

10th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 22 March 2017

This is my tenth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 7 February – 8 March 2017.

Executive Summary

Cressida Dick announced as the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service

On 22 February, following a rigorous and competitive recruitment process, I was delighted to be able to join the Home Secretary in announcing Cressida Dick as the next Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, the first female Commissioner in the history of the Service.

Healthy Streets for London

In 16 February, I published 'Healthy Streets for London' my long-term vision to encourage more Londoners to walk and cycle by making London's streets healthier, safer and more welcoming.

London Brexit blueprint

On 9 February, I set out plans for a London Brexit blueprint at the first meeting of my Brexit Expert Advisory Panel. The Panel, which includes business leaders from the financial services, technology, science and the media, will provide their unrivalled knowledge and experience to the formation of London's Brexit paper which will be published towards the end of this month.

£4.2m boost for vulnerable rough sleepers

Vulnerable rough sleepers, many of whom have mental health, drug and alcohol issues, are among those who will benefit from a £4.2 million funding boost.

Rough sleepers are at serious risk every night they spend on the streets and this funding will help reduce the dangers they face and improve their quality of life. I'm determined to do everything in my power to address this issue.

Trafalgar Square screening - The Salesman

On 26 February, I welcomed an audience of 10,000 people to Trafalgar Square for a free public screening of the Oscar nominated film *The Salesman* by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi. The film was screened on the same night as the 89th Academy Awards Ceremony, where it won the Oscar for best foreign language film.

This free event celebrated the capital's success as a creative hub and a global beacon for film, as well as demonstrating that London is open to creative talent and people from all countries and all communities.

Progress on devolution to London

On 8 March, I welcomed the publication of a new London Devolution Agreement as part of the Budget. I believe this marks a major step towards London getting the control it needs to grow and protect the capital's economy from the uncertainty of Brexit.

Policing, Crime and Security

New Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service

On 22 February, following a rigorous and competitive recruitment process, I was delighted to be able to join the Home Secretary in announcing Cressida Dick as the next Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, the first female Commissioner in the history of the Service.

Her experience and skill shone through during the recruitment process and there is no question that she was the outstanding candidate. I look forward to working closely with her as we deliver the Police and Crime Plan for London.

Later that week, we marked Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe's last day as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service and his last day as a police officer.

I am deeply grateful to Sir Bernard for the service he has given to London and to the nation during a policing career spanning over 30 years. I'm sure I echo the sentiments of the Assembly in wishing him well as he begins his retirement.

Additional £27 million for policing in London

On 20 February, I confirmed that I am increasing my funding of policing by £27.8 million this year, to a total of £621.6 million.

This additional £27.8 million funding follows warnings by the former Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe that proposed Government cuts, on top of the savings that have already been found since 2013, may mean that the MPS will have to introduce NHS-style "rationing" of its services to Londoners and cut thousands of police officers.

Since 2010, the government has systematically cut police budgets in London. The Home Office is now preparing plans to change the way the overall police budget is divided between different forces across the country, and there is a real risk that they will seek to move police funding away from London and give it to other forces instead.

When they considered similar changes in late 2015, the MPS stood to lose between £184 million and £700 million. Ministers are expected to make a decision on the final figure later this year.

In December 2016, the Government set out that MPS funding next year would be £17.4 million lower than in 2015-16, because the previous Mayor, Boris Johnson, cut the police precept last year, the same year as the Mayoral election. This was despite a Government warning that if he did not provide additional funding from council tax, it would result in future cuts to police funding.

Policing and Crime Plan Consultation

On 2 March, the consultation period for the Police and Crime Plan closed. Since June last year, we have led the largest programme of engagement and consultation on policing ever seen in London, carrying out surveys, public meetings, focus groups, round tables and summits as we sought to include as many Londoners and as many partner organisations as possible.

We have had feedback from thousands of Londoners to help us make sure that the Police and Crime Plan fully reflects the needs and wishes of the people of our city, and I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has taken the time to have their say.

Transport

Croydon tram derailment – TfL’s response to the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) February interim report

Our thoughts remain with all those affected by the tragic tram derailment and we continue to do all we can to offer our support.

In February, TfL responded to a second RAIB interim report. My Transport Commissioner, Mike Brown, set out how TfL continues to work with the RAIB and will take on board all recommendations from this and other investigations, including TfL’s own, that are underway.

Before resuming services on 18 November 2016, and in accordance with advice in the RAIB’s first interim report, additional speed restrictions and associated signage were introduced near Sandilands and at three other locations on the tram network.

In January this year, TfL installed chevron signs at four sites with significant bends including Sandilands to provide an additional visual cue for drivers. TfL recently held a summit with other tram operators from around the country and continues to consider further safety measures that could be introduced.

The TfL Sarah Hope line remains available to all those affected and continues to provide help with counselling and other support.

Judgment on Uber High Court Challenge

On 3 March, the High Court backed my plans to drive up standards and improve passenger safety in London.

Drivers being able to speak English and understand information from passengers and licensing requirements is a vital part of ensuring passengers get the high standard of service they need and deserve. This could include discussing a better route, talking about a medical condition, or ensuring every driver is fully up to date with new regulations.

TfL will of course look at the High Court judgement in detail to ensure all our policies fully comply, as we continue to work to improve standards and passenger safety across London’s private hire and taxi services.

Healthy Streets for London

In 16 February, I published 'Healthy Streets for London' my long-term vision to encourage more Londoners to walk and cycle by making London's streets healthier, safer and more welcoming.

A major part of London's first ever full time Walking and Cycling Commissioner's role will be working to deliver this new agenda, the biggest ever focus on walking and cycling in the capital.

Examples of how this new approach will be delivered in practice include:

- Street level – improving local environments by providing more space for walking and cycling, and better public spaces where people can interact.
- Transport network level – prioritising better and more affordable public transport and safer and more appealing routes for walking and cycling, reducing the dominance of motor vehicles and developing creative approaches to managing freight and deliveries.
- Strategic level – Planning new developments so people can walk or cycle to local shops, schools and workplaces, and have good public transport links for longer journeys.

In addition to the substantial physical health benefits, my new approach will serve to reduce air and noise pollution, improve mental health, combat social isolation and bring economic benefits to local high streets across the capital. It will also focus on minimising road danger and tackling congestion.

Two new electric bus routes announced

On 15 February, I announced two more bus routes will run exclusively electric buses, as part of my ambitious plans to cut London's toxic air pollution.

London already boasts the largest electric bus fleet in Europe and the addition next spring of 36 buses on routes C1 and 70 will take the total number of electric buses to 121 on top of the 2,000 hybrid electric buses.

The new buses are part of my hard-hitting package of proposed transport measures to cut toxic air pollution, including introducing a £10 'T-charge' for the most polluting vehicles and expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), as well as bringing forward the ULEZ start date.

My plans to transform the capital's bus fleet include:

- Making sure all double-decker buses operating in the central ULEZ comply a year earlier by 2019, meaning each of the 3,100 double-deck buses operating in the zone will be Euro VI hybrid.
- Expanding the ULEZ retrofit programme to up to 3,000 buses outside the central zone by 2020 (up from 800) and to 4,200 by 2021 (more than 5,000 in total).
- Procuring only hybrid or zero-emission double-decker buses from 2018.
- Creating 12 Low Emission Bus Zones, operational by 2020, that will see NOx emissions along particular routes fall by more than 80 per cent.
- More than 3,100 double-deck buses operating in London to be hybrids by 2019.

London will experience unprecedented overcrowding without Crossrail 2

On 8 February, I warned that the capital's transport network will grind to a halt under the strain of overcrowding unless the Government backs plans for Crossrail 2.

TfL modelling shows that, without Crossrail 2, at least 17 Underground stations will buckle under crowding pressures and thousands of passengers arriving at Euston on HS2 phase 2 could lose time saved on their journeys as they will have to queue to board onward trains.

Improvements to the Tube network and the opening of the Elizabeth line (Crossrail) will provide extra capacity in the coming years, but they will not be enough to cope with the anticipated demand.

Crossrail 2 would increase the capital's rail capacity by 10 per cent – bringing in an additional 270,000 people into central London each morning peak – cutting journey times, improving connections and accessibility. It would also support the regeneration and development of up to 200,000 new homes and 200,000 new jobs in London's economy, as well as creating 18,000 jobs during construction and supporting a further 60,000 jobs nationwide through its supply chain – boosting the UK economy by tens of billions of pounds.

Half the cost of the project can be met through funding from London, but we need the Government to meet the other half if we are to avoid this unbearable strain on our transport network. Crossrail 2 is the answer to help the entire country, because when London succeeds, Britain succeeds.

Record-breaking January for Santander Cycles follows record-breaking year

London's cycle hire scheme has enjoyed a record-breaking start to 2017 with more than 600,000 journeys made in January 2017.

The 638,491 hires beat last year's January record of 586,325, and followed a record-breaking 2016. Last year an unprecedented 10.3 million hires were made using Santander Cycles – a 4.4 per cent increase on 2015. In total since the scheme was launched in July 2010, there have been more than 56 million journeys.

Among the improvements made last year were the introduction of Blaze Laserlights to all 11,500 bikes to make riders more visible, a new Santander Cycles Business Accounts scheme, and more bikes and docking stations, including at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Later this year, a next-generation bike will be introduced for Santander Cycles that retains the popular features of the existing model, but will be lighter and more manoeuvrable with smaller wheels, a lower frame, a new gear hub and a more comfortable seat.

Bakerloo line extension to support new housing and jobs

The extension of the Bakerloo line moved a step closer with TfL's latest consultation on detailed proposals for new stations beyond Elephant & Castle.

The proposed extension to Lewisham via Old Kent Road and New Cross Gate will be vital in meeting the needs of the capital's growing population. Collaboration with the local boroughs, Lewisham and Southwark, means at least 25,000 new homes and 5,000 new jobs could be supported through the extension.

Four new stations are being proposed along the route to boost connectivity and support regeneration.

New London Overground raised platforms improve accessible travel

Customers using the East London line are now benefitting from the introduction of level access raised platforms at Canonbury station.

Already successfully introduced at a number of London Underground stations, this marks the first time the raised access platforms have been implemented on the London Overground network.

The new humps mean that wheelchair users can board and alight from trains without the need to use a manual boarding ramp.

Tottenham Court Road becomes step-free as huge station modernisation completed

The completion of the upgrade of Tottenham Court Road Underground station has made step-free access available to both the Central and Northern lines for the first time.

This makes it the 71st Tube station on the network with step-free access, and makes travel around central London even easier for older and disabled people and other customers who find it difficult to use stairs or escalators.

The station has been completely modernised and expanded to meet the needs of London's rapidly growing population. The station is now ready for the new Elizabeth line, which will run through the station from next year, and will be able to deal with any future increases in demand – the planned Crossrail 2 project, for example, includes Tottenham Court Road on its route.

The iconic Paolozzi mosaics on the Central and Northern line platforms and in the rotunda space have also been repaired and restored with 95 per cent of the original mosaics retained. The signature piece from the former entrance on Oxford Street has also been relocated within the station.

Lambeth North re-opens following installation of new, more reliable lifts

Passengers using Lambeth North London Underground station are now enjoying easier journeys now that the station has reopened with its two new lifts installed.

While this work was taking place, TfL installed new ticket gates to reduce congestion at busy times. Lighting has also been replaced and the ticket hall and passageways have been repainted, creating a more welcoming environment.

Closing the station in July 2016 allowed the work to be completed as quickly and efficiently as possible, more than halving the time it would have taken to install the lifts had the station remained open during the refurbishment.

Huge crane lifts Northern Line Extension tunnelling giants 20 metres below ground

A major milestone in the construction of the Northern Line Extension has been reached with the lowering of two giant tunnel boring machines (TBM), called Helen and Amy, 20 metres below ground in Battersea, ahead of tunnelling due to start in March.

The two TBMs will create two 3.2km underground tunnels to extend the Charing Cross branch of the Northern line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms Station. Tunnelling will take six months to complete. The extension, targeted for completion in 2020, is the first major Tube line extension since the Jubilee line in the late 1990s.

Both tunnelling machines will now be fully assembled within two 77m long launch tunnels, before starting their journeys towards Kennington in March. When fully assembled, Helen and Amy will each be 100 metres in length.

According to tunnelling tradition, the machines cannot start work until given a name and, following a vote by local school children, were named in honour of the first British astronaut, Helen Sharman, and British aviation pioneer, Amy Johnson, who was the first female pilot to fly solo from Britain to Australia.

Transport Strategy Development

I have directed TfL to prepare the revised Transport Strategy and the associated integrated impact assessment. TfL is tasked with undertaking a consultation of both documents and completing the post-consultation tasks required.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

Business Rate Increases

On 21 February, I warned that some businesses in London could be forced to close down if the Government ploughed ahead with plans to increase the business rates this year for many of the capital's ratepayers.

The Government's misguided business rates hike, together with the uncertainty caused by Brexit, are a double whammy for business in London.

The New West End Company, London Councils, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses in London, the Heart of London Business Alliance and many other leading organisations, joined me in writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, arguing that the scale and suddenness of the business rates hikes will have a negative impact on pubs, retailers, restaurants, shops, theatres and clubs.

London Brexit blueprint

On 9 February, I set out plans for a London Brexit blueprint at the first meeting of my Brexit Expert Advisory Panel. The Panel, which includes business leaders from the financial services, technology, science and the media, will provide their unrivalled knowledge and experience to the formation of London's Brexit paper which will be published towards the end of this month.

I accept the result of the EU referendum and the democratic will of the British people, but now we have to strike a deal that safeguards London's position as the best city in the world to do

business, including maintaining the best possible access to the single market and retaining our ability to attract talent from Europe and around the world.

As we head into the thick of negotiations with the EU, the Government must hear from the leaders of business, finance and science on London's needs. That is why my Brexit Expert Advisory Panel is going to play a key role in developing and advocating London's needs.

Britain only succeeds when London succeeds, so any Brexit deal must work for London.

Taking 'London is open' message to Europe

On 8 February, I announced that I will visit five major European cities in March to declare that the capital remains the number-one destination for investment, business and tourism, and to discuss London's needs from the Brexit negotiations.

Talks are expected to cover London's needs from the Brexit negotiations and key issues that the capitals have in common with London, including air quality, the night-time economy and the need for greater social integration. There will also be discussions of the importance of joint security work in the aftermath of Brexit, to help keep London and Europe safe from terrorist attacks.

I promised to be the most pro-business Mayor this city has ever seen and it is vital that we demonstrate to our partners overseas that, despite Brexit, we remain open to business, investment, talent and ideas.

London will remain the best place in the world to do business and our collaboration with other major European cities will not cease.

One in Four – London's Construction Sector

On 27 February, I published a report which reveals that more than a quarter of London's construction workforce is from the European Union and that their future in the UK will be uncertain if the government goes ahead with a so-called 'Hard Brexit'.

The report sets out that of those working in London's construction sector, the workforce behind building much-needed new infrastructure, affordable homes and office space in the capital – 95,000 are from the EU.

These figures underline the enormous contribution that Europeans make to London and retaining and having access to a highly skilled workforce is absolutely essential to protecting jobs, growth and tax revenues across Britain over the decades ahead.

The figures are taken from 'Housing in London 2017', a report that summarises key statistics on a wide range of topics and which comprises the evidence base for my emerging London Housing Strategy.

Timewise's 2017 Power Part Time List

On 8 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, spoke at the launch of Timewise's 2017 Power Part Time List at City Hall, to discuss the business impact that comes from offering flexible working.

Innovative flexible hiring is an effective practice that delivers on the challenges of diversity, talent attraction, retention and progression faced by many businesses in London and across the country.

Royal Docks Enterprise Zone Delivery

The Royal Docks Enterprise Zone (EZ) became operational on 1 April 2013 and has the potential to deliver up to 40,000 jobs and 4,000 homes. The EZ comprises several GLA Land and Property Ltd (GLAP) owned strategic development sites at the heart of the Royal Dock's Opportunity Area.

The EZ is designed to accelerate economic and housing growth and enables new business rate income within the area to be retained and recycled for a period of 25 years. It is therefore important to accelerate delivery and maximise the regeneration potential of the EZ.

I have granted approval to implement enhanced delivery and governance arrangements and to provide the necessary resources (to be funded through the business rates uplift) to develop and initiate an EZ Detailed Delivery Plan in order to implement a programme of early regeneration projects.

Housing and Land

£4.2 million boost for vulnerable rough sleepers

Vulnerable rough sleepers, many of whom have mental health, drug and alcohol issues, are among those who will benefit from a £4.2 million funding boost.

This is an early success for my new 'No Nights Sleeping Rough' Taskforce – a partnership between City Hall, central government, London's boroughs, homelessness charities and other agencies to tackle rough sleeping in the capital – which helped put the funding bids together.

A series of specialist providers will now be selected to operate these services.

The projects are:

- £2 million for a rough-sleeping Social Impact Bond – alongside £1 million from City Hall – which is an innovative results-focussed way of helping more than 300 of London's rough sleepers with most demanding needs, such as mental health issues and drug and alcohol problems.
- £1.875 million for a 'safe connections' project, to find a bed for people who have slept rough at least twice in the last three months.
- £340,000 for a pan-London 'hostels clearing house' pilot, to help those willing to move into a hostel and fill empty beds across the capital.

Rough sleepers are at serious risk every night they spend on the streets and this funding will help reduce the dangers they face and improve their quality of life.

I'm determined to do everything in my power to address this issue, but while these projects will have a positive impact, rough sleeping will clearly not be solved overnight.

Call for short-term letting agencies to bring in 90 day limit

Last year, I wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee raising concerns that letting properties in the capital on a short-term basis all year round could lead to a loss of London's much needed housing stock. Following discussions with local councils across the capital, I have been keen to find a better way for them to balance the right of Londoners benefiting from renting out their homes for short periods with the protection of local residents and the retention of housing for long-term use.

Airbnb – which has about 50,000 listings in the capital – announced in December last year that it would place a block on its website so its hosts in London could not make more than 90 nights of bookings a year for their entire home without planning permission.

I welcomed Airbnb's very positive and forward-thinking introduction of the 90-day lettings block – and on 2 March wrote to six other online short-term letting agents operating in London, urging them to do the same. They include Veeve, One Fine Stay, Wimdu, Booking.com, HomeAway and Airsorted.

ExCel Centre Plots

I have given approval for GLA Land and Property Ltd to enter into agreements with LIEC and Mount Anvil on the development of Plots WE4A, WE4B and WE5B. I have also approved GLA Land and Property Ltd entering into a section 106 agreement and a Deed of Indemnity in relation to plot WE5B of the ExCel Estate.

Environment

Emissions Surcharge (T-Charge)

On 17 February, I visited Coram's Fields youth and children's centre in the heart of London and announced that the Emissions Surcharge (or T-Charge) would commence on 23 October 2017.

The T-charge is effectively a bolt on to the existing Congestion Charging Scheme and entails a £10 supplement from vehicles that do not meet the Euro 4 standards for both PM and NOx (typically these vehicles are registered before 2006).

This interim step before the introduction of the ULEZ will reduce the numbers of older more polluting cars entering central London.

Call to Government to adopt diesel scrappage scheme

The toxic state of our air leaves us with no choice but to rid our city of the most polluting diesel vehicles. It is shocking that nearly half of new car sales in the UK are still diesel vehicles and the national system of vehicle excise duty still incentivises motorists to buy these polluting cars.

I am urging government to immediately review this policy and on 13 February I delivered a detailed report on how the Government can deliver an effective national diesel scrappage fund. One that both fairly compensates motorists and rapidly helps clean up our filthy air.

The key recommendations have now been presented to the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Andrea Leadsom MP, and the Minister for London, Gavin Barwell MP. They include:

- Payments of £3,500 to scrap up to 70,000 polluting vans and minibuses in London and a national fund to support charities and small businesses that often own older diesel and mini buses (approximately £245 million in London).
- A credit scheme valued at £2,000 to help low-income households in cities (those with incomes lower than £231.60 per week after housing costs) scrap up to 130,000 polluting cars, with incentives for car clubs (costing approximately £260 million in London).
- Payments of £1,000 to help scrap up to 10,000 older polluting London taxis (this is in addition to extra TfL help for drivers to upgrade to greener taxis). Traditionally the taxi trade has had a limited choice of heavy, polluting diesel vehicles but this proposed fund would be used alongside wider existing support to help drivers switch to new zero-emission models (approximately £10 million in London).

Urgent implementation of these proposals would help reduce the cost of introducing and expanding the ULEZ and help to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in London road transport NOx emissions.

On 1 March, a broad alliance of business organisations and environmental charities also wrote to the Chancellor, urging him to introduce my proposals for a national diesel scrappage fund.

UK's most polluted cities urge Prime Minister to act on air quality

Every year in Britain 40,000 people die early as a result of air pollution and research from London demonstrates the resulting health effects disproportionately impact the most deprived communities.

On 12 February, in a historic move, the leaders of the five UK cities worst affected by air pollution and I wrote to the Prime Minister urgently calling for action to:

- Make vehicle manufacturers more accountable for emissions – with a zero-tolerance approach to malpractice, following the recent Volkswagen scandal.
- Introduce national minimum emissions standards for private hire vehicles to ensure local requirements are not undermined.
- Introduce greater regulation powers over the use of diesel generators.
- Produce a new 21st century Clean Air Act which will update existing legislation.
- Enshrine the 'right to clean air' in law after the UK leaves the European Union.
- Unlock new powers for local authorities, particularly regarding limiting construction and river emissions.

The letter describes the Government's current £3 million fund for local authorities to clean up their air as "woefully inadequate" and criticises the uncertainty around funding for transport schemes for preventing accurate and detailed planning in the long-term.

It also underlines the fact air pollution is not a problem local authorities can solve alone, they need Government to devolve powerful fiscal incentives such as Vehicle Excise Duty and create a national diesel vehicle scrappage fund.

London Borough Air Quality Report

On 28 February, I published my report on the air quality monitoring and projects delivered by London's boroughs. The report highlighted the key role that boroughs play in monitoring air pollution and delivering air quality interventions at the local level. This is part of my statutory system for London Local Air Quality Management, which requires boroughs to monitor pollution and take action to reduce it. The London-wide report is part of my commitment to provide more support and coordination for borough air quality activity.

This coincided with polling for the GLA which found that 88 per cent of Londoners think air pollution is a big problem, with 66 per cent citing air quality as bad in their local area and 72 per cent calling on ministers to do more.

Updated analysis of air pollution exposure in London

I have published an updated report analysing air pollution exposure in London which found that now more than 800 schools, nurseries and other educational facilities in the capital are in areas breaching legal air pollution limits. This is nearly double the number of educational institutions than previously highlighted and illustrates the shocking impact on our children.

Tree Planting

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, joined Trees for Cities, Cllr Julian Bell and hundreds of volunteers at a community tree planting day at Marnham Fields in Ealing. The Trees for Cities project to plant 20,000 trees is one of those supported by my tree planting grants this winter.

On 16 February, Shirley then joined the Conservation Foundation, Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark and Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford to launch 'Trees for Sacred Spaces'. All 660 London Church of England churches will plant a bee friendly tree in their churchyard or a nearby community space or school, as part of this new Conservation Foundation project supported by my tree planting grant this winter.

Carbon Trust Annual Conference

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave the afternoon address as a keynote speaker at the Carbon Trust Annual Conference, setting out my key ambitions in relation to climate change mitigation, buildings energy efficiency, and smart and decentralised energy. This conference brought together many public sector decision makers who are incredibly important to the delivery of my vision for London.

Greenbelt

On 16 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the London Assembly Planning Committee's 'The Greenbelt of the Future' seminar (on my behalf) where she had the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers on the need to protect the greenbelt and ideas on how it could be improved.

Energy Leap Project

I have an ambition for London to become a zero carbon city by 2050. Achieving this will require economy-wide decarbonisation. London's existing buildings are responsible for nearly 80 per cent of London's CO2 emissions, and with 80 per cent of them likely to still be standing in 2050, a step-change in the pace and depth of our retrofitting needs to start now.

I have given approval for the funding and implementation of the "Energy Leap" Project to help deliver this commitment as part of my Energy for Londoners programme.

Education and Youth

Annual Education Conference

On 24 February, I welcomed 500 of London's education leaders to City Hall for my Education Conference. The theme of the day was 'what does it take to provide a world class education system in London?'

In my address, I thanked teachers and head teachers on behalf of all Londoners for the work they do and their achievements. We now have the best schools anywhere in the country and London leads the way in narrowing the achievement gap between pupils from rich and poor backgrounds.

I promised to fight for London's schools in the face of Government choosing to hit London's children the hardest with their new funding formula proposals, at a time when our capital's schools are already dealing with looming budget cuts and struggling to recruit teachers, all of which could undermine years of improvement.

During the conference we covered a wide range of topics, from early years' education through to teacher recruitment, improving social mobility, driving gender equality in STEM, the importance of music and dance, and examples of excellence in teaching and leadership from around the globe.

All of them cited how London already has many features of an outstanding education system, but also reflected some of those key challenges in London and the UK.

We will be continuing the dialogue with London schools in the coming months so that they can feed in to my plans for our ambitious new partnership vision for education in London, which will help steer my work with schools, boroughs and the wider education system.

On the day, I also published my Annual London Education Report and the GLA Schools Brochure, which are available at www.london.gov.uk/education-conference.

Schools facing more budget cuts

At a time when our capital's schools are already dealing with looming budget cuts and struggling to recruit teachers, it is completely unacceptable that the Government has chosen to hit London's children the hardest.

I want to see our young people get the best chance in life possible, with funding going into local schools rather than expanding a selective system. London has reaped the benefits of investment and become an international beacon for education, with a proven track record in supporting disadvantaged pupils.

Seventy per cent of London schools face reductions in funding under the Government's new proposals for the national funding formula, currently under consultation. This comes alongside the threat of an eight per cent real-term shortfall in funding per pupil across the country by 2019-20, as a result of £3 billion worth of cuts.

The capital's schools are the highest performing in the country but are already under considerable financial pressure and experiencing severe problems recruiting and retaining teachers due to the expense of living in the capital.

These proposals risk undermining everything our excellent teachers have worked to achieve. A miniscule portion of the budget would ensure no school across England has to lose out in this formula, and I am committed to working with education leaders to fight strongly for a fairly funded school system and nurturing our capital's young talent for generations to come.

London Fostering Achievement Event

On 7 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, spoke at a London Fostering Achievement event, which looked at how schools can support new arrivals to settle and integrate into school life.

London Fostering Achievement is a GLA funded innovative peer support programme giving foster carers, teachers and social workers the training and resources they require to champion the needs of young people and support them in achieving their potential.

Social Integration, Social Mobility, and Community Engagement

Same But Different

On 23 February, I launched the Same But Different exhibition - a creative project from Business in the Community's gender equality campaign in collaboration with photographer Leonora Saunders.

It is a photographic exploration of the rich diversity among women in the workplace and the notion of intersectionality – that gender, ethnicity, disability, faith, sexual orientation intersect in all of us and create our unique personalities which we bring to work with us, every day.

On the eve of International Women's Day it was a particularly appropriate celebration of the extraordinary in the ordinary and an attempt to amplify the stories of women in work that are not always heard. The exhibition will hang in City Hall until 10 March before it tours around the country.

Community Engagement Roundtables

As part of my commitment to creating a fair and inclusive city, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, has recently attended five 'roundtables' with community groups, to actively engage them in conversations about how City Hall can work together with Londoners to improve their lives and increase their participation in decisions that affect them. The roundtables were well attended and productive, generating a wealth of good ideas for consideration. More are planned to take place over the coming months.

Women of the Year Awards

On 9 February, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, delivered a speech at the House of Lords as part of the Launch of the 35th anniversary of Women of the Year Awards.

Joanne spoke about the achievements of women and the steps the GLA is taking to assist women in business, narrow the gender pay gap and encourage more girls and women to follow STEM opportunities.

Health

London Health Board

On 1 March, I chaired my third meeting of the London Health Board, which considered progress to develop the London Health Inequalities Strategy, London Health and Care Devolution and Thrive London mental health initiative.

Culture and Events

London Fashion Week

My Deputy Mayor for Culture, Justine Simons attended London Fashion Week which took place between 17 – 21 February at The Store, 180 The Strand. 120 design businesses exhibited as part of this event, which included high profile platforms to showcase their designs to international buyers.

The 2017 season included 51 catwalk shows for designers and 32 presentations. The British Fashion Council announced that fashion is now worth £28 billion to the UK economy and provides 880,000 jobs. London Fashion Week generated £45 million of orders last year.

Trafalgar Square screening - The Salesman

On 26 February, I welcomed an audience of 10,000 people to Trafalgar Square for a free public screening of the Oscar nominated film *The Salesman* by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi.

I was joined on stage by actress Lily Cole, producer Kate Wilson, film-maker Mark Donne and director Mike Leigh. The film was screened on the same night as the 89th Academy Awards Ceremony where it won the Oscar for best foreign language film.

This free event celebrated the capital's success as a creative hub and a global beacon for film, as well as demonstrating that London is open to creative talent and people from all countries and all communities.

People's Question Time

On 2 March, I attended my second People's Question Time meeting at the Westcroft Leisure Centre in Sutton, where I was able to hear about a range of issues impacting Londoners, both locally and London wide.

I was delighted to see the event at full capacity, with 680 people attending to question me and Assembly Members on issues including housing, transport, air quality, economic development and policing.

Thames Estuary Production Corridor Vision

On 13 February, I sent my vision for a Thames Estuary Production Corridor for the Creative Industries to Lord Heseltine's Growth Commission. This was widely reported on by London media and creative industries press with overwhelmingly positive feedback. The publication is a joint vision between the London Enterprise Action Panel and South East LEP, and sets out an ambitious proposal for investment in large scale infrastructure to support the UK's fastest growing industry.

This bold vision will future-proof the arts, culture and creative industries, and encourage investment in new and diverse talent. It will support the fast growing creative economy, deliver ultra-fast digital connectivity and ensure London and the South East can compete globally over the next 30 years.

Big Dance Shorts India

I supported Big Dance Shorts India as part of the UK/India 2017 season, led by the British Council and the Indian High Commission. This exciting and high-profile platform for UK and Indian filmmakers and choreographers is produced by my Culture team in partnership with People Dancing. The programme was launched on 28 February. Four outstanding 3-4 minute dance-film ideas will be commissioned for Channel 4's Random Acts strand. Each film will be inspired by dance and have at its heart an element of collaboration between the UK and India.

Night Czar- Federation of Creative Industries

On 23 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, gave a speech to night time industry leaders, councillors, police and the culture sector at newly opened Soho cocktail bar Dirty Harry's.

The event was organised by the Night Time Industries Association and the Creative Industries Federation. In a boost to London's night time culture, Dirty Harry's cocktail bar and the basement club Paper opened in January. The famous Paper night club had previously been located in Piccadilly and had closed in 2009 when its Regent Street base was redeveloped.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

IPC 2017 World Championships Tickets and Volunteering

Due to high demand, I have reopened the London schools ticket scheme for the IPC 2017 World Championships in July 2017 with even more tickets on offer. The unique London schools ticket scheme for the Championships received an overwhelming response the first time around. Schools from every borough across the capital took advantage of the opportunity and 90,000 children from more than 1,000 London schools were guaranteed a once in a lifetime opportunity to watch the Championships at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The recipients of the World Cup of Gymnastics Community Fund, funded by the GLA, were announced this month. There were 24 successful projects, meaning a total investment of £49,500 straight into grassroots sport.

My volunteering team, Team London, completed the volunteer interview process for the IPC and IAAF 2017 World Championships, which take place in July and August 2017 at The Stadium in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The recruitment process began on 9 December 2016 and finished on 5 March 2017. Over 7,000 aspiring volunteer 'Runners' have been interviewed for a possible 4,500 roles. Volunteers will be based at both the Olympic Park and across the city.

The Women's Tour and cycling event

On 15 February, Olympic Gold medallist Katie Archibald and I announced that London will host the final stage of The Women's Tour for the very first time on 11 June 2017.

The Women's Tour is the UK's biggest professional women's cycle race and a part of the UCI Women's World Tour. The final stage of the five-day event will be held in London and will use the same iconic circuit as last year's Tour of Britain, which proved hugely popular with thousands of spectators and competitors alike.

The race will see some of the best riders in the world complete 14 laps of the 6km iconic circuit, starting and finishing on Regent Street and taking in Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, the Strand and Whitehall. As well as the professional race there will be a day of cycling celebration to encourage more women and families to ride.

Appointments

Dr Liz Goodwin appointed as the new chair the London Waste and Recycling Board

On 8 March, I appointed Dr Liz Goodwin OBE, a leading figure in the waste and recycling sector, as the new chair the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB).

Dr Goodwin delivered ambitious plans to cut food waste and promote sustainability as CEO of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), where she worked closely with national government, businesses and local authorities. She went on to work at a global level when she became the first Senior Fellow and Director of Food Loss and Waste at the World Resources Institute.

I have set out ambitious goals for London which Dr Goodwin will help deliver, including getting the capital back on track to reaching a 65 per cent recycling rate by 2030, creating jobs in reuse, repair, remanufacturing and materials innovation to support London's transition to the 'circular economy', and helping London become a zero -carbon city by 2050.

Budget and Finance

Progress on devolution to London in Budget

On 8 March, I welcomed the publication of a new London Devolution Agreement as part of the Budget. I believe this marks a major step towards London getting the control it needs to grow and protect the capital's economy from the uncertainty of Brexit.

I have been working with London Councils and negotiating with the Treasury and Downing Street for a deal for London that would give the capital more powers and tools it needs to safeguard jobs, wealth and prosperity.

The London Devolution Agreement builds on commitments made by the Chancellor, Philip Hammond, in last year's Autumn Statement, which included a record £3.15 billion deal to build 90,000 new and genuinely affordable homes in London and the devolution of adult skills funding and employment services support.

The further devolution granted to the capital as part of the Budget includes:

- **Infrastructure** – London to pilot a new Development Rights Auction Model for funding future infrastructure projects. This new funding model will allow future projects to be built quicker and with less reliance on Government funding.
- **Business rates** – The Government will explore options for granting London more powers over the administration of business rates within London. This includes supporting the voluntary pooling of business rates in London, subject to appropriate governance structures being agreed.
- **Criminal justice** – The Chancellor has agreed to finalise a devolution deal on criminal justice services by June. The deal will look at working and co-commissioning of services between the Government and the Mayor – with the aim of improving services for victims and offenders in London. This will give me far greater power to ensure services are tailored to the needs of the capital, helping to cut reoffending and make London a safer place for everyone.
- **Health** – The Chancellor also confirmed that an agreement has been reached to devolve a number of healthcare powers in London which will lead to better services that meet the needs of local communities.
- **Congestion** – The London Devolution Agreement confirmed the devolution of new powers to allow TfL to reduce congestion.
- **Skills** – The government stated that it will continue to work with the London Councils and I so that employers can take advantage of the opportunities offered by the apprenticeship levy and will explore options for greater local influence over careers services, with a view to better matching skills provision and careers services with local needs and priorities.
- **Employment support** – In the Autumn Statement, the Government also announced that it will transfer the budget for the Work and Health Programme to London. The government has now committed to a new strategic dialogue with London Councils and I on employment support. This will explore options for closer and better alignment of services for customers in London, to better support people actively looking for work, as well as those who need different forms of training and support.

However, I am disappointed that the Chancellor did not use the Budget to provide additional funding for the Metropolitan Police or back Crossrail 2. The Government's refusal to fully fund London's police service is putting the capital's safety at risk. Any further cuts would make it increasingly difficult to maintain the strategic target of 32,000 officers, making it harder to keep Londoners safe from growing security threats.

While I welcome moves by the Chancellor to reduce the impact of business rates increases and overhaul the business rates system, I do not believe that the Chancellor's proposals go far enough and many London companies could be forced out of business as a result of the new charges that come into effect next month.

2017-18 Council Tax and Precepts

On 20 February, my final draft budget for 2017-18 was considered at the meeting of the London Assembly. The Assembly made no amendment to the draft budget and it therefore became the Greater London Authority's Consolidated Budget for the next financial year.

Following the approval of the final draft budget, I have approved the calculation of the GLA's consolidated council tax requirement and precepts, and the explanatory supporting text to be made available to council taxpayers.

GLA Group Capital Spending Plan for 2017-18

I have approved the Capital Spending Plan for 2017-18 for the GLA group and noted that the approved plan will be sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the London Assembly and functional bodies.

External Auditor Appointment

I have approved the acceptance of the Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the national scheme for the appointment of external auditors from 1 April 2018.

Planning and Development

Chelsea Football Club's new stadium approved

On 6 March, I approved Chelsea Football Club's plans for a state-of-the-art £500 million stadium on the site of their existing Stamford Bridge ground.

Plans for the new stadium will see Chelsea's match-day capacity increase from 41,600 to 60,000 and will include the construction of an elevated walkway over the nearby District Line, linking the stadium to Fulham Broadway station.

The club's application also includes an investment of £12 million in community activities, such as employment and skills training, as well as a contribution of £3.75 million towards affordable housing in the borough.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Exchange Plaza 52-58 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, 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.

Land at Chiswick Roundabout, Chiswick, LB Hounslow

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

Former Odessa Street Youth Club, Rotherhithe, LB Southwark

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

Paddington Quarter, 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.

Leegate Shopping Centre, Lee Green, 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.

Pontoon Dock, Silvertown, 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.

Lidl Store, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, LB Hillingdon

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

The Albion, Charlton, RB Greenwich

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

Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, LB Bexley

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

Nightingale Estate, Hackney Downs, LB Hackney

I have written to the London Borough of Hackney 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:

- Abbey Place, Cross Quarter, Abbey Wood, RB Greenwich
- Land on the South Side of Swandon Way, Battersea, LB Wandsworth
- Enterprise House, 21-23 Buckle Street, Aldgate, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land South of Gillette Corner, Great West Road, Isleworth, LB Hounslow
- VIP Trading Estate, Charlton Riverside, RB Greenwich
- 5 Strand, City of Westminster
- Land at Wandsworth Riverside Quarter Phase 3 (Building 6B), Point Pleasant/Osiers Road, LB Wandsworth
- 415 Wick Lane, Hackney Wick, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Former Toby Jug Site, Hook Rise South, Surbiton, RB Kingston upon Thames
- 18 Blackfriars Road, LB Southwark
- Plantation Wharf, Battersea, LB Wandsworth
- Land at Bow East Goods Yard, Pudding Mill Lane, London Legacy Development Corporation

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Lea Valley Eastside Vision, LB Waltham Forest
- Elmbridge Local Plan: Strategic Options Consultation, Elmbridge Borough Council
- M&S site, Wood Lane, White City, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Kidbrooke Village Centre (Block B) (Phase 3), RB Greenwich
- Burnhams, 25 Totteridge Common, LB Barnet
- Teddington Studios, LB Richmond upon Thames
- 62 Wandsworth Road (Nine Elms Sainsbury's), LB Lambeth
- St Johns Wood Barracks, City of Westminster
- City North Site, LB Islington
- South East block of Goodman's Fields, LB Tower Hamlets
- Wembley Masterplan, LB Brent
- Brimsdown Sports Club LB Enfield
- Land at Capitol Way, LB Brent

Key Engagements

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

- I had an introductory meeting with Dr Phillipa Coan on 7 February
- I met with Cllr Nickie Aiken, Leader of Westminster City Council, on 7 February to discuss borough issues
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 8 February
- I met with senior partners at PWC and addressed PWC staff on 8 February
- I had an introductory meeting with Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecutions, on 8 February
- I hosted a Foreign Media Roundtable on 8 February
- I addressed a reception hosted by L&P on 8 February to mark the success of the Mayor's International Business Programme and to announce the London is Open European Tour
- I addressed the annual London Transport Museum Fundraising Dinner on 8 February
- I met with Tim Cook, Chief Executive of Apple, on 9 February to discuss Apple's investment in London
- I attended a lunch of the Brexit Expert Advisory Panel on 9 February
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 9 February
- I had my regular meeting with the Transport Unions on 10 February
- I attended the Excellence in Policing Awards Ceremony on 10 February
- I visited the new VIACOM Offices on 14 February to announce that London will be host city of the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA) in 2017
- I met with Nusrat Gani MP on 14 February to discuss constituency issues
- I met with the students from Stephen Timms Politics School on 14 February
- I attended the announcement on 15 February that the Women's Tour of Britain is coming to the streets of London for the very first time in June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 15 February
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 15 February
- I attended the NME Awards at the Brixton Academy on 15 February

- I met with Baroness Martha Lane Fox, Executive Director of Doteveryone, on 16 February to discuss digital talent in London
- I visited a half-term sports club for children at Coram's Fields on 17 February to announce that the start date of the £10 T-charge will be 23 October 2017
- I attended the Final Budget Plenary on 20 February
- I met with Len Duval AM on 20 February to discuss matters relating to the GLA
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 February
- I met with the GLA Environment Team on 21 February
- I met with representatives of UNESCO World Heritage Committee on 21 February as part of their monitoring mission to assess the impact of development around the Westminster World Heritage Site
- I accompanied the Home Secretary at the interviews held on 21 and 22 February with the final applicants for the position of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner
- I hosted a media reception on 21 February
- I attended the announcement of Cressida Dick's appointment as the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner on 22 February
- I attended the BRIT Awards on 22 February
- I had lunch with Oly Duff, Editor of the I, on 23 February
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Claire Kober, Leader of London Councils, on 23 February
- I met with Caroline Pidgeon AM on 23 February to discuss matters relating to the GLA
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 23 February
- I opened the Same But Different Exhibition at City Hall on 23 February
- I attended Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe's retirement reception on 23 February
- I addressed the Mayor's Education Conference at City Hall on 24 February
- I hosted the premier screening of The Salesman in Trafalgar Square on 26 February
- I met with Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister of Wales, on 27 February to discuss devolution and the implications of the vote to leave the EU
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 27 February
- I met with the Rt Hon David Davis MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, on 27 February to discuss the implications of the vote to leave the EU
- I visited the Palmerstone Road development site in Wealdstone on 27 February
- I met with the Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 1 March to discuss a devolution deal for London
- I chaired the London Health Board on 1 March
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley on 1 March to discuss policing and security
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 2 March
- I attended People's Question Time in Sutton on 2 March
- I had my regular meeting with Craig Mackey, the acting Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 2 March
- I met with Clive Efford MP on 2 March to discuss constituency issues
- I visited the Hale Wharf development site in Tottenham Hale on 3 March
- I attended the #March4Women event on 5 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 March
- I addressed students at the University of London International Programmes Graduation Ceremony at the Barbican on 7 March

- I addressed the International Women's Day All Bright Business Breakfast hosted at City Hall on 8 March
- I met with Michael Bloomberg, CEO Bloomberg PLC, on 8 March to discuss the ties between London and New York
- I met with Mete Coban, MLMS, on 8 March to discuss youth engagement in London

Ends