved in and supported some of the work that we have done over the year. These included entrepreneur and youth activist Amani Simpson; Marley Da Silva, a 15-year-old student whose life has been changed through the support of Football Beyond Borders; and Queenie Chizea, a peer outreach worker at City Hall who is doing incredible work within the community.

My £2.2 million Winter Programme Fund

The number of people sleeping rough on our streets is a national disgrace, and since becoming Mayor I have made it a priority to do everything in my power to tackle this crisis. On 16 December, I also announced funding for more beds in homeless shelters than ever before, through my £2.2 million Winter Programme Fund.

My Life Off the Streets programme is helping more people than ever before - and while this is a testament to the hard work of outreach workers and shelter staff and others supporting people sleeping rough, it is also a damning indictment of the Government's failure to get to grips with this vitally important issue.

New London Fire Commissioner

On 10 December, I appointed Andy Roe as London's new Fire Commissioner. Andy Roe took over from Dany Cotton on 1 January following a comprehensive international recruitment process.

Andy Roe is a hugely experienced firefighter and I'm really pleased to have appointed him as London's Fire Commissioner. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry report made it clear there were institutional failures that meant, while firefighters performed with great courage and bravery, the overall response to the disaster was not good enough, and there are significant lessons for London Fire Brigade.

I look forward to working with Andy Roe to deliver on the Inquiry's recommendations and to ensure the transformation of the Brigade is carried out as effectively and swiftly as possible.

Policing, Crime and Security

Supporting victims and witnesses of the London Bridge terror attack

In the aftermath of the appalling attack on London Bridge, the MOPAC commissioned London Victims and Witnesses Service offered specialist support to the victims of this horrific attack and their families, as well as those who witnessed the terrible events. More than 130 calls and referrals have been received by Victim Support following the attack, and I want to thank and pay tribute to the staff and volunteers involved in this vital response.

We know that trauma can take time to emerge and that victims and witnesses may not feel ready to reach out for support in the immediate aftermath of such a traumatic incident. I continue to encourage anyone affected by the terrorist incident at London Bridge to contact Victim Support's free 24-hour support line on 08 08 16 89 111 to speak to someone. Help and support is there for you when you are ready. I also continue to welcome the support of Assembly Members in communicating this to Londoners.

Thank you to police and emergency services for work over Christmas & New Year

The festive period is a time of peaceful relaxation for most of us though it can be anything but for emergency services personnel and their families. It is thanks to their dedication and sacrifice that we are able to enjoy the holiday season in safety and security, and I know that Assembly Members will join me in offering thanks on behalf of Londoners to the men and women of our emergency services for their hard work over Christmas and the New Year.

Further investment in London's safety

On 18 December, I released my draft budget for 2020/21 and announced my intention to invest an additional £3.2 million in the capital's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) next year and in future years. The VRU was set up last year and brings together specialists from health, police, local government, probation and community organisations to tackle violent crime and its underlying causes. The proposal would increase ongoing annual investment in the VRU to £5 million for the next financial year, reallocating funding from the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and the Greater London Authority to ensure the VRU has the resources to continue leading the public-health approach to tackling the complex causes of crime. This additional investment will continue in future years.

The Government has finally recognised that cuts to policing numbers have consequences, and has pledged 20,000 new officers across the country. The Commissioner and I have made it clear that London needs 6,000 new officers from these 20,000. However, there is continuing uncertainty over the Government's funding plans, which impacts our ability to recruit the police officers London needs. My draft budget shows that funding for these additional officers, together with other financial pressures on the Met, will require an additional £480 million of Government investment by 2023/24. Without sustained Government investment in policing to reverse ministers' decade of cuts, I am once again left with little choice but to raise council tax in order to tackle violent crime. I am therefore provisionally proposing to increase City Hall's share of council tax bills overall by 1.99 per cent - £6.41 a year, or 12p a week in cash terms for an average Band D council tax payer. Of this proposed council tax increase for 2020-21, £4.85 (9p a week) will go directly to the Metropolitan Police, which will generate an additional £30 million towards policing and tackling crime in the capital. Once the Government announces its Police Settlement, I will review this figure.

Transport

TfL Business Plan published

On 13 December, Transport for London (TfL) published its draft five-year business plan covering the period from 2020/21 to 2024/25.

Alongside my Transport Strategy, the draft plan sets out how transport will support sustainable growth and make our city a safer, greener and better place to live, work and visit. It was considered and approved by TfL's Finance Committee on 18 December.

Despite continued uncertainty in the economy, the plan shows very strong progress in reducing the net cost of TfL's operations. However, it is essential for there to be long-term certainty around Government investment in existing and new transport assets to ensure that services support the growing city. TfL's finances continue to be subject to substantial pressures as a result of the average £700 million a year reduction in Government funding for its day-to-day operations.

TfL has gripped its costs, both in its own operations and through the supply chain. This has reduced the net annual cost of operations by more than £1 billion since 2015/16 while a range of improvements have continued to be delivered.

I'm proud of what TfL has achieved improving transport across London –alongside our continuing modernisation of the tube, TfL fares will be frozen again this January, and we continue to take some of the boldest action of any city in the world greening our transport network and improving air quality across the capital.

Northwest London set to benefit from improved bus links

Residents of west and northwest London are now benefitting from improved transport links, following the changes made to routes in outer London.

On 7 December, four new bus routes were introduced including two improved links between Heathrow, Hillingdon and Harrow (278 and X140), with the remaining two additional routes between Acton, Hammersmith and Fulham (218 and 306).

Three other routes have been extended, with the H9 and H10 now serving more parts of Northwick Park Hospital and the 440 extended to Wembley Eastern Lands and rerouted between Acton and North Acton. Nine further routes, including the 140, 224, 226 and 391 have had changes associated with the introduction of the new bus services.

The changes follow a consultation undertaken by Transport for London in 2017, improving transport connections in outer London by creating faster connections, better coverage and more direct, frequent services in outer London.

TfL launches new website to make it quicker and easier to report problems on London's streets

On 16 December, Transport for London (TfL) launched a new service that makes it much simpler for people across London to report problems on the road network and at bus stops and shelters, making travelling around London easier and safer.

The new TfL Street Care service, available at streetcare.tfl.gov.uk, allows people to use an online map and a short, simple form to let TfL know about problems related to roadworks, potholes and damaged bus shelters and traffic lights. TfL will then investigate problems reported through the service.

As well as showing whether the problem has already been reported to TfL, the map allows everyone to see what action has been taken to fix the issue. This will give people a greater understanding of the work TfL is doing to fix London's road network and also make it easier for people to find out when problems have been fixed.

The new Street Care service will automatically detect whether a problem is on TfL's network or on roads controlled by a London borough or another authority. If the problem is on another authority's roads, the service will send the details of it to the relevant team.

Street Care has been developed with not-for-profit social enterprise mySociety, which develops new technology that gives people the power to get things changed.

TfL Rail begins operating services between London Paddington and Reading

Since 15 December, stopping services between London Paddington and Reading have been operated by TfL Rail, delivering immediate benefits to customers. This marks the next step in the delivery of the Elizabeth line.

Under TfL Rail, customers are benefitting from improvements to their stations including improved customer information and new lifts within the next year. On the TfL Rail service, Freedom Pass holders are enjoying free travel all the way to Reading, with families also benefitting from free travel for children under the age of 11 when they travel with a paying adult. Customers at Iver and Taplow now enjoy a train service on a Sunday, with two trains running per hour to the capital.

All TfL Rail stations are staffed from first to last train, providing a turn-up-and-go service for disabled customers and a point of contact for anyone needing assistance. Stations along the route are being improved to make them more comfortable and accessible. New benches and shelters in waiting areas are being fitted alongside improved electronic signage providing real-time travel information for customers.

Several stations also benefit from improved CCTV and lighting, creating a safer environment in and around the stations. Several ticket offices are also being refurbished, with many stations including Iver and Hayes & Harlington due to have completely new tickets halls and offices.

Fire and Resilience

London Fire Commissioner Interviews

On 9 December, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, interviewed candidates for the London Fire Brigade Commissioner post.

London Fire Commissioner Appointment

On 10 December, I appointed Deputy Commissioner Andrew Roe as the new London Fire Commissioner, this appointment was confirmed by the London Assembly's Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee on 17 December. The new London Fire Commissioner will take up his post on 1 January 2020.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry Steering Group

On 3 and 13 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, attended a Grenfell Tower Inquiry Steering Group meeting to oversee the Greater London Authority's work in implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 report and to prepare for Phase 2.

Fire Brigades Union Christmas Dinner

On 16 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, attended a dinner with the Fire Brigades Union.

London Fire Brigade Carol Service

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, attended the London Fire Brigade's Carol Service.

Budget and Performance Committee

On 18 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, attended the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee which scrutinised the London Fire Brigade's budget for 2020/21

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Good Growth Fund: Round 3

We received 169 stage one applications through the third round of my Good Growth Fund, totalling just over £178 million. Working with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), 62 projects have been chosen to progress to stage two that best support local people, make better places and grow prosperity across the capital. Funding announcements will be made in March 2020.

Small Projects and Equipment Fund: Round 2

We received 60 applications totalling £17.6 million for round two of the Skills for Londoners Small Projects and Equipment Fund. These were seeking almost £8 million of grant funding to enhance learning environments through equipment purchases, refurbishments and the building of new teaching facilities.

Applications were received from organisations in 29 London boroughs and included general further education colleges, Institutes for Adult Learning, private sector providers, third sector providers, sixth form colleges and local authorities. Projects are targeting a wide range of priority areas including the creative industries, construction and the built environment, and offender learning. Applications are now being appraised working with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) and funding announcements will be made in March 2020.

SPACE Ilford opens to the public

On 6 December, SPACE's new art venue opened in Ilford Town Centre in the Grade-II listed Redbridge Town Hall. Supported through the first round of my Good Growth Fund, the project is the first to complete under the London Borough of Redbridge's Spark programme; a series of interlinked projects which will revitalise Redbridge town centre. SPACE Ilford includes a new free public art gallery, event space and 37 affordable studios for artists and creatives. The

ceramicist Lindsey Mendrick has been commissioned by SPACE for the first exhibition and her 'Regrets, I've Had A Few' show is open to the public.

Production begins at Barking and Dagenham's Every One Every Day Warehouse

Every One Every Day, an innovative participatory programme in Barking and Dagenham, has completed its new free-to-use public makerspace in Thames Road, with £850,000 funding from my Good Growth Fund. The space will support residents to create 250 new practical projects to improve their neighbourhoods and help form 100 new businesses over five years.

Tomorrow's Market

The Tomorrow's Market second cohort is now well underway with 15 traders taking up opportunities in markets in Brixton and Lower Marsh. An innovative business support programme from the London Growth Hub, Tomorrow's Market aims to nurture a new generation of market traders and support new businesses to grow, working with experienced traders and business experts to reach new customers and audiences. Through our first cohort we successfully supported 15 businesses and launched a number of start-ups, who I had the pleasure of meeting at the 10th International Public Markets Conference.

Changes to the Adult Education Budget 2020/21

This month I announced two major changes to the adult education budget (AEB) for the next academic year (2020/21).

The first is to make available up to an additional £2.7 million to grant providers to teach English and maths qualifications at Levels 1 and 2. A good level of basic English and maths is critical to improving someone's life chances, yet many people do not have these basic skills. Just over a quarter of working-aged adults in England have numeracy and/ or literacy skills below the level expected of an 11-year old. Since 2013, the funding available to teach English and maths qualifications has not increased. As a result, the level of resource available for English and maths provision has declined substantially in real terms over this period.

The second change will be to fund the upskilling of London's FE workforce to support more learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The London post-16 SEND Review identified that 70 per cent of the projected demand for SEND provision over the next five years in London will be for adults.

Responses to my Skills for Londoners Framework consultation highlighted the lack of resources and capacity within the sector to meet this growing demand and called for more support for workforce development. While I have limited powers in this area, by using the AEB to upskill existing providers we can ensure they will be better equipped to help more Londoners participate and achieve in adult education.

I'm determined to boost participation and achievement rates by helping London's education and training providers support learners to gain these skills, which in turn impact their economic status and their ability to play an active role in their community.

Housing

City Hall Christmas Eve event for homeless people

I was proud to put on a festive day for 100 homeless people at City Hall on Christmas Eve. My team worked closely with St Mungo's and on this event, to ensure a wide variety of the services I fund were represented.

We were joined by guests from: my 'No Second Night Out hubs', staging posts (for rough sleepers new to the streets), my 'Somewhere Safe to Stay hub', people who are helped by the St Mungo's Social Impact Bond team (who work with the most entrenched rough sleepers), and the Routes Home service (who work with vulnerable non-UK-nationals sleeping rough in London), and people who use 'Thames Reach support'.

Our guests enjoyed a three-course meal, access to services including opticians and haircuts, and activities including karaoke, games, art workshops, and film screenings.

Rough sleeping campaign launch

Homelessness is a national crisis, and I'm doing all I can to help people in London. I have doubled my rough sleeping budget, and for the first time in January and February I will be funding 300 extra beds each night, to support existing provision.

On 16 December, I launched my third winter rough sleeping campaign. Following the success of last year's fundraising campaign, which raised nearly £250,000, we are calling on Londoners to once again to give generously to the London Homeless Collective to help some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

At the launch, I unveiled a new TAP contactless donation point at Westfield Shepherd's Bush and announced that more than 100 TAP points - allowing Londoners to donate £3 using contactless credit or debit cards - would be available over the course of the winter. Throughout winter I will also be encouraging Londoners to donate to the charities in the Collective via GoFundMe, refer people they see sleeping rough to StreetLink, and sign up via Team London to volunteer.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Unit – Connected London team

In December, my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, and the Connected London team attended a site visit to Openreach's Faraday Telecoms exchange near Millennium Bridge. The purpose of this visit was to see a demonstration from Openreach of the equipment required for full fibre broadband connections. The demonstration provided my team with a better understanding of how legacy copper networks are being transitioned to full fibre, informing our approach to new planning guidance and other initiatives to address digital not spots and improve connectivity for London's residents and businesses.

Mayor's International Business Programme – cohort 15 launch

Earlier this month London and Partners launched the latest 'Mayors International Business Programme' (MIBP) cohort. The MIBP programme is a 12-month high-growth programme for London companies wanting to scale internationally, with access to workshops, mentoring and international visits in priority markets and sectors. The purpose of this event was to introduce the cohorts and alumni and provide practical sessions on international strategy to help them maximise the impact of their involvement in MIBP. My Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, wished all the new MIBP companies every success on the programme.

Salesforce Ohana Floor Opening and GWS Accreditation

On 5 December 2019, I announced the Good Work Standard accreditation of Salesforce and addressed the launch event of their new free community space, which is available free to non-profits and community organisations. At the opening of the Ohana Floor, Salesforce demonstrated their commitment to supporting education and workforce development in London by giving a \$750,000 grant to education charity Ark and a \$500,000 grant to Ada, the National College for Digital Skills.

Financial Times showcases London's excellence in Life Sciences

On 20 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, was interviewed in a film by the Financial Times that showcased London's excellence in life sciences.

The interview was filmed as part of a fifth anniversary event for MedCity, which I co-fund, which promotes and supports the growth of London's innovative, vibrant life sciences sector, which includes areas such as digital health, cell and gene therapies, neuroscience and artificial intelligence in healthcare.

Life sciences innovations help power our capital's economy and deliver significant societal benefit by improving health and wellbeing. London is part of Europe's largest life sciences cluster, and a key driver of economic growth in London and the UK. MedCity helps with job creation, finds companies space to set up in London and attract investment, and runs professional networking events to connect academia, NHS and industry.

Business support

We continue to provide support to London businesses through our Brexit Business Resource Hub both ahead of Brexit and after 31 January. Since my London Is Open for Business campaign launched in September, this online resource has been visited over 5400 times. Earlier this month my London Growth Hub team provided two free Brexit advice workshops for over 30 SMEs, with more of these workshops to be provided in the New Year.

Environment

More funding for electric vehicle charge points

On 20 December, London's first rapid charging hub was launched in Stratford. This is the first of five that I have committed to supporting as part of the London Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan. It follows the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Taskforce that I established to bring together representatives from business, energy, infrastructure, government and the London boroughs to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles and help tackle the capital's air pollution crisis. TfL are on track to delivering 300 rapid charge points by the end of 2020, recently achieving a project milestone of 225.

The hub coincided with new funding totalling £4 million that was allocated to 29 boroughs to enable the installation of 1,000 new electric vehicle charge points in residential areas this year (2020). This is a second phase of the £13 million Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS) programme that I jointly lead with London Councils and Transport for London.

Both of these initiatives support new vehicle emissions requirements that were introduced for private hire vehicles (PHVs) from 1 January 2020. All new PHVs (less than 18 months old) must now be zero emission capable when licensed for the first time. From January 2023, this condition will apply to all PHVs licensed for the first time.

Road Run Off Study

On 23 December, I published a first-of-its-kind study identifying the impact that pollution from London's roads has on rivers and water quality. This occurs when pollutants that settle on the surface of the road, such as residue from oil spills, as well as tyre and brake wear from vehicles, build up during dry weather and are then washed into nearby rivers and streams when it rains (road runoff). A problem that is likely to get worse with a changing climate.

City Hall, the Environment Agency and Transport for London (TfL) have funded Thames21 and Middlesex University to develop a model, which uses numbers of vehicles and types to predict the amount of pollution deposited on roads and the degree of damage to our rivers. The project was also supported by the Zoological Society of London, Thames Water and South East Rivers Trust.

Whilst I have no direct powers over water quality, this work with partners is the first part of efforts to improve it. The research will help drive action by identifying those roads that have the greatest potential to contribute towards pollution in London's rivers to help identify the best locations for interventions to address this issue, these include using sustainable drainage, such as planting vegetation and creating wetlands to help filter out the worst pollutants before they reach our rivers. Through my Greener City Fund I have already supported ten sustainable drainage projects to enable natural flood management and eight projects to restore waterways including canals, rivers and lakes.

The report and mapping can be found on our website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/climate-adaptation/water-quality>

C40 Steering Committee and Strategic Board Meetings

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the C40 Steering Committee on my behalf as Vice Chair of Europe. My Deputy Mayor provided updates on key climate achievements I have led in London in the last three months including the impact of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in its first six months of operation which has led to 13,500 fewer polluting vehicles driving in central London every day and cut pollution by a third and the International Air Quality Summit I hosted in October. Other highlights included the success of National Tree Week, where we planted over 60,000 trees in the capital. At the meeting, C40's business plan for 2021-2024 was also discussed. This will focus on how C40 cities can help deliver a Global Green New Deal which ensures that inclusive climate action across all communities is at the centre of urban-decision making.

On 17 December, My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, also attended a C40 Board of Directors Strategic Meeting where opportunities to develop the policies for the C40 Business Plan were discussed. London is one of only two cities on the Board which provides strategic governance and oversight to C40's efforts to support cities in taking climate action and working internationally to address the Climate Emergency.

IEMA Sustainability Leaders Forum

On 12 December, my Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, Shirley Rodrigues spoke at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA) Sustainability Leaders Forum. The IEMA is the largest professional body for environmental practitioners in the United Kingdom and worldwide, with nearly 15,000 members. IEMA's Sustainability Leaders Forum is comprised of a group of 250 senior leaders from business and academia working together to bring sustainability to the core business model of organisations.

At the event, my Deputy Mayor, gave a keynote address outlining London-wide sustainability issues and environmental challenges over the next few years and how I am working to address these through my environment, transport, planning and other strategies, including the vital role of better cross-sector collaboration to overcome the critical issues facing London and Londoners.

London Councils Transport and Environment Committee

On 5 December, my Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (TEC). London Councils is the local government association for Greater London representing 32 borough councils and the City of London. TEC sees senior councillors leading on transport and environment issues, including congestion charging, waste and recycling, air quality and public protection.

At the event, my Deputy Mayor, discussed what actions London's boroughs can take after declaring a climate and ecological emergency. The discussion focused on short-term actions but also considered the longer-term efforts required both to cut carbon and adapt to a changing climate. Actions included ensuring compliance with some of my key London-specific policies, including - the Ultra Low Emission Zone, new London Plan requirements on zero carbon development and maximising the use of GLA technical assistance programmes and funding.

London Green Spaces Commission

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, Shirley Rodrigues, chaired the fifth meeting of the London Green Spaces Commission. The Commission is a task and finish group looking at how to support London boroughs to transform the way they manage and fund their park services. At this meeting the Commissioners considered the key recommendations being proposed around catalysing action and future funding opportunities. The final report and action plan is due to be published Spring 2020.

Education and Youth

Mayor's London Scientist celebration

On 6 December, over 100 representatives from schools, STEM organisations, businesses, and universities came together at City Hall to celebrate STEM in London schools.

My Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests and highlighted the need for diverse talent in STEM jobs. My Deputy Mayor encouraged organisations from across the sector to collaborate with schools to help build the skills young people need to succeed in today's economy. Joanne also had the pleasure of awarding prizes to 15 young people who had taken part in my Mayor's London Scientist programme. They showcased their fantastic, winning STEM projects – all helping to solve key challenges for London, such as air quality and urban biodiversity.

Launch of Supporting Inclusive Schools programme

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, and the Director of my Violence Reduction Unit, Lib Peck, welcomed representatives from 16 boroughs to City Hall to launch my Supporting Inclusive Schools programme.

The programme brings together three strands, to be delivered in schools within these boroughs, to help schools working to reduce exclusion rates and provide support for young people making the transition from primary to secondary school. Representatives from boroughs and schools heard presentations from Nurture UK and Tender, who will be delivering projects on embedding the principles of nurture and helping young people to build healthy relationships. They also heard about my Stepping Stones programme, which will be extended to schools in the 16 boroughs.

Investing in schools forms a crucial part of my public-health approach to tackling violent crime in the capital. A nurturing and inclusive school is one in which there is an emphasis on wellbeing and relationships, on positive social and emotional behaviour and is ambitious to support the growth and development of all children and young people. All three strands of the Supporting Inclusive Schools programme focus on early intervention for young people most at risk of being excluded from mainstream education.

Young Londoners Participation Network

On 16 December, my Young Londoners Participation Network met at City Hall for its final meeting of the year. These quarterly network meetings provide a great opportunity for practitioners involved in London's youth sector to meet, make connections, learn from each other and find out about other youth projects running across the city. This year, topics for these meetings have included: how to increase the involvement of young people in decision making; childhood trauma; supporting young people with specific needs and engaging with young people in a changing world.

It's fantastic to see that an increasing number of practitioners and organisations are utilising this network. We now have over 350 members, with great attendance at the quarterly meetings. They really are a brilliant way to bring practitioners together and share best practice to support our city's young people.

Christmas card competition

This December, I had the pleasure of judging entries for my annual Christmas card competition. I asked children aged 5 to 14 to design a card to represent 'My Christmas'. I received over 1000 entries from 34 different London schools, with this year's winning entry coming from 13-year-old Julia, from St. Anne's Catholic High School for Girls. Julia's design is now being used as my official Christmas card and has been sent to every member of staff at City Hall and to VIPs across the country and worldwide.

Gender Action celebration event

On 18 December, City Hall hosted an event to celebrate the first year of Gender Action – an award programme which promotes and supports a whole-school approach to challenging stereotypes. My Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests from London schools and nurseries who have taken part in the award, as well some fantastic speakers and other guests who were keen to find out more.

Communities and Social Policy

Advice and Support on the EU Settlement Scheme

On 16 December, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, welcomed more than 100 immigration advisers to City Hall to recognise and celebrate their work to support European Londoners. They have offered more than £125,000 worth of services on a pro bono basis and reached more than 1,000 European Londoners with one-to-one advice on the EU Settlement Scheme and their rights post-Brexit.

Community Engagement Winter Reception

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted the Community Engagement Winter Reception at City Hall. The event celebrated and thanked the wealth of community groups, faith leaders and civil society organisations who have worked with me to deliver change for London's communities on the issues that matter most to them.

London Community Story Project

On 17 December, I launched the London Community Story project which puts the voices and stories of Londoners at the centre of policy making at City Hall. The project features a collection of conversations between Londoners from diverse backgrounds, capturing their experiences of six key themes; Belonging, Relationships, Digital Communities, Equality, Identity, Journeys and Travelling.

Health

Applying my six tests to the London STP plans

Earlier this month I commissioned the King's Fund to prepare a report on the five London Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) plans to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan. These plans are due to be released in the new year.

The report will include analysis of the plans' content, taking into account the principles of my six tests. It will enable me to determine the extent to which the STP/ICS plans align with my six tests and to champion and challenge the NHS accordingly, on behalf of Londoners.

Bloomberg Partnership for Healthy Cities

As the Partnership for Healthy Cities grows this month from 54 to 70 cities, I'm proud London is continuing to be part of global action being taken to tackle non-communicable diseases. The Partnership is supported by Bloomberg, Vital Strategies and the World Health Organisation.

Learn more about the initiative and our commitment here:

<https://partnershipforhealthycities.bloomberg.org>

Health Inequalities Strategy Annual report

I recently published a report on the London Health Inequalities Strategy, highlighting the progress made in the year since its publication.

This includes, taking action on child obesity such as the Transport for London (TfL) ad ban, implementing the ULEZ and other work to clean up London's toxic air, getting over 10 per cent of London's early years settings signed up to the Healthy Early Years London programme in its first nine months, rolling out youth Mental Health First Aid across London's schools, and

supporting the continued progress of partnership initiatives like Thrive LDN and Fast Track Cities London.

Whilst this report focusses on my role, it also recognises that I cannot and do not act alone. Many of the achievements highlighted in the report have been, and will continue to be, delivered in partnership. This report also reflects on the wider policy context which influences London's health inequalities and where and how partners work together on this – including through the new London Vision – and provides an update on the HIS population health inequality indicators.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Sports Photojournalism Project

On 3 December, recruitment of participants for my new sports photojournalism programme 'Our Content - Change the Game' commenced. This is an exciting new programme which gives young Londoners from underrepresented groups – particularly young women, BAME and LGBTQ+ people – the opportunity to fulfil a career in sports media and photojournalism.

The programme is looking to recruit young Londoners aged 14-25. Under the guidance of esteemed photographers, participants will learn techniques and skills in the classroom whilst also having the unique opportunity to access some of London's major sporting events. This programme will enable underrepresented Londoners to share their unique point of view on elite sports.

Team London Small Grants for Schools

On 6 December, 23 school groups pitched their social action projects for my Team London Small Grants for Schools programme. Young people from primary, secondary, SEND and Pupil Referral Units pitched their ideas to a panel at City Hall.

Each project aims to address issues the young presenters care about – from the environment and food poverty to serious youth violence. Each group will receive funding and support to help bring positive and sustainable change within their communities over the coming year.

Capacity building support for charities

Team London continue to grow their capacity building programme for small not-for-profit organisations across the City, by partnering with experts who share their skills and knowledge with the third sector.

On 10 December, Pro Bono Economics delivered their 'Unlocking Impact' session to over 60 small charities and grass roots organisations at City Hall. The half day workshop enabled the groups to explore how they can better collect and use their data to evidence the impact of their services. Groups were also guided through the process of accessing free support from expert volunteer economists.

Major Events volunteering

Over 150 Team London event volunteers supported the delivery of my London New Year's Eve fireworks for 2019. From 29 - 31 December, volunteers gave their time to support all aspects of the event, from ticket collection through to finding the best viewing spots on the night. Volunteers also advised visitors without a ticket on alternative options for celebrating the new year in the capital.

Culture and Events

Night Time Enterprise Zone pilot project

On 7 December, my Night Czar Amy Lamé, attended 'High Street ADVENTures' on Walthamstow High Street. This is one of the activities of my Night Time Enterprise Zone pilot and was held on Small Business Saturday. The event encouraged local businesses to stay open later and families to get involved in evening activities on the High Street. It also provided an opportunity for businesses and local people to share their insights into how the high street can work better at night.

Here for life Film Screening

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons, OBE and Artangel, a London-based arts organisation, hosted a special screening of *Here for life*. Part documentary, part fiction the film is about life in the capital, the world we live in and how things might be fixed, told through the stories of ten Londoners. The cast are members of *Cardboard Citizens*, the theatre company that produces work for and by people who have experienced homelessness.

The film described by Time Out as "a snapshot of London not often seen on film" is currently on general release.

Night Czar Surgery - Soho

On 13 December, my Night Czar Amy Lamé, held one of her regular Night Surgeries in Westminster. Amy accompanied officers from the Met Police's Licensing Hub as they made visits to venues across Soho, with a focus on offering support to LGBTQ+ venues. Alongside Cllr Adams from Westminster City Council, she also met with Soho Angels, who offer information, support and a safe space to those who need help while out at night. The Night Czar has undertaken 17 Night Surgeries since her appointment.

London Borough of Culture 2019: Waltham Forest finale, 'Forest Uprising'

On 14 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and Cllr Paul Douglas attended 'Forest Uprising' - the final event of Waltham Forest's year as my first ever London Borough of Culture. This free, family friendly outdoor event ran over three nights, attracting approximately 15,000 visitors. Waltham Forest's Borough of Culture has been a significant success. It has engaged 85 per cent of households, every school in the borough and 1,000 volunteers as well as attracting an additional 500,000 visits to the borough.

First Supreme Court Artwork featuring Women from the Legal Profession

On 16 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at the unveiling of a new permanent artwork for the Supreme Court by leading artist Catherine Yass. She was joined by Lady Hale, first female President of the Supreme Court and Chair of the Commission for the artwork to mark the centenary of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919, which opened the door for women to enter professions such as law and medicine. The event was part of *FIRST: 100 Years of Women in Law*, celebrating pioneers in the legal profession. It was attended by Judge Khatun Sappara, the first person of Bangladeshi origin to join the senior judiciary in the UK and Briony Clarke, the UK's youngest female judge, amongst others.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Events at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

December marked another packed month of events at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, including three league games for the London Lions and a championship boxing meet (21 December) at the Copper Box Arena. West Ham United ended 2019 with home games against Arsenal (9 December) and Leicester City (28 December) before taking on Bournemouth at the London Stadium on 1 January.

London Stadium

On 16 December, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) announced the findings from an economic impact study into the 2019 Major League Baseball (MLB) London Series. The two-day meet represented the first ever MLB fixtures on European soil, and generated an estimated £37 million for the London economy (plus a further £9.5 million for the rest of the UK).

Affordable Housing

LLDC has announced a new grant funding agreement with L&Q which will increase the percentage of affordable homes at Chobham Manor from 28 per cent to around 35 per cent on completion. This brings 62 additional affordable homes to the development, made up of 25 London Living Rent and 37 London Affordable Rent.

Budget and Performance Committee

On 18 December, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) Chief Executive, Lyn Garner, and Deputy Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, appeared before the London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee. Answering members' questions on LLDC's 2020/2021 Budget Submission, the session focused on East Bank and the London Stadium.

Carpenters Land Bridge

On 25 December, contractors were busy installing Carpenters Land Bridge on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The bridge marks another milestone in the East Bank project, and will link Stratford Waterfront to International Quarter London – Stratford's thriving business district.

The bridge installation is a feat of engineering, installed using an innovative self-propelled modular transporter.

Planning

Planning and Development Control Friday 6th December to Thursday 2nd January 2020

London Plan

On 9 December, I wrote to the Secretary of State with the version of the London Plan that I intend to publish. This version includes changes made to the Plan based on the Inspectors' recommendations following the Examination in Public carried out earlier this year. I also sent a statement of reasons for not accepting some of the Inspectors' recommendations as required by the relevant regulations.

These documents can be found here: [London.gov.uk website](https://www.london.gov.uk). This represents an important next step in the progress of the Plan.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Site at Hatton House, Mile End, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Portal West, 6 Portal Way, North Acton, LB Ealing/OPDC

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

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Grahame Park Estate, Plots 10, 11 and 12, Barnet
- 19-25 Rotherhithe New Road, Surrey Quays, Southwark

Decisions made under delegation

Planning Application – Stage 2 (delegated decision)

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

University of Westminster Boat House, Chiswick, LB Hounslow

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

Beam Park, Dagenham and Rainham, LB Barking & Dagenham and Havering

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham and Havering stating that he is content to allow the Councils to determine the application themselves.

McGraths, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London Legacy Development Corporation

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Legacy Development Corporation stating that he is content to allow the Corporation to determine the application itself.

Site at Malt Street, Bianca Road and Latona Road, LB Southwark

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

Former BHS, 22 High Road, Wood Green, 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.

Land at Hospital Bridge Road, Whitton, LB Richmond upon Thames

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

Whiteleys Shopping Centre, Bayswater, 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.

Athletics Track and Pavilion, Norman Park, Hayes Lane, LB Bromley

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

Former Abbey Retail Park, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham

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

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- Ujima House, 388 High Road, Wembley, Brent
- Woodlands Nursing Home, Lambeth
- 1-3 Bath Road, Hounslow, Hounslow
- Land at College Road, Croydon, Croydon

- 80 Daws Lane, Barnet, Barnet
- 66-70 High Street, Bromley, Bromley
- Daisy Business Park, 19-35 Sylvan Grove, Southwark
- Land on Wembley High Road, East of Cecil Avenue, Brent

Opportunity Area Policy Framework

Thamesmead & Abbey Wood Opportunity Area Planning Framework

On 16 December, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, approved the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Area Planning Framework for a 12-week consultation period. This framework will provide supplementary planning guidance to the London Plan, and is an opportunity for key stakeholders and local communities to input their thoughts into a long-term plan for the future development of the area.

The framework considers different growth scenarios with the potential to deliver up to 8,000 new jobs and 15,500 new homes, subject to new transport investments. The strategy also sets out how social, community, economic and environmental infrastructure can be provided so that good growth can be achieved in this key part of the Thames Estuary growth corridor.

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the annual Heston West Big Local, Community Volunteer Awards Celebration in Hounslow, on 6 December
- I attended the interviews with the final applicants for the position of the London Fire Commissioner on 9 December
- I chaired the London Economic Action Partnership board meeting on 10 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 10 December
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 11 December
- I addressed GLA staff at the GLA Christmas Party on 13 December
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 16 December ahead of the Assembly Transport Committee
- I attended the funeral of the Rt Hon Frank Dobson on 16 December
- I launched the winter rough sleeping campaign at Westfield White City on 16 December
- I attended the annual GLA Carol Service at Southwark Cathedral on 16 December
- I attended the Metropolitan Police Service Carol Service at Westminster Abbey on 17 December
- I attended the Assembly Transport Committee on 17 December to answer questions on Crossrail
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 19 December
- I had my regular meeting with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 19 December to discuss policing and security
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 19 December
- I attended the Labour Group Annual Reception on 19 December
- I attended Chanukah in the Square on 22 December
- I attended the City Hall festive meal for homeless people on 24 December
- I attended the London New Year Fireworks on 31 December

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