

**London Assembly**  
**MQT – 15 June 2011**  
**Thirty-first Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

This is my thirty-first report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period 5 May to 1 June 2011.

## **Annual London Survey 2011**

On 25 May, the topline results of my Annual London Survey were published.

This year's survey shows that Londoners are feeling safer and believe that more police on the streets has helped to reduce crime. 64 per cent of Londoners surveyed this year are not worried about crime in their local area compared to 54 per cent in 2010. Eight out of ten Londoners (81 per cent) feel that increased police presence has helped them feel safer and almost three-quarters (73 per cent) believe that more police has helped to reduce crime. The fear of being mugged or attacked on the street has reduced significantly from 30 per cent last year to 18 per cent in 2011.

The survey reveals that priorities for Londoners have changed this year and jobs, training and youth opportunities are much more important than in previous years (up from 36 per cent in 2010 to 68 per cent this year). The cost of housing is also a greater concern, with 23 per cent citing affordable housing and property prices as their main priority, up from 16 per cent last year.

A more detailed written report will be available early June.

## **Executive Summary**

### **Swathe of Thames riverside opens up to south east Londoners**

A unique stretch of wetlands on the bank of the Thames in Erith has been opened up to local residents and workers on the Belvedere Industrial Park, with help from my Great Outdoors programme.

### **Business bootcamps launched to train 1,000 new entrepreneurs**

On 13 May, I called on budding entrepreneurs to boost their chances of success by signing up for a series of tailor-made 'Business Bootcamps'. The programme will give around 1,000 new entrepreneurs the opportunity to develop the key skills they will need to build successful businesses.

### **2,000 job and training opportunities created within the GLA Group**

GLA figures show that between April 2010 and March 2011 more than 1,100 people joined apprenticeship schemes run by both the GLA Group and its contractors. With around 2,000

apprenticeship opportunities created since 2009, I am now well on track to meeting my target of creating 3,000 throughout the GLA group and its suppliers by 2012.

### **New electric vehicle scheme switched on**

On 26 May, I launched the capital's first city-wide electric charge point network and membership scheme, making it easier for electric vehicle owners to plug in whilst on the move.

### **Recycling saves money campaign**

On 12 May, I launched a new Recycle for London campaign to urge Londoners to recycle even more. The aim of the campaign is to help local authorities save taxpayers' money and build on the £30 million Londoners saved last year by recycling. Indeed, if we doubled our recycling efforts we could save up to £320 million by 2015.

## **Policing and Community Safety**

### **Safer Parks Award**

On 13 May, I hosted the Safer Parks Award Winners Event with all 32 award winners attending from 20 London boroughs to receive bronze, silver or gold awards.

My Safer Parks Award aims to recognise officially and promote new and existing good practice in tackling anti-social behaviour and increasing safety in London's parks. On the day, successful applicants received a Mayor's Safer Parks Award plaque to display in the park. They will also receive a logo to use on websites, letterheads and publicity materials for a 12-month period. A tool-kit containing useful marketing information will also be available.

### **Community Conversations Programme**

On 26 May 2011, I attended the fifth Community Conversations Programme in Hackney (after Croydon, Waltham Forest, Brent and Haringey), to be followed by Southwark in June and Lambeth in September. Once again, it was extremely well attended; all enjoyed full and frank conversations. The next event will take place in Southwark. These events are:

- A chance for the community to have direct contact with GLA staff and myself to discuss one of my key priorities – tackling serious youth violence.
- Provide a platform for local people to share their experiences and views.
- Promote and raise awareness of action and current action being taken to address youth crime.
- Engage with local communities to get them talking about what action can be taken at a local level, and
- Get people to discuss, sign up and promote my Mentoring Programme.

### **Continued support for the alcohol ban on public transport**

A survey of 1,000 Londoners carried out for the GLA found that 87 per cent of Londoners polled support the alcohol ban on public transport in the capital, introduced as one of my first acts on taking office three years ago. Almost nine out of ten asked said they supported the ban

with 77 per cent saying they strongly supported it and another 10 per cent tending to support it. Just five per cent of those asked opposed the ban.

The ban has improved the experience of travel in London and helped to contribute to a fall in the number of assaults on Tube staff over the last three years. The number of assaults fell by 15 per cent between the introduction of the ban in 2008 and 2011. British Transport Police say they have welcomed the ban, which they believe Londoners are generally abiding by.

### **Metropolitan Police Adopts Olympic Procurement Tool**

The Metropolitan Police Service has announced that it will use CompeteFor to procure goods and services above £500 and under £50,000. The online procurement tool, which was created by the LDA for the London 2012 Games, will increase the accessibility and transparency of the Met's contracts and give suppliers the opportunity to bid for work with other government supply chains.

The CompeteFor website matches buyers and suppliers within the Olympic supply chain, and has since been adopted by other the public sector buying organisations, such as Westminster City Council, Haringey Council and Transport for London. The system is also being used for the Crossrail project. Over 8,500 opportunities have already been posted on CompeteFor from over 900 public and private sector buyers. To date over 6,000 awards have been made with an approximate value of £1.1 billion. Of these contracts, approximately 70% have been won by SMEs.

### **Visit to London Borough of Ealing**

On 13 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited the London Borough of Ealing. Police officers from Southall Police Station hosted the visit. A presentation took place at the station to update the Deputy Mayor on policing matters in the borough and this was followed by a walkabout in Southall to look at some of the work the MPS are undertaking with betting shops in the area to cut down crime and anti-social behaviour.

## **Transport**

### **Safer Travel at Night**

On 24 May, Transport for London announced that 1,300 arrests have been made over the last twelve months in a crackdown on touting and other cab-related offences during 2010/11.

The latest figures show the success of the ongoing Safer Travel at Night (STaN) initiative. A joint partnership between my office, TfL and the City of London and Metropolitan Police Services, STaN aims to reduce the number of cab-related sexual offences by raising awareness of the dangers of using unbooked 'minicabs', also known as touts and illegal cabs, and by using targeted police and enforcement activity to identify, disrupt and deter illegal cab activity. Despite significant progress over recent years unbooked 'minicabs' remain a high priority issue as they are a danger to the public, especially as they operate around the Capital's night life.

During the latest three-night-operation, that took place over the weekend of 21-22 May in central London, the West End and parts of Camden, there were 39 people arrested for touting and other cab-related offences. Officers used undercover tactics and also conducted roadside vehicle and licence compliance checks on all 'minicabs' within the operation area.

## **Huge boost to train services on key Olympic rail route**

On 23 May, Transport for London announced the completion of a three-year £550m upgrade programme on the London Overground and the publication of a new timetable that will deliver up to double the number of trains on this key Olympic rail route.

The upgrade, funded by TfL, the Olympic Delivery Authority, the Department for Transport, Network Rail and the Stratford City Implementation Group, means that London Overground services from Richmond and Clapham Junction to Stratford will run four times an hour every day, increasing the total number between Willesden Junction and Stratford to eight trains per hour in the peak. This is an increase from the 4 trains per hour (tph) that currently operate on that section.

In addition four trains per hour will run every day on the Gospel Oak to Barking line and up to eight trains an hour between Highbury & Islington and Dalston Junction on the East London route.

As part of the upgrade TfL also funded a fleet of 57 brand new air-conditioned trains, and a station refurbishment programme that has delivered cleaner and safer and well-staffed stations with better access, new information, help points, lighting and CCTV.

The work is the latest example of 2012 transport infrastructure improvements delivered well ahead of the Games, and means an early transport legacy for Londoners that will be enjoyed for many years after the Games.

## **Lean, green machine put through its paces**

On 27 May, I viewed the prototype of the New Bus for London as it embarked upon a rigorous testing regime at one of the UK's top vehicle development centres. If tests go well then the new bus, with its hop on and hop off platform, remains on schedule to be on the streets of central London by early next year.

While at Millbrook Proving Ground the new bus will undergo months of testing to check every aspect of the engineering design. That will include the performance of the diesel-electric hybrid system, operating performance and engine emissions. General handling of the bus will be put through stringent tests as well as the chassis and superstructure.

The new bus features the latest hybrid engine technology and has a revolutionary new electric motor that will deliver a significant weight saving over a conventional bus.

The version of the new bus that is being tested is only intended to operate on the busy roads of central London. But the potential of its environmental technology is that if rolled out across the entire fleet of London buses it could potentially reduce CO2 emissions in the capital by 230,000 tonnes a year.

## **New electric vehicle scheme 'Source London' switched on**

On 26 May, I launched the capital's first city-wide electric charge point network and membership scheme, making it easier for electric vehicle owners to plug in whilst on the move.

With 150 new charge points operating under a single scheme, Source London is now the capital's largest charging network. It has significantly boosted existing numbers of charge

points operated by a range of different localised schemes. By 2013, Source London will total at least 1,300 charge points, more than the number of petrol stations currently in London, ensuring the infrastructure is in place for significantly more people and businesses to buy an electric vehicle from the expanding range coming to market.

Annual membership of Source London is £100, enabling card holders to charge up at any Source London point as many times as required. Charge points are located on streets and in car parks and are instantly recognisable in Source London branding. Users simply touch their membership card to the reader on the charge point and then plug in their vehicle to charge.

Source London is also working closely with other regions to help drive the creation of a UK-wide charge point network. Plans to enable members to use both Source London and the soon to be launched East of England charge point network are currently underway. The East of England network is also set to use the same Source 'look and feel' on their charge points under a scheme called Source East.

### **Station improvements ease Clapham commute**

A £300,000 funding package from my Great Outdoors programme has transformed the approach to the recommissioned Brighton Yard entrance to Clapham Junction station, which had been disused for more than half a century.

The restored entrance and improvements to its approach now means Clapham Junction, Britain's busiest station, has step-free access with much reduced congestion. The investment is part of a £14.5 million restoration scheme which has also seen access to the platforms and trains transformed with the installation of new lifts and the construction of a new ticket hall.

Bringing the Brighton Yard entrance back into use was made possible through funding from the Department of Transport through its Access for All programme, South West Trains, Wandsworth Council and Transport for London.

### **Huge improvements to road safety in London during last decade**

On 12 May, I published new figures which show how road safety in London has improved dramatically over the last ten years, exceeding both Government and City Hall targets.

In the same week that the United Nations declared 2011 to 2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety, the new Transport for London figures reveal how deaths and serious injuries on London's roads have dropped by a staggering 57 per cent over the last decade.

London's roads are now much safer than they were ten years ago and the Metropolitan Police, London boroughs and Transport for London all deserve praise as other countries look to our lead. But there is still much more to be done, especially around the safety of cyclists on our streets. A great deal has been achieved in the Capital but if we are to continue to reduce casualty levels we must not lose our focus in this important work and I welcome the UN's Decade of Action.

### **Further discounts for operators of vehicles affected by new LEZ standards**

On 5 May I announced that even more major vehicle manufacturers have signed up to offer significant discounts for drivers of vehicles set to be affected by changes to the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) next year.

I want to make the air cleaner and greener in this great city with the minimum of financial impact for those who need to upgrade their vehicles. I've already given extra breathing space during the depths of the recession before these standards are introduced, and I am pleased that a number of manufacturers are now offering new discounts to aid us in our efforts. Pollution remains a serious health issue, one which I take very seriously which is why as I redouble our efforts to clean up London's air with one hand, I will also be fending off European fines with the other.

Renault and Fiat have pledged to provide more affordable ways to buy new, cleaner vehicles to the owners of around 72,000 larger vans and minibuses that will need to take action to avoid fines. This will enable them to avoid daily charges when changes to the LEZ come into effect in January 2012. Eighty per cent of vehicles affected by the LEZ for the first time in 2012 are vans and the deals in some cases amount to thousands of pounds off a new vehicle. DAF has also come forward and offered to provide the owners of HGVs a discount towards the purchase of new, cleaner vehicles. Around 75,000 owners of HGVs, buses and coaches will have to take action to meet tighter LEZ standards in January next year.

These companies join existing deals from Ashwoods, Citroën, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Peugeot and Volkswagen which I announced in April.

### **Averting RMT industrial action**

Following a meeting between London Underground's Mike Brown and the RMT's Bob Crow on 10 May, an agreement was reached to call off the proposed industrial action over staff disciplinary matters surrounding two employees (Mr. Lynch and Mr. Thomas).

There are established mechanisms in place to deal with individual disputes, and that is the process that has been followed here. Following the meeting with the RMT leadership the union withdrew their threat of industrial action and we avoided significant disruption for London. Responding to the results of the Employment tribunal, not to the threat of strike action, London Underground has agreed to re-engage Mr. Lynch in its employment in an alternative position and to discuss Mr. Thomas' case further ahead of the planned employment tribunal. London Underground is pleased to have secured agreement from the RMT leadership to jointly engage in an independent review of industrial disputes.

### **Proposed Northern line extension public consultation begins**

On 9 May, Transport for London and developer Treasury Holdings started a public consultation to hear local residents' views on the proposed private-sector funded 3km extension of the Northern line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station. The public consultation finishes on 17 June.

The iconic Battersea Power Station and its surrounding area have lain dormant too long but the incredible potential of the area could be realised by a privately funded extension of the Tube. The plans have the potential to transform this part of London into a thriving new quarter, and deliver the first expansion of the Northern Line for around 70 years.

TfL has no funding identified for the Northern Line extension to Battersea Power Station but is working with Treasury Holdings and the London Boroughs of Wandsworth and Lambeth to explore a range of innovative funding and financing solutions including Tax Increment Financing.

My Transport Strategy supports an externally funded extension of the Northern line to support development in the surrounding area. The Tube extension is part of a package of transport measures that would enable the regeneration of the GLA's wider Opportunity Area which covers Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea.

This new infrastructure would support up to 25,000 jobs and 16,000 new homes in this major redevelopment area. It will supplement existing Tube and National Rail stations, as well as the Vauxhall bus interchange, and help ease pressure on Vauxhall station.

### **Docklands Light Railway ready for London 2012 with three-car upgrade completed**

The Docklands Light Railway's (DLR) three-car upgrade was completed on time and within budget with the launch of three-car trains on the Tower Gateway to Beckton route from 9 May.

With passenger numbers increasing on the DLR every year having the ability to run a three car service right across this crucial piece of our transport network is vital. The 50 per cent increase in capacity and longer platforms to accommodate them have been delivered bang on time and more than a year ahead of the 2012 Games.

As well as longer platforms, the £325m upgrade also includes improved track and signalling, £13m of improvements to Tower Gateway station and an entire new station at South Quay. 55 new carriages costing £100m (£80m from Transport for London and £20m from the Olympic Delivery Authority) were also commissioned.

The entire DLR network is now three-car capable. From 7am until 7.30pm three-car trains will run on the Tower Gateway to Beckton route every eight minutes. Newham residents have been asking for this extra capacity and I am pleased to be able to provide it for them.

### **Contract awarded to complete London Overground's orbital railway**

On 20 May, I confirmed that Transport for London has awarded a contract to Birse Metro to build the final part of the London Overground rail network that when complete will orbit the capital.

The Surrey Quays to Clapham Junction link will mean passengers can use London Overground services to make journeys around London without needing to head into the centre of the capital. Although most of the extension will run along existing National Rail lines, construction work has begun on a new stretch of track to link London Overground services at Surrey Quays with railway at Old Kent Road.

This small but incredibly significant stretch of track will be the final section of a mighty wheel of Overground services around the capital. The improvements it will bring are precisely why I made a strong case to Government for the extra funding needed to make this project a reality. South Londoners will now be able to take advantage of the fast and frequent London Overground services that already link so much of our great city.

### **London Underground makes revised multi-year pay offer**

London Underground (LU) has made a revised five-year pay offer to trade unions which would see staff get a four and half per cent pay increase this year, followed by a rise of inflation (RPI)

plus 0.25 per cent in the four subsequent years. A further guarantee has also been given that LU would not take into account negative RPI, should such a situation occur, so staff would be guaranteed a pay increase each year.

The five-year offer was made to all trade unions at a meeting of LU's Company Council on 12 May. An initial offer was made in April, at which time London Underground asked the trades unions to take into account that the basic pay offer could be improved if their claims for changes to other terms and conditions could be limited to those which did not incur extra costs.

As before, LU has committed to examining further issues around statutory holiday working arrangements, flexible working and career breaks for train operators. Discussions also continue with trade unions on working arrangements over the period of the London 2012 Games.

### **Transport for London community cycling grants to boost cycling projects across the Capital**

Transport for London is offering 25 grants of £5,000 to groups and organisations to help increase the number of cyclists in their communities.

The grants are part of the Community Cycling Fund for London (CCFL), a scheme funded by Transport for London and administered by the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) to support home grown initiatives that enable people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the benefits of cycling.

Any community group wishing to apply for funding was able to do so between 20 May and 3 June. Funding may be used to help to run local rides, events, bike maintenance or other small scale projects that encourage cycling and build the confidence of new and infrequent cyclists.

This is all about helping the smaller cycling groups within London to pass on their enthusiasm for cycling to local people. There is an army of potential cyclists and the smaller community groups have the local knowledge that will help them encourage other Londoners to take to two wheels.

### **Consultation on exemptions to taxi and private hire vehicle age limits**

Transport for London is asking for the opinions of the taxi and private hire trade in a consultation on proposed exemptions to age limits which will be introduced for both taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) in 2012.

The consultation began on 23 May and will run for eight weeks. Responses to the consultation will be considered by the Director of Taxi and Private Hire, and a decision will be taken on exemptions later this year.

I am implementing a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing emissions harmful to Londoners' health. Transport for London has consulted closely with the taxi and private hire industry on elements of this affecting the black cab and private hire trade and we now welcome comments regarding the proposed exemptions to vehicle age limits.

## **London Cycle Challenge is back for 2011**

I am encouraging Londoners to inspire their friends, family and colleagues onto two wheels by signing up for the London Cycle Challenge.

Thousands of Londoners are expected to take part in this year's event, which is run by Transport for London and takes place between 18 June and 15 July. The challenge is free to enter and online team registration is now open to everyone who lives, works or studies in London. And thanks to the arrival of the flagship Barclays Cycle Hire Scheme – you don't even need to own your own bike to get involved!

Bragging rights are at stake for teams of cyclists all over the capital but the Cycle Challenge is also a great way for new cyclists to join forces and give it a go. Summer is the perfect time of year for people to step up the amount of time they spend on two wheels and the Cycle Challenge is an ideal motivation to do so.

Groups of friends, families, work colleagues or schools can create teams to challenge each other – and other teams – to see who can cycle the most miles. Miles mean points and Londoners who rack up the most points could win some great prizes. All cycle journeys count – for work or for fun – even out of London. There are prizes of cycling goodies for small, medium and large teams. Schools can also set up teams and go head-to-head with other London schools.

Entrants simply need to visit the website [www.tfl.gov.uk/cyclechallenge](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cyclechallenge) where they can join or register a team, and then log their miles throughout the Challenge. Progress can be checked on a real-time leader board and friendly rivalry is encouraged by joining the London Challenge 2011 Facebook group. A short promotional film about the Challenge also appears on the website homepage.

## **Cyclists' concerns accounted for in revised plans for Blackfriars junction**

Cyclists' concerns about proposed changes to the junction outside Blackfriars station have been addressed in revised plans released by Transport for London on 18 May.

Changes need to be made to the junction to take into account an increase in people using the area later this year when improvements being made by Network Rail are complete and the station reopens. The views of cyclists who were concerned by the original plans have been taken into account in a new design that will allow every road user to navigate the junction safely.

Transport for London reconsidered the plans on behalf of Network Rail's consultants and concluded that changes could be made to the layout that would safely allow the northbound cycle lane outside Blackfriars station to be widened to 2 metres and retain the 1.5 metre southbound cycle lane outside Blackfriars station.

I am very pleased that Transport for London has taken the feedback from cyclists who use this junction into account and used their comments to deliver the best scheme possible. The changes they have made support my desire to improve the facilities for cyclists right across the Capital.

The junction at the north end of Blackfriars Bridge is extremely complex and a lot of work has gone in to try and balance the needs of all road users to ensure they can pass through the junction safely.

Transport for London, working on behalf of Network Rail, will begin work on the changes in June 2011 ahead of the reopening of Blackfriars station at the end of the year.

### **Blooming marvellous river boat service to RHS Chelsea Flower Show**

The most famous garden event in the world took place at the end of May and we looked to make the day extra special this year with the help of London River Services.

During the five day long RHS Chelsea Flower Show one of our River Bus operators, Thames River Taxi, operated temporary services calling at the conveniently placed Cadogan Pier. Boats called in the morning and the evening on each of the days serving selected eastbound and westbound piers.

### **Partnership awarded Excellence in Technology and Innovation at the London Transport Awards**

Transport for London, Cubic Transportation Systems and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) have won the award for Excellence in Technology and Innovation at the London Transport Awards for the joint work on the Oyster Extension to National Rail project.

Since it was extended to all 350 National Rail stations in Greater London in January 2010, Oyster pay as you go on National Rail has been a huge success, bringing London together by allowing passengers to use all public transport in the Capital with one smartcard. There have been 124 million PAYG journeys on National Rail, including the London Overground, since January 2010. I look forward to building on this success, and in particular to offer customers the opportunity to use contactless bankcards to pay as they go across London in 2012.

The partnership was recognised at the prestigious awards ceremony on 27 April.

### **Temporary changes to bus stopping arrangements at Waltham Cross Bus Station**

From 23 May several bus services will not be calling at Waltham Cross Bus Station while essential resurfacing and drainage works are undertaken. Construction will take place Monday to Fridays between 08:00 and 18:00 and will last for approximately four weeks.

Details of stopping arrangements during the works will be available at local bus stops and around the bus station, and on the website [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk). Bus station staff will also be available to advise passengers of where to catch their bus.

### **Aviation Issues**

I have directed Transport for London to assess issues associated with the Government's aviation policy review for aviation to, from or within Greater London including but not limited to aviation capacity issues, impacts of proposals and engaging with Government in relation to aviation policies as appropriate and respond to the DfT's consultations and any matter ancillary to doing so. The Direction is time limited to 31 May 2012 and will be reviewed at this date.

## **Economic and Business Policy, and Skills**

### **Business bootcamps launched to train 1,000 new entrepreneurs**

On 13 May, I called on budding entrepreneurs to boost their chances of success by signing up for a series of tailor-made 'Business Bootcamps'. The programme, launched at the British Library's Business and IP Centre with £275,000 of funding from the Royal Bank of Scotland and £135,000 from the EU's Interreg scheme, will give around 1,000 new entrepreneurs the opportunity to develop the key skills they will need to build successful businesses.

The bootcamps, inspired by a similar project in New York, will cover a wide range of sectors, including digital and mobile technology, fashion, hospitality, entertainment, creative and bio-tech industries. Co-ordinated by Capital Enterprise, the membership organisation for enterprise support providers in London, Business Bootcamps will see a total of 27 sessions being run over the next 12 months that provide intensive training.

With between 25 and 50 places available on each, the bootcamps will be run by established business people and experts in their field at some of London's leading universities, training colleges and other professional bodies. Participants will benefit from access to the latest 'insider knowledge' of their chosen field, networking opportunities, access to key contacts and discounts on equipment that will help them to get successful businesses off the ground.

### **2,000 job and training opportunities created within the GLA Group**

GLA figures show that between April 2010 and March 2011 more than 1,100 people joined apprenticeship schemes run by both the GLA Group and its contractors. With around 2,000 apprenticeship opportunities created since 2009, I am now well on track to meeting my target of creating 3,000 throughout the GLA group and its suppliers by 2012.

I have also ensured jobs for more than 1000 unemployed people in the past 12 months by requiring GLA suppliers to deliver job and training opportunities as part of the conditions of winning a contract. My programme, which uses the power of public sector procurement to combat directly unemployment, is the first of its kind in the country and the GLA has been in discussions with national Government and large businesses to encourage a wider adoption of the approach. Early evidence suggests that of the unemployed who have obtained a job through the scheme, around 80 per cent are still in work a year later - an extremely high success rate.

The GLA's unique model has been so successful that it has now been adopted by a wide range of large organisations delivering major employment generating projects, including Crossrail, the Olympic Delivery Authority and LOCOG.

### **BeOnsite visit**

On 11 May, my Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited BeOnsite, the national not-for-profit company created by Lend Lease. He attended the Olympic site with members of the London Strategic Migration Partnership, my Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel and representatives from migrant and refugee communities.

The company provides skills and sustained employment opportunities within the property sector for disadvantage people including the unemployed, homeless, ex-offenders, serving prisoners, BAME community and people with disabilities.

In the three years since BeOnsite was created they have provided 216 people from excluded groups with tailored, industry specific training and secured full-time paid employment for 137 people, either as a direct BeOnsite employee or with a partner organisation.

Participants had the chance to hear from the trainees, who shared their experience and the positive impact the training and work had made on their lives.

### **Morison International Annual Conference**

On 6 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and gave the opening address to the Morison International Annual Conference that took place in St Paul's. Morison International is an international association of leading independent accounting firms and has some 92 member firms in 61 countries. Richard welcomed delegates to London and spoke of the immense contribution that the accountancy industry makes to the capital.

### **ESOL Learners**

On 18 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a meeting with ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students and tutors at City Hall. The students and tutors came from Greenwich Community College to discuss ESOL provision and funding in the capital.

### **Ealing Mencap Opening**

My Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the opening of Enterprise Lodge by Ealing Mencap in Perival on 19 May. The official opening of the building and facilities was performed by Mrs Samantha Cameron, wife of the Prime Minister.

### **International Student Reception**

On 20 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the International Student Reception at City Hall on my behalf.

The event was hosted by Study London, now part of London and Partners, and aimed to recruit students and alumni ambassadors for London, to undertake research with its audience and to announce new student initiatives. It is estimated that there are some 105,000 international students in London, more than New York with 76,000. Over 11,000 of London's International Students are Chinese.

### **London & Partners Appointments**

I have approved the applications for membership of the Company from the British Hospitality Association (BHA) and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

I have approved the appointment by the London & Partners board of Gordon Innes as CEO of London & Partners and approved the appointment of Andrew Cooke as the executive with responsibility for the financial affairs of the Company.

I have delegated to the Head of Paid Service authority to commence the selection process for the appointment of the Chair and one other non-executive director to the L&P board at a date he considers appropriate.

Finally, I have approved the extension of Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas as interim Chair to 31 January 2012.

## Consultation and Engagement

### Londoners invited to ask the tough questions

On 19 May, I took part in an impromptu live question and answer session on Twitter. I hosted the online debate with Twitter users ahead of my fourth statutory State of London Debate, now known as Talk London (@talklondon).

## Environment

### Recycling saves money campaign

On 12 May, I launched a new Recycle for London campaign to urge Londoners to recycle more. The aim of the campaign is to help local authorities save taxpayers' money and build on the £30 million Londoners saved last year by recycling. If we doubled our recycling efforts we could save up to £320 million by 2015.

The campaign featured on sites across the capital's transport network throughout May, alerting Londoners to the financial benefit of recycling more and appealing to them to visit the campaign's website to find out how they can do so. Waste collection and recycling is managed by London's 33 borough councils so, to help people easily check their local recycling services, a revamped Recycle for London website - [www.recycleforlondon.com/city](http://www.recycleforlondon.com/city) - features a postcode checker to find out exactly what to recycle from home and how to locate nearby recycling facilities.

### Capital Clean-up campaign

The 2011 Capital Clean-up Campaign website has gone live at [www.london.gov.uk/capitalclean-up](http://www.london.gov.uk/capitalclean-up). The website comes complete with an interactive map to help Londoners find volunteering opportunities near them or get support to organise their own clean-up activities. My officers are working in partnership with Team London and the Campaign Advisory Group, which includes Thames21, LOCOG and Keep Britain Tidy, to encourage all London boroughs to register their clean-up events and seek out volunteers during the campaign. The summer portion of the 2011 campaign is taking place from 10 June to 24 July, with more activity to come in the autumn. Events can be registered on the campaign web page or by contacting my campaign coordinator at [capitalclean-up@london.gov.uk](mailto:capitalclean-up@london.gov.uk).

### Capital Growth

On 20 May, my Capital Growth project, in conjunction with B&Q, took over the whole of Trafalgar Square in London's first ever Tomato Flashgrow and gave away 60,000 tomato plants to Londoners to help them join in the grow-your-own revival which Capital Growth is helping to achieve in London. I attended the event and saw how engaged the public were with this fantastic initiative. The event was a primer for the Chelsea Flower Show which opened on 23 May.

Capital Growth has teamed up with two gardens at Chelsea - B&Q's and Bulldog Tools - to create gardens which showcase how easy it is to grow food in urban environments. All plants from both Gold award winning gardens will be donated to lucky Capital Growth spaces.

## **Help a London Park**

My Help a London Park programme is really progressing. Three of the 11 parks are nearly finished and on-the-ground work is full steam ahead at almost all of the remaining parks. Work has recently started on site at Mayesbrook Park in Barking and Dagenham and Lordship Rec in Haringey, and is due to start at Burgess Park in Southwark in the coming weeks. It is fantastic to watch these parks improving - especially when the funding they are receiving is a direct result of a public vote.

## **RE:LEAF**

On 25 May, I lent my support to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Trail. The trail encourages exploration of the capital by foot or bike on a new zero carbon, cyclable ancient tree trail. The trail links some of the greatest and oldest living creatures in London, from the 500 year old holm oak at Fulham Palace to "Barney" the giant London Plane in Barnes. Starting in the heart of the city, the trail follows Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 4 west along the Thames. Then on through Richmond Park, which has the highest density of ancient trees anywhere in the capital, before joining the tranquil tow path to end at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The trail is fully downloadable via <http://www.ancientreehunt.org.uk/>.

## **Climate change adaptation**

One of my officers attended a workshop in Luxembourg on 12 May to help the European Investment Bank ensure that projects that they lend money to are resilient to climate impacts and thus represent better value for public money.

## **Children and Young People**

### **Peer Outreach team gives Parliament pointers on engaging with youngsters**

On 10 May, my Peer Outreach Team, a group of 15 to 25 year olds who advise me on youth issues in London, met with the Speaker's Advisory Council on Public Engagement (SACPE) to help Parliament communicate better with young people.

The Council, which is made up of volunteers from outside the political arena and chaired by John Lewis Managing Director Andy Street, provides independent advice to the House of Commons Speaker John Bercow on how Parliament can improve the way it listens and engages with communities. The Council was keen to get the expert views of the Peer Outreach Team on how to get young people interested in the work of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

### **Recruitment drive for adult volunteers**

On 7 May, hundreds of young Londoners belonging to one of London's many uniformed groups hit the streets of the capital in a mass coordinated recruitment drive aimed at attracting 1000 adult volunteers to help their organisations. This recruitment push for YOU London, the

umbrella group for the capital's uniformed groups which I support, aims to take 7,000 boys and girls off waiting lists and into groups across the city.

### **London Foster Carers Recognition Event**

On 20 May I was delighted to host the first Londonwide event, with The Fostering Network, to celebrate the invaluable contribution foster carers' make to the lives of young Londoners.

I had invited London boroughs and some independent fostering agencies to nominate foster carers to be recognised at the event at City Hall. These foster carers were presented with letters of appreciation for their significant efforts on behalf of London's children.

I took the opportunity to highlight the need for more Londoners to consider whether they could provide a home for a young person in light of the shortfall of 2000 foster carers in London, particularly foster carers for teenagers. Young care leavers at the event also thanked the foster carers for their care and support, and conveyed how foster carers had changed their lives. The event chair, David Akinsanya, similarly endorsed their huge contribution from his care background perspective.

There was considerable media interest in the contribution of these remarkable Londoners. Coverage on BBC London, ITN London, The Evening Standard and a number of local newspapers has raised the profile of fostering during 'Foster Care Fortnight', and I hope this will encourage more Londoners to come forward.

### **Young people's engagement and opportunities**

I made a surprise appearance at a workshop of GLA Peer Outreach Workers with the Olympic Legacy Youth Panel on 10 May, who were exploring young Londoners' expectations of the 2012 legacy. I made it very clear how much I value this work being done by young people for young people in relation to the 2012 Games.

My Peer Outreach Workers are working on a number of other projects, for example engaging with Channel 4's Battlefront, an innovative online/on television project starring a crew of 14-21-year-olds. Battlefront gives young people the opportunity to campaign for six months around a particular issue which they feel passionate about, with support from celebrities.

On 13 May, Battlefront visited City Hall to seek the guidance of my Peer Outreach Workers on key issues facing young Londoners. Some of the ideas generated for the series included more positive media portrayal of young people, poverty, better support for care leavers and young mums, tuition fees, mental health and well-being, sexual health, eating disorders and improving the school curriculum.

### **Young Londoners Participation Network**

On 23 May, the quarterly meeting of the Young Londoners Participation Network took place. This Network of eight hundred members, which the GLA co-convenes, includes organisations in public, private and voluntary sectors which support front-line youth work.

Its thematic focus was on young people's skills and employment, with discussion on how to make apprenticeship opportunities more accessible for all young people. I am pleased that specific feedback on my drive, with others, for more London companies to take on apprentices

was that in their direct work with young people they are finding that more opportunities are now being made available by London employers.

WorldSkills were invited to the meeting to offer opportunities for the young people they work with to become involved in volunteering at a range of different venues, including airports, hotels and conference centres. There was also the offer of funding to deliver 'taster sessions' in the run-up to Worldskills.

Attendees valued these opportunities for young Londoners to access the thousands of job and training opportunities being promoted at WorldSkills, which will be a great event at ExCeL London on 5-8 October 2011 to show the world the great pool of talent in our country and in our capital.

## **Social Inclusion and Health**

### **Third Annual Report of the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum**

On 23 May, I Launched the Third Annual Report of the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum at The Treehouse School in Muswell Hill.

The report highlighted the equality and diversity successes achieved by the London 2012 stakeholders in 2010/11. The London 2012 stakeholders are all represented on the London 2012 Equality and Diversity Forum which is the body responsible for assessing and monitoring the works of 2012 stakeholders to ensure that diverse communities across the country benefit.

### **Polish National Day**

On 9 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended a Reception at the Polish Embassy in Portland Place to celebrate the occasion of Polish National Day.

### **Young Diplomats Breakfast Meeting**

On 12 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and spoke at the Young Diplomats Breakfast Meeting in Portman Square.

### **Visit to P3 Charity Services**

On 13 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited the P3 Charity Services organisation in Hayes. He followed the visit to their headquarters with a trip to a house that helps resettle young people who are turning their lives around with support from the charity.

### **Visit to The Selby Centre**

My Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited the Selby Trust at The Selby Centre in Tottenham on 16 May. Senior representatives from the Trust met with Richard to discuss with him their plans for the future of the Trust and the redevelopment of the centre.

## **The Variety Club PROPS Awards**

On 17 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Variety Club PROPS Awards in Park Lane.

PROPS is a charity which raises money for wheelchairs for disadvantaged and disabled children through the Variety Club. The awards were sponsored by Aviva and the event was hosted by Omid Djalili.

Richard accepted the 'Most Significant Contribution to London' Award on my behalf for the Barclays Bicycle Hire Scheme along with Brendan Jarvis of Barclays Bank.

## **No Longer Invisible**

On 19 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended and made a speech at 'No Longer Invisible' at City Hall.

The event was held to formally launch a major piece of research on London's Latin American community. The research and report was commissioned jointly by the Trust for London and the Latin American Women's Rights Service and covered population size in the capital and key economic and social features of the community in London.

## **Ugandan High Commissioner**

On 19 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted HE Mrs Joan Rwabyomere, the Ugandan High Commissioner, to City Hall.

The High Commissioner wished to discuss potential cooperation between London and Kampala and also the plans for the Olympic Games in 2012. The Mayor of Fort Portal attended the meeting as well.

## **Lusophonic Reception**

On 21 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended a Lusophonic Reception in Crystal Palace.

The Reception was an informal cultural and gastronomic event that brought together people from South American and African backgrounds who now live in London.

## **Refugee Council**

On 24 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, hosted a meeting with the Refugee Council at City Hall. Matters discussed included the development of work programmes and funding.

## **Brussels OPENCities Conference**

On 25 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the Brussels OPENCities Conference and gave a keynote speech on 'The importance of strong city leadership for openness and long term success'.

The Deputy Mayor also acknowledged at the Conference the award given to London by OPENCities as the 'Most open global city' from a list of some 26 world cities. This award is based on how open and welcoming our city is based on migration matters, freedom and democracy, barriers of entry and international events.

### **UKBA National Asylum Stakeholder Forum**

On 26 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the UKBA National Asylum Stakeholder Forum at City Hall. The Deputy Mayor introduced Damian Green MP, the Minister for Immigration, at the Forum before Mr Green delivered the keynote speech.

## **London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Legacy and Sport**

### **Games tickets for London Schoolchildren**

On 12 May, I encouraged London's schools to join the London 2012 Get Set Network.

It is easy to join the network via the 2012 website. All schools have to do is answer three simple questions about the work they are doing with their students about the Games and the Olympic and Paralympic values (respect, excellence, friendship, courage, determination, inspiration, equality). The whole process should take a matter of minutes and in doing so teachers can be certain that they have secured the allocation they are entitled to.

The free tickets offer is only available until 16 December and schools must join the Get Set Network before this date to secure their allocation.

### **£4m investment to improve London's South Bank**

London's South Bank, one of the capital's most popular visitor destinations, is set to benefit from a £4 million makeover in time for the 2012 Games.

Working with Southwark and Lambeth Councils and local business and residents' groups, I want to ensure that during the summer of 2012 everyone visiting the capital, particularly those with accessibility needs, can enjoy the South Bank's many cultural attractions, restaurants, cafes, bars and shops. This major investment will therefore leave a lasting legacy from the Games by making it much easier for people to access this historic, popular and special part of London.

As London prepares to welcome the world in 2012 I am excited about presenting the capital as the Best Big City in the World for all to visit, live in and work in. I am also investing more than £220 million in my 'Great Outdoors' programme to improve more than 50 of the capital's public spaces in time for the Games, making them more accessible and more pleasant places to experience.

### **London to get dressed for 2012 Games**

Every corner of the capital will be able to bring to life the excitement and celebration of the 2012 Games by dressing up its high streets, squares and public spaces in the official colours and branding of London 2012.

On 31 May, I announced that each London borough will receive £50,000 to decorate their key areas with flags, banners and bunting enabling them to spread the 'look and feel' of London 2012 across the capital.

Boroughs will be encouraged to submit their own proposals for how their area might look, giving them the flexibility to decide how the iconic designs will be used to best display hidden aspects of London, highlight public spaces and enhance the fabric of the city.

In the first glimpse of how the capital might look and feel during next summer of 2012, graphics have been issued illustrating the range of materials boroughs can purchase. This is the first part of a major programme that will also see London's iconic landmarks and popular tourist venues spectacularly dressed to welcome the world to London in 2012. A final "Look Book", a catalogue of finished designs and all materials the boroughs will be able to purchase, will be released this summer.

### **2012 Games reaching out to Londoners from every walk of life**

Sports projects across the capital are set to benefit from £2 million funding from my unique Sports Legacy Programme created to ensure that the grass-roots sporting legacy of the 2012 Games reaches as many Londoners as possible.

Thousands of Londoners from all backgrounds and communities are already participating in sporting activity as a direct result of my £15.5 million Sports Fund, which is set to rise to well over £30 million with match funding from sponsors and other organisations. Since the fund was launched in early 2009, £8 million of grants have already been awarded to establish and support more than 300 projects and the new grants follow the latest bidding round which ended this month.

On 23 May, I visited the TreeHouse School at the Pears National Centre for Autism Education in North London to see its new outdoor all weather games area which was part financed through a £21,000 City Hall grant. This inspirational project shows how London 2012 is reaching out and benefiting Londoners from all backgrounds and abilities.

### **QPR Sports Coaching/Community Programmes**

On 19 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, visited Loftus Road Stadium, the home of Queens Park Rangers Football Club. Senior representatives of the club's coaching and community programmes presented their work to the Deputy Mayor and briefed him on their plans for the future. QPR in the Community Charitable Trust deliver their programmes across the areas of Brent, Westminster, Hillingdon, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham. The Deputy Mayor congratulated the club on their recent promotion to the Premiership and wished them all the best for the new season.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Security Meeting**

On 24 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, met with Robert Raine, Director of Olympic and Paralympic Security at The Home Office.

### **One Year To Go – Olympic Countdown Celebration**

I have directed the London Development Agency to transfer £330,000 to the Greater London Authority for use by the GLA for Olympic related events.

I have approved:

- The use by the GLA of up to £330,000 for the delivery, marketing and promotion of the 1YTG event, and Sky Orchestra.
- The commencement of a competitive procurement exercise, using the existing Events for London Framework, to source an experienced event organiser to deliver the 1YTG event. As well as delegating power to the Director of External Affairs to approve any award of contract for event management services based on the best value bids received through the tender process.
- The seeking of sponsorship for the 1YTG event in order to reduce the net costs of the event. As well as delegating power to the Director of Marketing to enter into related sponsorship agreements.
- Entry into a Funding Agreement with the London International Festival of Theatre to support the delivery of the Sky Orchestra.

## **London Ambassadors**

In order to resource the development, administration and delivery of the programmes, I have directed the LDA to:

- transfer £3.5m (£2.5m of LDA revenue funds for the London Ambassadors programme, £350,000 of LDA revenue funds for the Welcome to London programme, and £650,000 of LDA revenue funds for the Accessibility programme), less any expenditure incurred by LDA in delivery in Financial Year 2011/12 up to date of transfer, to the GLA.
- assist with the transfer of the employment of the five staff supporting the London Ambassadors function and the one staff member supporting the Welcome to London function to the GLA.

I have approved the delegation to the Director of London 2012 Coordination, the authority to exercise any function of the London Ambassadors, Welcome to London and Accessibility programmes.

I have also approved £3.5million of the London Ambassadors project budget to be funded from the Public Sector Funding Package for the Games using the GLA Games precept. As well as authorising the Executive Director Resources to make all appropriate budget adjustments for the London Ambassadors, Welcome to London and Accessibility Programmes.

## **Government Relations**

### **Meeting with the Home Office Secretary of State**

On 24 May, I met with the Home Secretary, Theresa May MP, and we discussed policing in London and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

## **Housing**

### **Landlord Accreditation**

On 5 May, I appointed Helen Cope Consulting to complete a study considering the sustainable growth of landlord accreditation in the capital. The study, which will report in mid June, will gather the views of landlords, lettings agents, boroughs and existing accreditation schemes and set out a range of options for consideration.

## **Culture and Events**

### **Big Dance**

On 9 May, I was pleased to support the 'Big Dance Royal Flash Mob' that took place outside the gates of Buckingham Palace. This special event involving 130 young dancers was choreographed by students from the University of East London. It celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh's patronage of the Performing Arts for young people and was part of the countdown to Big Dance 2012. The event followed the announcements that Big Dance will go national in 2012 and Wayne McGregor has been appointed Big Dance Creative Director for Trafalgar Square.

### **Artists' Studios**

On 9 May, I convened a think-tank to discuss the future of artists' studio provision in London. The meeting was attended by developers, architects and planners and was hosted by New London Architecture.

### **My Fund for Young Musicians**

On 12 May, I launched the Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians at a special fundraising concert. This new charity, working in partnership with the GLA, aims to raise £2m through philanthropy by March 2012. It will provide intensive instrumental learning for 400 young people who face financial or other barriers, plus the chance for tens-of-thousands of young people to work with top professionals.

### **Vaisakhi 2011**

On 15 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes and Director of Environment & Digital London, Kulveer Ranger, attended the Sikh New Year Festival at Trafalgar Square. This was the ninth annual event, which is organised by the GLA in association with Sunrise Radio who provided a popular stage programme with traditional and contemporary acts, which catered for everyone. In addition, there was food, exhibitions, stalls and free interactive activities for children and families.

This event is the first Asian Festival in the cultural calendar and sees crowds of over 25,000 attend to enjoy the festivities. As with all the cultural festivals staged on Trafalgar Square, Vaisakhi welcomes all Londoners and visitors regardless of background to come together for shared celebration. This year was no exception and the event attracted an enthusiastic audience of Sikhs as well as people from many different communities.

## **Busking Underground Competition**

On 24 May, public voting opened on my Rhythm of London Busking Underground Competition. The public's favourite act will join the 10 best, as chosen by music industry judges, to perform in the live 'Busk Off' final at Southbank's Vintage Festival in July. Visit [www.london.gov.uk/rhythmoflondon](http://www.london.gov.uk/rhythmoflondon) to view the buskers' videos and cast your vote.

## **Londoners encouraged to catch the street party fever**

On 19 May, Barbara Windsor and I were joined by celebrity chefs Antony Worrall Thompson and Levi Roots, and award winning musician Jazzie B to help Wandsworth residents get ready for the Big Lunch. Representatives from boroughs across the capital, who have signed up to become one of Barbara's growing brigade of community spirited local champions, also attended the event.

Street parties took place right across the capital to celebrate the Royal Wedding last month and my Street Party Ambassador Barbara Windsor and I want Londoners to embrace their local communities and join in the biggest street party in the country - the Big Lunch on 5 June. Last year 800,000 people took part across the UK, over 160,000 of which were in London.

On 25 May, MasterCard helped to promote The Big Lunch by constructing the world's biggest street party table (90 metres long) in Potter's Field.

## **Plans for the Capital's first festival of contemporary Arab culture**

On 26 May, I revealed that London will host the city's first ever celebration of contemporary culture from across the Arab world. Shubbak: A Window on Contemporary Arab Culture, will encompass over seventy events in more than thirty key cultural venues throughout the city for three weeks from 4 – 24 July 2011, organised by the GLA and sponsored by HSBC.

Shubbak (the arabic word for 'window') will feature a wide-ranging programme of visual arts, film, music, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, lectures and discussion, many of them free, hosted by leading London cultural organisations.

## **UEFA Champions League Final**

As London geared up to host the UEFA Champions League Final at Wembley Stadium on 28 May, fans had the opportunity to immerse themselves in an eight-day football extravaganza in Hyde Park.

'The UEFA Champions Festival' was a free eight day festival of football which took place from 21 - 28 May and gave fans the opportunity to experience European football's premier club competition with a range of unique football activities. The trophies for both the Men's and Women's Finals were also on display at More London, next to City Hall on 17 and 18 May.

## **Chopin Memorial**

On 18 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes, attended the unveiling of the Chopin Memorial on the South Bank. The unveiling was followed by a concert and the event was attended by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, HE Madame Ambassador of Poland and David Liddington MP, the Minister for Europe.

## **GLA Organisation**

### **Transfer of Diversity Works for London from LDA to GLA**

I have directed the LDA to transfer to the GLA the 2010-13 DWfL programme as approved by the LDA Investment Committee on 28 January 2010, and £429,000 budgeted for the programme for 2011-12.

I have agreed to delegate the power to approve all further recommendations and spend relating to DWfL and its allocated budget to the Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence.

### **Appointment of LDA Chief Executive**

I have given my consent to the appointment of Ms Lurene Joseph as the LDA's CEO as required by the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998.

### **Re-establishment of the GLA's Standard Committee**

Jointly with the London Assembly, I have approved the re-establishment of the GLA's Standards Committee for the 2011-12 year or until the abolition of the current Standards regime, whichever is earlier, on the same basis as it is currently constituted, namely with 5 Assembly Members (2 Conservative AMs, 2 Labour AMs and 1 Liberal Democrat AM), the Statutory Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes AM, and 6 Independent Members;

I have delegated my role on the Standards Committee to Richard Barnes AM, Statutory Deputy Mayor, to continue as a member for 2011-12.

Finally, jointly with the London Assembly, I have agreed to extend the current appointments of Diane Mark, Sir David Durie and Sam Younger as Independent Members until April 2012 or the abolition of the current Standards regime, whichever is earlier.

## **Planning and Development Control**

### **London River Park plans find backer**

On 13 May, I announced that up to £60 million funding had been pledged to build a spectacular kilometre long floating river walk along the north bank of the River Thames in time for summer 2012.

The 'London River Park' design, by global architects and planners Gensler, won my Award for 'Planning Excellence' at the 2010 London Planning Awards arousing much interest amongst potential backers. Asset managers Venus Group of Singapore have agreed to finance the project and detailed plans will now be submitted to the City of London Corporation and other relevant authorities for consideration.

I have had a number of meetings to discuss the London River Park.

## **Swathe of Thames riverside opens up to south east Londoners**

A unique stretch of wetlands on the bank of the Thames in Erith has been opened up to local residents and workers on the Belvedere Industrial Park, with help from my Great Outdoors programme.

More than £10 million has been invested in a series of environmental and transport improvements on the park, including £2 million from the London Development Agency. Our investment has delivered a new link road connecting local communities and workers from the park's factories and businesses with the lush wetlands and wildlife of Erith's historic marshes and adjacent parklands.

The other funding from Europe and the Homes and Communities Agency has improved access to the marshes and riverside with new walkways and cycle paths, restored the network of ditches and dykes and upgraded flood protection measures enhancing the whole area and making it a far more pleasant green space to live, work and invest in. It is anticipated the improvements in Bexley will indirectly lead to the creation of more than 8,000 new jobs by boosting the economic prospects of the area, increasing the diversity of employment and attracting investment.

On 11 May, I officially opened the Belvedere link road with Bexley Council leader Councillor Teresa O'Neill.

## **Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)**

### *Dexion House, LB Brent*

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

### *Neptune Wharf, LB Lewisham*

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

### *Former Capsticks Building, 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.

### *Land at Stockwell Street, LB Greenwich*

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

### *82-84 Piccadilly, City of Westminster*

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

### *5 Broadgate, City of London*

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

*Westel House, 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.

*Gallions Reach, LB Newham*

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

*Wandle Park, LB Croydon*

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

### **Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)**

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

- Copthall Stadium, LB Barnet
- Ruskin Square, LB Croydon
- Colville Estate, LB Hackney
- The Huntingdon Industrial Estate, LB Tower Hamlets
- Guy's Tower, LB Southwark
- 17 Sutton Court, LB Sutton
- Principal Place, LB Hackney
- Cherry Orchard Road, LB Croydon
- Thameside Centre, LB Hounslow
- Kings Reach Tower, LB Southwark
- 500 Purley Way, LB Croydon
- Land at Royal Mint Street, LB Tower Hamlets
- 1 New Street Square, City of London
- Kestrel Grove Nursing Home, LB Harrow
- Travis Perkins (11-13 St Pancras Way), LB Camden

### **Development Plans**

I have written to the following Councils giving a response to their development plan consultations:

- Harrow Core Strategy, Pre-submission, LB Harrow
- Waltham Forest Local Development Scheme, LB Waltham Forest

### **Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning**

- William Ellis Sport Ground, LB Harrow
- Bentley Priory, LB Harrow
- Unit (A-F), 18-42 Wharf Road, LB Hackney
- Wah Kwong House, LB Lambeth
- South Fulham Riverside SPD, LB Hammersmith & Fulham

- Draft Section 106 SPD, LB Enfield
- Ponders End Central Planning Brief SPD, LB Enfield
- Hockey and Paralympic Football Centre, Olympic Delivery Authority
- Residential Design Standards – Consultation Draft, LB Southwark
- Silvertown Quays, LB Newham

## Key Engagements

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

- I visited Romford on 5 May to make a community safety announcement
- I met with Mastercard on 6 May to discuss investment opportunities in London
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 6 May
- I met with the Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office on 9 May to discuss civil service relocation
- I had my regular discussion on policing in London with Sir Paul Stephenson on 9 May
- I met with Ginny Greenwood & Richard Morris, Chief Executive and Vice Chair of the Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians, on 10 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 10 May
- I hosted a community reception for Havering & Redbridge on 10 May
- I met with Qatari Diar on 11 May to discuss investment opportunities in London
- I attended a Britweek Joy of Reading event on 11 May
- I met with Andrew Boff AM & Johnnie Walker, Chair of the Hackney and Leyton League, on 11 May to discuss Hackney Marshes
- I visited Bexley Grammar School and opened the Belvedere link road on 11 May
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 12 May
- I attended the launch of the Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians on 12 May
- I attended the Business Boot Camp launch on 13 May
- I attended the Safer Parks Award event on 13 May
- I attended the Get Set Schools Olympics event on 16 May
- I attended a photo with representatives of the IASLC on 16 May
- I had an introductory meeting with László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on 16 May
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 16 May
- I appeared before the DCMS Select Committee to talk about preparations for the Olympic Games on 17 May
- I had my regular meeting with Harvey McGrath and Sir Peter Rogers, LDA, on 17 May
- I attended the Mayor's Question Time on 18 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 18 May
- I attended the Bureau of Leaders on 18 May
- I attended a Friends of the Olympic Park event on 18 May
- I visited Clapham Junction Station to open a new accessible entrance and platform on 19 May
- I visited a community centre in Clapham with Barbara Windsor on 19 May to promote the Big Lunch
- I held a live Q&A session on Twitter on 19 May
- I attended the Olympic Board Meeting on 19 May

- I attended an event to celebrate the work of Foster Carers on 20 May
- I launched the London 2012 Equality & Diversity Annual Report on 23 May
- I met with the creative teams for the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies on 23 May
- I met with Shaun Dawson, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, on 23 May to discuss legacy sports facilities
- I attended the Thames Landscape Strategy event on 23 May
- I met with Michael Gutman, Westfield, on 24 May to discuss areas of joint working
- I had my regular monthly catch up with James Cleverley AM, Leader, and Richard Tracey AM, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group on the Assembly on 13 May
- I met with the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary, and Nick Herbert MP on 24 May to discuss policing
- I attended the State Banquet hosted by the HM The Queen in honour of President Obama on 24 May
- I met with Baroness Margaret Ford and Andrew Altman, Olympic Park Legacy Company, on 25 May to discuss Olympic Legacy
- I attended the British Bankers' Association Lunch on 25 May
- I attended the world's biggest street party table event hosted by Mastercard in Potter's Field to promote the Big Lunch on 25 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 25 May
- I attended the launch of Source London in Kingston on 26 May
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 26 May
- I attended a Community Conversation Programme event in Hackney on 26 May
- I test drove the new Bus for London on 27 May
- I attended the Champions League Final at Wembley on 28 May
- I met with Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils, to discuss areas of joint working on 26 May
- I met with the Conservative group on 31 May
- I had my regular meeting with Harvey McGrath and Sir Peter Rogers, LDA, on 31 May
- I attended the opening of Soul in the City at St Mary's Islington on 31 May
- I attended the Big Build event at Stratford Northern Ticket Hall on 1 June
- I toured the Olympic Park on 1 June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 1 June

**Ends**