

London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time) – 22 May 2013
Transcript: Agenda item 4 – Mayor's Report

Darren Johnson (Chair): The Mayor will now provide an oral update of up to five minutes on matters occurring since the publication of his report and then there will be opportunities for Members to ask supplementary questions on that.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London): Thank you, Darren, and good morning, everybody. Since we last met there has been a steady stream of positive developments in post-Olympic London. I would single out particularly what has been happening at the Park where eight out of the eight venues now have a secure future. Members of the Assembly will know what happened with the stadium. I hope you have seen what we have done now with iCITY, which means you will get a new TV channel, BT Sport, in that enormous press broadcast centre. We are looking for a snappier name, by the way, than International Broadcast Centre (IBC) or Main Press Centre (MPC). We are trying to think of a snappier name, so if Members of the Assembly have one at their fingertips it would be gratefully received. Techodrome or something like that is being discussed at the moment.

We went to see the fruits of the investment by Transport for London (TfL) in cutting-edge British technology in Northern Ireland where there are hundreds of people who are going to be employed on producing the New Bus for London, the cleanest, greenest bus of its type and a marvel of new technology in spite of some of the cynicism that I occasionally hear from Members of the Assembly.

We are pursuing the volunteering legacy of the Games with a £100,000 investment in a Team London innovation fund.

A lot of the Assembly were there the other day when Tony Travers [Director, Greater London Group, London School of Economics and Political Science] launched the London Finance Commission Report and I was very pleased by the wide measure of approval and acceptance of that report generated amongst colleagues around this horseshoe. I think it is the right way forward for London. Obviously, we are now at the beginning of a discussion rather than the climax and there will be a lot of hard arguing to do but I look forward to your support in that matter.

Finally, I might mention a couple of investments. The Global Repertoire Database, a ground-breaking project to catalogue the world's music, is coming to London. Today we are very glad to see the announcement of one of the largest contracts placed by the private sector in the last ten years, a sign of the increasing confidence in investment in London and the London economy, in the decision to award the contract for regeneration of the area and buildings around the Battersea Power Station to Carillion, a £400 million contract.

Darren Johnson (Chair): Thank you. Are there any questions from Members on the Mayor's update? No? Thank you.

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