

MINUTES

Meeting: London Recovery Taskforce

Date: Friday 19 June 2020

Time: 9.00 am

Place: Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Natan Doron (Chair)

John O'Brien, Chief Executive, London Councils (Deputy Chair)

David Bellamy, Chief of Staff, GLA

Julie Billett, Director of Public Health, Camden & Islington Public Health Directorate

Theo Blackwell, Chief Digital Officer, GLA

Cllr Ruth Dombey, Vice-Chair (Lib Dem), London Councils; Leader of Sutton Council

Cllr Georgia Gould, Deputy Chair (Lab), London Councils; Leader of Camden Council

Philip Graham, Executive Director, Good Growth, GLA

Rickardo Hyatt, Interim Deputy Executive Director, Housing & Land, GLA

Halima Khan, Executive Director, Communities & Skills, GLA

Niran Mothada, Executive Director, Strategy & Communications, GLA

Jules Pipe CBE, Deputy Mayor, Planning, Regeneration & Skills, GLA

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor, Environment & Energy, GLA

Dick Sorabji, Deputy Chief Executive, London Councils

Andrew Travers, Chief Executive, Lambeth Council

Debbie Warren, Chief Executive, Royal Borough of Greenwich

Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement

Other attendees

Doug Flight, Head of Strategic Policy Group, London Councils

Sarah Gibson, Head of Government and EU Relations, GLA

Catherine Glossop, Senior Manager – Economic Strategy, GLA

Mary Harpley, Chief Officer, GLA

Felicity Harris, Board Officer, GLA (clerk)

Jamilla Hinds-Brough, Senior Advisor to Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, GLA

Asif Hussain, Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer, GLA

Eleanor Lloyd, Senior Board Officer, GLA

Ruth Morgan, Project Manager, GLA

Phoebe Morris-Jones, Head of Cabinet Office, Camden Council

Pat Muotto, Project Manager, GLA

Dianna Neal, Strategic Lead – Enterprise, Economy & Skills, London Councils

Tom Pickup, Principal Policy & Projects Officer, London Councils

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Michelle Reeves, Senior Policy & Programme Manager, GLA

Jeremy Skinner, Assistant Director, Strategy, Intelligence & Analysis, GLA

Christine Wingfield, Senior Manager Research & Public Engagement, GLA (*presenting item 3*)

1 Introductions and Opening Remarks: Approach to Recovery (Item 1)

- 1.1 On behalf of Nick Bowes, Mayoral Director of Policy at the GLA, the meeting was chaired by Natan Doron, Senior Adviser.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed those present and outlined protocols for the virtual meeting. A membership list had been circulated with the agenda and there were no apologies to note.
- 1.3 The Chair gave an overview of the context within which the London Recovery Taskforce (the 'Taskforce') had been convened, emphasising the need to work collaboratively and in partnership to ensure the recovery response was robust and provided benefits to Londoners for years to come. Members noted that the Taskforce would be overseen by the London Recovery Board (the 'Board'), which had provided a clear steer allowing the Taskforce to focus on a few key areas including: addressing inequality; improving trust and confidence in public institutions; protecting young people; restoring consumer confidence; building a greener city; and working in partnership with Londoners. On the latter point, Members heard that engagement with Londoners had begun before the recovery structures had been established and would provide a good foundation for the overall response.
- 1.4 The Chair expressed his thanks for the commitment of all partners to the recovery response to date, noting that this would be a joint effort across a range of organisations and sectors.

2 Role of the Taskforce and Ways of Working (Item 2)

- 2.1 Niran Mothada, GLA Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, presented a high-level overview of the role of the Taskforce, the overarching mission and objectives, and the suggested ways of working. Slides are appended to these minutes at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 The distinction between the London Transition Board (LTB) and the recovery work was clarified, noting that the LTB would meet every three weeks and would be focused on the immediate issues and risks arising from exiting lockdown. Members were assured that officers would work jointly with Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) and that the Taskforce would be kept informed of emerging developments from the LTB and its subgroups. It was also noted that efforts would be made to ensure there was no cross-over of remit and no duplication of effort and delivery.
- 2.3 The London recovery programme would be focused on 'building back better', assessing how certain issues could be resolved immediately but also looking at medium to long-term strategies. It was noted that the objective of the programme would be to restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact on London's most vulnerable communities and to rebuild the city's economy and society. As guiding principles, addressing social, economic and health inequalities, delivering a cleaner, greener London, and ensuring Londoners are at the heart of recovery were identified as the strongest cross-cutting themes at the Board, each of which would inform the

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outcomes the Taskforce would seek to achieve. In addition to these, there would be a concerted effort to agree actions addressing issues of keeping young people safe, supporting communities most impacted by the virus and reversing the pattern of rising unemployment and lost economic growth caused by the economic scarring of Covid-19. Sitting underneath the Taskforce structure would be two work strands covering economic and social recovery, which would be informed by partnership working, a focus on medium and long-term proposals, and the voice of Londoners through public engagement work.

- 2.4 The Taskforce were reminded of the importance of collaborative working, noting that there were a number of different levers, strengths and skills across the partnership and across London. These would allow Members to come together around advocacy, working with government and using local data and knowledge as the programme is built. It was suggested that proposals would be brought to the Taskforce about how the cross-cutting themes could be embedded in all of the work undertaken as part of this programme and how to establish what was in and out of scope.
- 2.5 Dick Sorabji, Deputy Chief Executive of London Councils, noted that one of the big challenges to note was the number of organisations across London that were beginning the process of assessing recovery and strategic reset. Many businesses would be doing the same and it would be important to learn from that work so that it could inform our approach. It was noted that there were a range of different players within London government and it was imperative that work across each organisation and structure complemented the wider recovery response and was not duplicative.
- 2.6 Members noted that the Taskforce Terms of Reference would be considered for approval at the next Board meeting.

2.7 DECISION:

That:

- a) It be agreed that the Taskforce's meeting papers and minutes would be published; and**
- b) That the Taskforce's Terms of Reference be endorsed in advance of approval being sought at the next meeting of the London Recovery Board.**

3 Public Engagement (Item 3)

- 3.1 The Chair invited Christine Wingfield, GLA Senior Manager Research & Public Engagement, to present an overview of public engagement activity to date and to outline feedback on the aims agreed by the London Recovery Board. Slides are appended to these minutes at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 From the outset, the Mayor and partners working on the recovery programme had been keen to ensure that citizens and communities were able to participate in London's recovery and it was felt that engagement processes could help to improve trust and confidence in public institutions and the partnership model. Initial feedback via rapid intelligence gathering exercises was sought from citizens about the aims agreed by the Board in order to understand and map the impact of Covid-19 on citizens, vulnerable groups, communities and different sectors of civic society. Weekly polls of Londoners, surveys of frontline civic society organisations, interviews,

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roundtables and forum discussions for charities, boroughs, businesses, mutual aid workers, youth workers and grassroots organisations, amongst others, had been undertaken.

- 3.3 When moving towards recovery, it would be useful to reflect on what worked well during the crisis and what didn't, so that recovery work could be designed with those factors in mind. Responses noted that mobilisation of and collaboration between communities had been positive, but digital exclusion and a lack of clarity hindered this effort. It was suggested that these barriers would continue to be present while moving towards recovery. In terms of the key challenges raised by communities, mental health, social isolation and digital exclusion had consistently been raised over the past ten weeks and while some Londoners had enjoyed some of the benefits that came with lockdown, others were in real crisis.
- 3.4 In terms of feedback on aims outlined by the Board, it was noted that the vast majority of feedback had been received from an audience that was already engaged with the work of the GLA to some extent, so it was important to remember that the responses were not fully representative of the London population as a whole. Work to widen understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on London would be carried out but it was also noted that 6,000 new members had joined TalkLondon since the start of the pandemic to take part in discussions on recovery.
- 3.5 Members received an overview of public responses to the following aims established by the Board: protecting jobs and businesses; supporting the most vulnerable Londoners; keeping young people safe; addressing inequalities; and establishing a greener, cleaner London.
- 3.6 On the first aim of the Board of protecting jobs and businesses, some respondents reflected that there may be sustained changes to working patterns that would affect where and how we work, as well as how we move around the city. Others emphasised the need for a green recovery and felt it was a good opportunity to review the public realm. Many concerns were also raised about London's cultural sector and tourism.
- 3.7 Insights had been captured from Londoners on the aim to support the most vulnerable Londoners and it was noted that the most vulnerable had played an important role in the response to the pandemic. It was clear from the responses that recovery should take an approach which saw vulnerable people as active participants in recovery rather than simply passive recipients of support.
- 3.8 On the aim to keep young people safe, conversations with BAME young people had revealed that many felt that feeling unsafe was in relation to treatment by the police and was not only related to physical violence but also connected to opportunities around employment and education. Among the wider public, there was some confusion that the focus was particularly directed towards the safety young people and not more generally about creating opportunities for young people through funding youth services or supporting employment and skills.
- 3.9 Addressing inequalities was also noted as a key aim of the Board but communities had responded to suggest that while social, economic and health outcomes needed to be addressed, this should be done in parallel with the wider root structures of housing, employment and access to healthcare. Conversations with BAME community organisations also highlighted that there had been significant trauma within many of London's communities so approaches to recovery need to be trauma informed. There was a need to work closely with informal

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community groups and faith organisations, many of which had noted that they would benefit from greater capacity, resources and a stronger connection into referral pathways than they already had. This month's Ipsos MORI tracker poll also found that a quarter of the British public had indicated that race relations was a priority issue, a significant increase from a poll in April which found race relations mentioned by just 1% of white Britons.

- 3.10 On the aim of a cleaner, greener London, many felt that this should form the overarching objective of the recovery work and would help to deliver against the other aims. The most positive reported elements of lockdown were environmental and were centred around reclaiming public space for walking and cycling, and people benefitting from access to green space and improved air quality. It was noted, however, that several large consultations on TalkLondon about air quality and other environmental issues had been carried out in the past, which may have resulted in a response from members that are particularly biased towards this perspective. Work moving forward should include a proper programme of research to more robustly inform the view of how Londoners want the city to recover.
- 3.11 In terms of next steps, work would be carried out with colleagues across the partnership to develop a proposed action plan for engagement to support the recovery programme. A draft proposal would be circulated in due course.

[Action: Christine Wingfield]

- 3.12 The Chair thanked Christine for her presentation and Members agreed that the voice of Londoners was key to shaping the future of London. It was suggested that a hybrid approach involving both London-wide engagement activities and borough level citizen's assemblies or similar would be beneficial and that collaboration on gathering intelligence was vital. It was agreed that the feasibility of using citizen's assemblies and other deliberative methods, including drawing on locally-run borough level schemes, would be explored to deepen our understanding of Londoners' response to recovery and the future of the city.

[Action: Christine Wingfield]

4 Social Recovery Overview (Item 4)

- 4.1 As Chair of the social recovery work strand, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, was invited to provide an overview of the proposed social recovery programme activity, noting that the group were still scoping ideas and that the vision and objectives established to date were iterative.
- 4.2 Members heard that Covid-19 had presented a set of major and far-reaching challenges and despite the early narrative that the virus did not discriminate, it quickly became clear that it had an exceptionally detrimental impact on particular communities and had affected some disproportionately. The disproportionate impact was not just on lives lost and infection rates, but it also had a broader impact in terms of loss of work and income. A number of inequalities facing particular groups of individuals had been exacerbated by Covid-19 and it was agreed that the social element of the recovery work would need to be a direct response to those communities' experiences. It was also suggested that support networks for the communities disproportionately impacted had also suffered financially in recent months and had either already closed or were at risk of closure.

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- 4.3 The proposed vision for social recovery centred around restarting, recovery and renewal. The restarting element would focus on the most immediate challenge of providing support to those in need, while the recovery aspect would concentrate on ensuring existing support networks and structures were strengthened. Renewal would be focused on building a better London rather than returning to normal life, which had been problematic for many communities even before the pandemic had begun. Within this vision, it would be crucial to add value and build on existing structures, drawing on evidence and expertise collected at a London-wide and borough level. It was emphasised again that centring Londoners' voices in a consistent and meaningful way would be vital.
- 4.4 Members heard an overview of the draft objectives and potential outcomes that could come from the social recovery work strand, a list which included: minimising poverty; reaching groups for whom support structures do not already exist, including individuals with insecure immigration statuses; supporting the voluntary and community sector in providing aid and assistance to Londoners in need; and stemming the rise in homelessness. A series of structures across London were already in place to help address some of these issues, so it was stressed that use of existing mechanisms through which we can hope to address these issues should be encouraged.
- 4.5 Cllr Ruth Dombey, Vice-Chair of London Councils, Leader of Sutton Council and co-Chair of the social recovery work strand echoed the key elements of the presentation and emphasised the importance of a local response. Local government had mobilised efficiently and effectively in response to the crisis and it would be important to harness the energy and willingness of people to be involved and volunteer their time in support of their communities. The localised response had allowed for a personalised approach that could not be replicated at a national level. It was also noted that while there had been fewer referrals for people requiring support for food over the past few weeks, more people had been coming forward seeking assistance with financial, mental health and domestic abuse related issues. It was clear that personal stories of people's needs would help inform an effective recovery programme.
- 4.6 Members echoed the praise for the innovation and speed with which public services had identified needs and solutions on the ground and it was clear that the immediate delivery capacity built up during this period should be nurtured and enhanced to ensure the momentum of local support could continue to support communities.
- 4.7 Members emphasised the need to incorporate environmental issues into the social recovery work strand and that there was a clear link between a lack of access to open space and people's wellbeing and mental health. It was noted that existing programmes in place, such as a retrofitting programme, could be key in exploring a reduction of inequality and access to well-paid, stable employment for communities that might not otherwise be drawn to the sector.
- 4.8 Members discussed food poverty and how the mobilisation at a local government level had helped to establish direct relationships with residents struggling in that area. It was suggested that this would be a good opportunity to focus on eliminating food poverty and using newly established infrastructure to help deliver this goal. Members agreed that this could be an immediate area of work that could prove reasonably successful reasonably quickly.

5 Economic Recovery Overview (Item 5)

- 5.1 Chair of the economic recovery work strand, Cllr Georgia Gould, Deputy Chair of London Councils and Leader of Camden Council, was invited to present an overview of the economic challenge laid out by Covid-19 and the proposed approach to economic recovery.
- 5.2 It was clear that social and economic recovery would need to be addressed in parallel and that efforts to stimulate the economy would need to be considered in conjunction with measures to address the inequalities the crisis had highlighted. The pandemic had had a disproportionate impact on workers in low-paid and unstable work and it would be vital to address inequalities within the labour market in the future.
- 5.3 In line with social recovery, the economic recovery work strand would also focus on restarting, recovery and renewal, with some immediate goals including: stabilising vulnerable sectors; ensuring there would be no cliff edge at the end of the job retention scheme; restoring economic confidence; revitalising high streets and town centres; and establishing clear and joint messages about what a safe return to economic activity would mean. The next phase for kickstarting the economy would include: assessing how best to move forward with construction; supporting SMEs to adapt business models to social distancing; raising London's profile globally; mobilising joint action between boroughs, sub-regions, the GLA, business and other anchor institutions that would enable civic action and make it a real priority. It was also emphasised that lessons from the 2008 financial crash would need to be heeded and that any proposed public investment should have clear outcomes relating to the green economy and inclusivity.
- 5.4 The proposed approach for the economic recovery workstrand was a missions-based approach that reflected a series of economic objectives informed by the Board's agreed principles. A series of proposed missions focusing on different areas of economic recovery were outlined to the Taskforce: an employment and skills mission designed to ensure no newly unemployed Londoner or young person leaving education were left unemployed; a Green New Deal to stimulate an increase in London's green economy; 15-minute cities, thriving high streets and town centres; and enhanced digital access for all Londoners. Other missions suggested included supporting BAME Londoners and promoting diversity around the city.
- 5.5 Members praised the work of the economic recovery work strand to date and it was agreed that a missions-based approach for both economic and social recovery ought to be pursued. It was agreed that the Chairs of the work strands would work with their teams and collaboratively to develop initial proposals for around five to six focused missions. It was proposed that public engagement work was carried out in response to any proposed missions and that feedback would be provided to the Board.

[Action: Debbie Weekes-Bernard; Cllr Georgia Gould]

- 5.6 Members were particularly keen to see a combined social and economic recovery approach to establishing a greener London, as it was noted that the environmental sector in particular lacked diversity and would be a good area in which to encourage a redistribution of jobs. Members also noted that there was a lack of diversity within the cultural and creative industries so incorporating this into the missions would be useful. Other suggestions for medium to long-

term workstreams included some form of jobs guarantee and a wellbeing index as a way of measuring the outcomes of the recovery work.

- 5.7 The Chair invited Debbie Warren, Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, to share her thoughts on the affordability of the recovery work and how new opportunities for investment could reasonably be incorporated into the programme. Members acknowledged that boroughs across London were in financially precarious positions and that some were worse off than others. An emergency budget was likely to be held in July and it was agreed that any lobbying asks would need to be sustainable and allow for advance planning. It was suggested that investment funding in the immediate future would be scarce and it would be vital to take an innovative approach in order to deliver required outcomes. That may include conversations with city investors, use of pension funds, and pooling resources across boroughs, alongside any other innovative ideas that were forthcoming. It was agreed that a joint lobbying document would be developed in advance of an emergency budget.

[Action: Debbie Warren; David Bellamy]

5.8 DECISION:

That a missions-based approach to the social and economic recovery work strands would be pursued.

6 Any Other Business & Next Steps (Item 6)

- 6.1 The Chair noted that another Taskforce meeting would be held in advance of the next Board meeting and it was proposed that by the time of the next meeting, it should be clear what the proposed collective missions would be across both social and economic recovery. In addition to establishing key missions, further engagement work would be carried out to ensure Londoners' views were incorporated into any suggestions or feedback provided at the next Board meeting. Other next steps included: Theo Blackwell, GLA, taking the lead on work to capture innovations established as part of the response to date; David Bellamy, GLA, and Debbie Warren, Royal Borough of Greenwich, considering the finance and value for money element of the innovation work and how to lobby the Treasury; assessing integration between the social, economic health, data and digital; and the core recovery team at the GLA looking at longer-term thinking on a potential wellbeing index, which would likely see some cross-over between existing work being carried out by the London Health Board and by the Violence Reduction Unit. It was also suggested that reviewing evidence from other international cities facing high levels of unemployment could help inform our approach to minimising the impact of Covid-19 on the jobs market.

[Action: International Relations Team, GLA]

- 6.2 The Chair thanked attendees for their valuable contributions and for the work that had been put into the recovery effort so far.

7 Close of Meeting

- 7.1 The meeting closed at 10.54am.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Mission, Principles, Outcomes & Ways of Working

Appendix 2 – Public Engagement Activity & Feedback

Contact Officer: Felicity Harris (Board Officer)
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The Recovery Programme

Mission, Principles, Outcomes &
Ways of Working

Transition and Recovery

- Likely have to live with the virus for foreseeable future and a long time until all residual social distancing measures lifted. The boundary between response and recovery activity more blurred than normal after major incidents.
- We therefore need two key recovery strands running in parallel:
 - **Transition** - to co-ordinate London's early steps out of lockdown to ensure that we can make progress on reopening London's economy and society, while keeping the virus under control
 - **Recovery** - to co-ordinate the planning which ensures we secure the best possible future for London following the pandemic.
- Two Boards have been established to oversee the Transition and Recovery work respectively:
 - The Transition Board is Co-Chaired by the Mayor and Secretary of State for MHCLG, Robert Jenrick MP, and will only run to the end of 2020
 - The Recovery Board is Co-Chaired by the Mayor and the Peter John, the Chair of London Councils

Overarching Mission and Objective

- GLA and London Councils through convening London's key stakeholders, representative bodies, national government, anchor institutions and communities will oversee, shape and steer London's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic
- The objective of the work is to restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact on London's most vulnerable communities and rebuild the city's economy and society

Principles

We will work and be guided by the following principles;

- Recognising and addressing structural inequalities, promoting a fairer, more inclusive London and focusing on supporting the most vulnerable
- Delivering sustainability, mitigating climate change and improving the resilience of our city
- Improving the health and wellbeing of all Londoners
- Collaborating and involving London's diverse communities
- Innovating and using digital technology and data to meet emerging needs
- Ensuring affordability of measures and providing value for money

Outcomes

The *outcomes* we seek are to:

- Reverse the pattern of rising unemployment and lost economic growth caused by the economic scarring of Covid-19
- Support our communities, including those most impacted by the virus
- Keep young people safe
- Narrow social, economic and health inequalities
- Deliver a cleaner, greener London

Ways of Working

- The London Recovery Board
- The London Recovery Taskforce
- Identified two key strands
 - Economic Recovery
 - Social Recovery
- Mindful of existing governance structures
- Work in partnership across London
- Medium and long-term proposals
- Voice of London

The London Recovery Board (LRB)

- In parallel with the London Transition Board
- Mayor of London Sadiq Khan & Cllr Peter John are co-Chairs
- Minister for London, Paul Scully, on behalf of government
- Members from business, civil society, academia & government
- To plan and oversee the capital's wider economic and social **long-term** recovery
- Develop a strategy and plan of action to reshape London to be fairer, more equal, greener and more resilient than it was before the crisis
- Meeting initially every 6 weeks, then approximately once per quarter

Working Groups

- Two Working Groups already formed – Commemoration and Housing
- Two further Working Groups proposed – Economy (Chaired by Georgia Gould, Deputy Chair, London Councils) and Social (Chaired by Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement)
- New working groups may be set up as circumstances evolve
- Representation from supporting functions including:
 - Finance & funding
 - Communications, engagement & stakeholders
 - Equalities, diversity & inclusion
 - Digital and Data
 - Environment
 - Health
- Working groups will meet as frequently as necessary

Outputs from the first Recovery Board

Consensus from the Board on key issues including;

- Taking bold action to address inequalities
- Ensuring we pursue a green recovery
- Improving public trust and confidence in public institutions in partnership with BAME and other community representatives in London
- Thinking creatively about the use of newly empty spaces and outdoor spaces to support business activities while socially distancing
- Protecting young people from the worst impacts of any economic shocks
- Ensuring the public are engaged and involved in our recovery work


Underpinning all of this was the strong commitment from Board members to work together collaboratively across different tiers of Government, public institutions, sectors of the economy and voluntary communities.

Programme Core Team

Role	Name
Chair of Recovery Taskforce	Nick Bowes , Mayoral Director, Policy Natan Doron , Senior Adviser to the Mayoral Director - Policy
Senior Responsible Officers – Overall Recovery Programme	Niran Mothada , Executive Director, Strategy & Communications, GLA Dick Sorabji , Deputy Chief Executive, London Councils
Programme Directors	Jeremy Skinner , Assistant Director, Strategy, Intelligence & Analysis, GLA Doug Flight , Strategic Lead, London Councils
Strategic Leads – Overall Recovery Programme – Covid-19 Response & Recovery	Michelle Reeves , Senior Manager – Policy & Programmes, GLA
Chair and Co-Chair Economic Recovery Working Group	Chair - Georgia Gould , Deputy Chair London Councils Co-Chair Jules Pipe , Deputy Mayor, Planning Regeneration and Skills
Senior Responsible Officer – Economic Recovery	Phil Graham , Executive Director, Good Growth, GLA
Strategic Lead – Economic Recovery Strategic Lead – Enterprise, Economy & Skills	Catherine Glossop , Senior Manager – Economic Strategy Dianna Neal , London Councils
Chair and Co-Chair Social Recovery Working Group	Chair - Debbie Weekes-Bernard , Deputy Mayor, Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement Co- Chair Ruth Dombey , Vice Chair, London Councils
Senior Responsible Officer – Social Recovery	Sarah Mulley/Halima Khan , Executive Director, Communities & Skills, GLA
Interim Strategic Leads – Social recovery	Jamilla Hinds-Brough , Adviser to Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement (Interim) Ruth Morgan , Project Manager, GLA
Strategic Lead – Health & Social Care	Clive Grimshaw , London Councils
Senior Responsible Officer – Housing Strategic Lead – Housing & Planning	Rickardo Hyatt , Deputy Executive Director, Housing & Land, GLA Francesca Lewis , GLA; Eloise Shepherd , London Councils
Communications & Engagement Coordination	Asif Hussain , Senior Stakeholder Officer, Mayor's Office, GLA Ben Cook , Senior Policy & Projects Officer, GLA
Strategic Lead – Communications	Alison Bell , Head of Media, GLA; Jim Odling-Smee , London Councils

LRB Membership

Mayor of London, Rt Hon Sadiq Khan - Chair
London Councils, Chair, Cllr Peter John OBE (Lab) – Co-chair
London Councils, Deputy Chair, Cllr Georgia Gould (Lab)
London Councils, Vice Chair, Cllr Teresa O’Neill OBE (Conservative)
London Councils, Vice Chair, Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (LibDem)
London Councils, Vice Chair, Catherine McGuinness (Ind)
London APPG, Co-chair, Sir Bob Neill MP (Conservative)
London First, Chief Executive (Jasmine Whitbread)
Central Government, Minister for London (Paul Scully MP)
Trust for London, Chief Executive (Bharat Mehta CBE)
Transport for London, Commissioner, (Mike Brown)
Metropolitan Police, Commissioner (Dame Cressida Dick)
NHS England, Regional Director for London, (Sir David <u>Sloman</u>)
Public Health England, Regional Director for London (Professor Kevin Fenton)
London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chief Executive (Richard Burge)
London Economic Action Partnership, Board Member (Nita Patel)
London Funders, Chair (David Farnsworth)
CVS Directors Network & Chief Executive of Hackney CVS, Chair (Jake Ferguson)
Operation Black Vote, Director (Lord Simon Woolley of Woodford)
Kensington & Chelsea Social Council, Chief Executive (Angela Spence)
London Resilience Faith Sector Panel (Father Luke Miller)
Trades Union Congress, London Regional Director (Sam Gurney)
Brunel University London, Vice Chancellor and President (Professor Julia Buckingham)
London School of Economics & Political Science, Visiting Professor in Department of Government and Director of LSE London (Professor Tony Travers)
Association of Colleges, Chief Executive (David Hughes)
Federation of Small Businesses, London Policy Representative (Rowena Howie)
Confederation of British Industry, Chief Policy Director (Matthew Fell)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Chief Executive (<u>Beccy Speight</u>)
London & Partners, Chief Executive (Laura Citron)



Public engagement activity and feedback on the agreed Recovery Board aims



London's Recovery: ambition for citizen engagement and active participation

That citizens are able to influence, shape and participate fully in London's recovery through a far reaching and inclusive process.

- Recovery Board consensus that ordinary Londoners are engaged in this work and we take steps to understand public attitudes to recovery.
- It is particularly important that our engagement processes improve **public trust and confidence** in public institutions and the partnership model.

We will ensure the aspirations priorities, policies and actions developed to achieve London's recovery are informed by and have the agreement of citizens.

Intelligence gathering to date

- Teams across the GLA and civil society undertook rapid intelligence gathering exercises to understand and map the impact of Covid-19 on Londoners and civil society.
- We wanted to understand how citizens, vulnerable groups, communities and different sectors of civic society were affected by Covid-19 in order to develop an understanding of people's experiences of Covid-19 and the issues to which the Recovery Board needs to respond.
- <https://data.london.gov.uk/topic/covid-19>



COVID-19 Data and Analysis

Datasets

London Community Response Survey

Updated a day ago

Greater London Authority (GLA)

This dataset presents results of a weekly questionnaire sent to a cohort of frontline civil society organisations from April 2020. The results are being used alongside a range of other pieces of intelligence to inform the pan-London response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The week one questionnaire asked organisations a number of profile questions to understand more about the work they do. Questionnaires from week two onwards have asked orga...

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Summaries of external research on COVID-19

Updated 4 days ago

Greater London Authority (GLA)

This newsletter series presents a digest of external research that the Greater London Authority (GLA) is making available for the benefit of external stakeholders in tackling the COVID-19 crisis. The City Intelligence Unit at the GLA started to produce the newsletters in April, initially as an internal product for staff in the organisation and in its functional bodies. As from 2nd June, past and current issues have been made available f...

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COVID-19: online diary

Updated 5 days ago

Greater London Authority (GLA)

The Opinion Research team has set up an online diary to capture the views, behaviours and experiences of a sample of Londoners during the coronavirus outbreak. Commencing in late May, this online diary will run for 8 weeks. Fortnightly summary reports will be uploaded here. Please contact myles.wilson@london.gov.uk for more info.

  (103.11 MB)

What we have heard so far

As we move in to recovery, it is important to pay attention to what worked well during the crisis response and what didn't – so we design our recovery work with those factors in mind.

Positive changes

Collaboration and community spirit

“We need to ensure that the new levels of collaboration & partnership working we have felt during lockdown are enabled to continue beyond.” (London Community Response Survey)

“How are we unlocking the volunteering power of London? Mutual aid groups sprung up quicker than the government response and can work flexibly with public services to improve green spaces, provide tutoring over the summer, and support people into new employment.” (White British woman, aged 30 from Southwark – Talk London)

Factors that hindered work

Digital exclusion and lack of clarity

“It has been difficult to reach the most vulnerable members of our community who are perhaps digitally excluded. It has been frustrating that most advice or access to services has been provided online, which is inaccessible to those without the internet.” (London Community Response Survey)

“Lack of clarity in government guidelines have often meant a lot of time in checking specific details.” (London Community Response Survey)

Dominant concerns and aspirations

Throughout the crisis we have heard from communities what some of the key challenges and opportunities are:

- Mental health and social isolation
- Tackling racism
- Digital exclusion
- Access to good quality housing and tackling homelessness
- Greening the economy and supporting people back into work
- Reduction in traffic and improvements in air quality

The lockdown has also been experienced very differently across communities:

“The loosening of shut in coupled with fear of virus loss of income rise in food prices and bills starting to come in is almost a perfect storm of disaster for many families who were financially independent. People are finding it upsetting and incomprehensible that they are in this situation. It is damaging people physically and mentally.” (London Community Response Survey)

“Put the positive vision up front: deliver a cleaner, greener London. It builds on what so many people have enjoyed about the shut down. Mitigating the problems we face should be there as well. But please start with the positive vision.” (White British man, age unknown, from Wandsworth – Talk London)



Feedback on the aims agreed by the Recovery Board

Protecting jobs and businesses impacted by the Covid-19 economic fall-out

People reflected on sustained changes to working patterns that would affect where we work, how we work, and how we move around the city. A number emphasised the need for a green economic recovery, and placed importance on local regeneration. Many raised specific concerns about London's cultural sector.

"There will be no return to Normal... it has proved that many can function well without people in offices in London. This means that travel and commuting will reduce - good for the planet - but also retail businesses in London will suffer leading to less tax, more empty units and ultimately empty office floors. The solution needs to work around a new Normal, rather than getting back to Normal." (White British man, aged 53, from Havering – Talk London)



Supporting the most vulnerable Londoners

It is important that this is not just a passive outcome for vulnerable Londoners, but that the conditions that make someone vulnerable are addressed.

The voices of individuals and communities who have lived through traumatic experiences and recovered should be carefully included as London plots out its plans for recovery.

“Those who were the most vulnerable have been key part of the recovery” (Genocide survivor, and leader of a community group)

“We need to put the individuals and communities who are most disadvantaged into the driving seat. We have to listen to what they say they need, not what we think they need. Above all we have to give people hope.” (White British woman, aged 78 from Camden – Talk London)

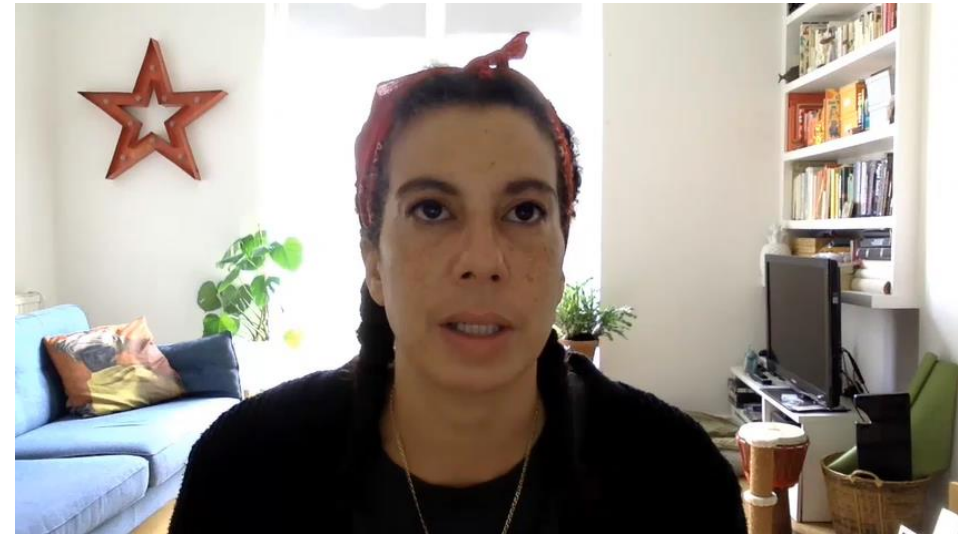
“The economic system has to be there for people who are at the sharp end bit for those who have the most. Our society must be judged by how it treats the most vulnerable, and those with many needs.” (London Community Response Survey)

Keeping young people safe

Conversations with BAME young people revealed that feeling unsafe was in relation to treatment by police and figures of authority. Their safety was not an abstract problem or just related to physical violence, but deeply connected to the opportunities they have or do not have – whether it is in employment, education or the power they have.

- Feeling unsafe, particularly young Black people, who face added scrutiny and unfair treatment by police and other figures of authority
- Feeling anxious about the future
- A desire to be truly included by being made more visible and having real decision-making power

There was confusion among the wider public as to the purpose of singling out young people, and specifically only doing so in relation to safety. They highlighted the need to create opportunities for young people, whether funding youth services or supporting employment and skills.



Narrow social, economic and health inequalities

Working to reduce inequalities was a priority issue across our conversations with communities. We have heard about the need to tackle structural racism, but also the need to address the root of the issue rather than just the outcomes.

“The Recovery Board could go further to be explicit about structural inequality in London and what is required to address this. To narrow social, economic and health inequalities requires an examination of the city's treatment of race, poverty and allocation of resources. We don't need more charities and projects, we need money to be reinvested where it's been stripped out so London residents have access to a decent quality of health care, decent housing options and jobs that aren't precarious and keep people below the poverty line.” (London Community Response Survey)

“There needs to be a radical shift to bring communities back together as a priority before things open up to quickly... London needs to send a clear message to the world that it is an anti racist city. At city moving forward with the principles of inclusion, solidarity and interconnection at its heart. There needs to be measures and initiatives put in place to call out inequality and praise those who take affirmative action and training to overcome systemic oppression. When Londoners come together in solidarity anything is possible. Let's keep a sense of solidarity as we have seen in the many powerful protests recently. Utilise current political discourse to convey the message.”(Caribbean man, aged 44 from Newham)

A cleaner, greener London

Popular view that delivering against this aim will also help to deliver the others. Many keen to use the temporary measures to support active travel to be made permanent, and several noting that one of the positives from lockdown has been improvements to air quality and their health.

“A socially just green recovery is the most critical issue. Without immediate social reformation in the face of mass unemployment, London will fail it's population... By fixing one problem, we can solve the other. A drastic, green new deal that balances income and social inequality isn't just necessary, it's the foundation of a better London for all of us... Personally, I would like to see the close of City Airport, ban on combustion engines from central London, incentivised passive building standards and green roofs, proper cycle infrastructure, encouragement of micro power generation and a smart grid, decent housing that's affordable for everyone.” (Any other white British man, aged 48 from Lambeth – Talk London)

““This lockdown has been tough, but one good thing to come out of it has been almost traffic free streets. This has given many of us a vision of how different London could be. We should hold on to this, and not let the current build up of traffic continue as we emerge from lockdown. London is a carsick city. This is our opportunity to help cure it.” (White British man, aged 63 from Hammersmith & Fulham – Talk London)

How people want to participate - 1

Londoners wanted to contribute from a position of being informed. They want to take part in designing policy solutions and they want to know how we will know if we've been successful.

"All great aims. I'm interested in how you will measure success. I think there's a consensus that measuring GDP and unemployment rates are not enough - what other key wellness measures might London adopt, and what targets might we set?"
(Chinese woman, aged 37 from Camden)

"I think it's really good that a board has been convened. I also think that the aims are excellent (particularly the ones around the environment - yes the others are important but this is a good opportunity to discuss how we can rethink our public spaces). I'm sure you're only in the very early stages of discussing processes but I would be interested to see more of the details of how these are going to be achieved and what the chances of achieving or partially achieving are. Are you going to be sharing this info with us?" (White British woman, aged 37 from Wandsworth)

"Since this is such a wide-ranging matter, might this be a moment for a Citizens' Assembly to be considered, made up of a random selection of Londoners to look at how to translate the Board's proposals into actions?" (White British man, aged 62 from Wandsworth)

How people want to participate - 2

The opportunity to work in partnership and collaboratively was highlighted as one of the most positive impacts of COVID-19, and something that communities wanted to hold on to as we move towards recovery.

"We also need civil society to be actively engaged in defining what a better future can look like. Communities need to be not just in those discussions, but leading them. Civil society's unique role is to amplify the voices of the communities we work alongside, and make space for people who have felt the most impact to shape the solutions. The learning we have had during this crisis from those communities needs to shape the future agenda. Decision makers including the GLA also need to commit to commissioning and learning from research led by people with lived experience of a problem, and to create opportunities for their active involvement in designing policy solutions." (London Community Response Survey)

"The only way people will take part is if it is very participatory and grassroots. Hearing people's personal story ... a relational approach is needed. Core message in terms of solution has to be grassroots, it needs to be done among communities that are worst affected. Information sharing needs to be looked at in relation to empowering communities." (BAME Community Roundtable)

Next steps: an action plan for engagement and participation in Recovery

- Involving citizens are in sustained and meaningful activities that generates shared aspirations and actions to support London's Recovery
- Supporting the Board and Taskforce to prioritise the issues that matter most to London's communities
- Londoners directly involved in identifying and developing responses, resulting in greater likelihood of impact.
- Ensuring London's recovery is informed by those who have experienced a disproportionate impact of Covid-19 and whose voices can be less heard.