

17th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 14th December 2017

This is my seventeenth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 3 November - 30 November 2017.

Executive Summary

Launch of draft London Plan

On 29 November, I launched my new draft London Plan at Barking Riverside. This new and ambitious London Plan is a blueprint for the future development and sustainable, inclusive growth of our city.

London's population is projected to reach 10.5 million in 2041 and we need tens of thousands of new homes and jobs to prepare for this growth.

My draft London Plan lays out how we can do this while relieving the pressure on land, infrastructure and the environment.

The draft Plan is out for consultation for three months from Friday 1 December and can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan>.

London Needs You Alive

On 15 November, I launched a major new anti-knife crime movement 'London Needs You Alive - don't carry a knife'.

I am working with some of London's most influential young artists and campaigners – from grime and rap stars to poets, bloggers and photographers – in order to put forward a positive message and to influence young Londoners to make an active choice not to carry a knife.

By showing the incredible young people of our city how much we need and value them, we could save countless lives.

ULEZ announcement

On 3 November, I announced that I am bringing forward the introduction of the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) by 17 months to April 2019.

The ULEZ will build on the T-charge, which was introduced on 23 October 2017, and will introduce even tougher standards for vehicles entering the zone and will operate 24/7.

Landmark devolution deal to improve health and care across the capital

On 16 November, I signed a ground-breaking devolution deal that will lead to improvements in health and care in London with the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, London Councils and NHS, Public Health and wider health and care leaders.

The landmark agreement gives the Mayor, London Councils and health leaders more control over health and care in the capital, leading to more joined-up services for Londoners.

The deal is the largest of its kind in England, with over 100 organisations involved over the past couple of years in shaping it.

Landmark London Living Wage rises to £10.20 an hour

On 6 November, I announced a landmark increase in the London Living Wage, from £9.75 to £10.20 per hour – a 4.6 per cent rise and the first time the wage has been more than £10.

I also revealed that another 470 employers signed up to pay their staff the capital's hourly rate over the last 12 months, bringing the total number of accredited businesses in London to 1,502. As a result, London now accounts for almost 42 per cent of businesses paying the Living Wage in the United Kingdom and during my time in office, the number of businesses paying the London Living Wage has increased by 50 per cent.

Calling on Government to freeze national rail fares

On 16 November, I was pleased to confirm that fares set by TfL will again be frozen in 2018 – after increasing by more than 42 per cent in the eight years before I became Mayor. By 2020, the average London household will have saved around £200 thanks to my fares freeze.

I also announced that passengers in London will benefit further, as the unlimited one-hour Hopper fare for bus and trams will now be introduced early next year, and weekly capping will be brought to Oyster cards later in the year.

The Government now needs to follow my lead and freeze fares on national rail services which they run – including London's suburban rail lines.

Policing, Crime and Security

Fighting for the police funding London desperately needs

On 14 November, together with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, I wrote to the Chancellor setting out our grave concerns about the funding crisis facing policing in our respective cities, both of whom have suffered dreadful terror attacks over the past year.

In London, the Metropolitan Police Service has had to make £600 million of cuts since 2010, and must find a further £400 million of savings by 2021. This has already led to the loss of 30 per cent of police staff posts – from 14,330 to 9,985, and 65 per cent of police community support officers posts – from 4,607 to 1,591, plus most of the capital's police station front counters and 120 police buildings. In Greater Manchester, the police service has faced cuts of £215 million since 2010, which has resulted in the loss of 2,000 police officers, a 25 per cent reduction on 2010 levels, and 1,000 police staff.

This is simply unsustainable and puts public safety in London and Greater Manchester at risk. We have strongly made the case to the Chancellor, on behalf of the millions of people we have been elected to serve, that the only answer is a real-terms increase in police funding.

Later that day, I appeared before the Commons' Home Affairs Committee, discussing in detail my concerns about the funding situation facing the Metropolitan Police Service. During the session, safety issues around Brexit were discussed, along with the work underway in London to protect the city from terrorism, to tackle knife crime and crack down on moped-enabled crime.

I'm extremely disappointed that in the budget on 22nd November, the Government failed to recognise the pressure on policing and public safety arising from their budget cuts. Indeed, the Chancellor didn't even mention police funding in England and Wales in his speech.

Their decision will mean that, on top of the many officers, staff and front counters that have already been lost, officer numbers will fall further in London, to levels not seen for many years. The Government's failure to act makes this inevitable, and I want to be up-front with Londoners.

Rest assured, I will continue to keep fighting for better funding for our police, and I will continue to welcome the support of Assembly Members in making that case.

London Needs You Alive

On 15 November, I launched a major new anti-knife crime movement 'London Needs You Alive - don't carry a knife'.

I am working with some of London's most influential young artists and campaigners – from grime and rap stars to poets, bloggers and photographers – in order to put forward a positive message and to influence young Londoners to make an active choice not to carry a knife.

I want this campaign - backed by a powerful video – to become a new movement owned by Londoners, and for the campaign to highlight how valuable young Londoners are to London; to their family; and to their friends; and how, by using their talent and not picking up a knife, they can accomplish great things.

By showing the incredible young people of our city how much we need and value them, we could save countless lives.

Our children and young people are our greatest and most precious asset. Their potential, their ideas and their energy are the future of our city. I'm determined to do what I can as Mayor to ensure that every young person in London has the opportunity to reach that potential.

Safety is indivisible from achieving that ambition. Yet for many young Londoners, knife crime and the threat of violence is a part of everyday life, ruining lives, blighting communities and wasting potential.

That's why we're working to deliver on my comprehensive Knife Crime Strategy – doing everything we can to protect the vulnerable, enforce against dangerous individuals and offer those caught up in knife crime to find a better path in life.

Amongst the range of measures set out in my Knife Crime Strategy, I committed to produce and launch a pan-London anti-knife crime campaign. We must make it clear to young Londoners that carrying a knife is more likely to ruin your life than save it. We must look to address the underlying sense of hopelessness and fear that drives some young Londoners to

look to gangs for a sense of belonging and protection; to think their lives, and the lives of others, are not valuable.

Form 696

On 10 November, the Metropolitan Police Service announced that, having reviewed it, they would be scrapping Form 696.

I'm passionate about developing a night-time economy in London that works for everyone, but it's also vital that live music events in London take place safely.

I called for a review of Form 696 earlier this year because of concerns raised by promoters and artists in the capital that this process was unfairly affecting specific communities and music genres.

By bringing together the Metropolitan Police Service and representatives from across the city's legendary grassroots music industry, we have shown why having a Night Czar is so important for London.

This decision will now help London's night-time economy thrive, ensure the capital is a welcoming place for artists and DJs of all music genres and that Londoners are able to enjoy live music safely.

Putting Victims at the Heart of the Criminal Justice Service

On 21 November, I was delighted to speak at London's first Victims' Summit. Organised by my Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, and the MOPAC victims team, the event brought together the Metropolitan Police Service, Victim Support, the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, to hear powerful testimony from victims of crime about their personal experiences, and from academics about the impact that trauma can have on witnesses.

At the Summit, Claire Waxman outlined her plans to investigate whether the police and criminal justice agencies are living up to the Victims' Code of Practice, which sets out the required level of service victims should receive.

This will involve meeting survivors and service providers across the capital to explore how the victim's journey through the justice service can be improved. She will also set out her plans to develop a video training tool to help raise empathy and understanding in the justice system.

I was also delighted to announce that Restore:London – the first pan-London restorative justice service – is now open to Londoners. Announced in August 2016, Restore:London will help victims achieve the justice they seek and help offenders understand the impact of their crime with a chance to make amends directly to their victims.

The move follows a poll which found that 46 per cent of victims would want to meet their offender, but until now access across London was inconsistent. This new London-wide programme complements and enhances existing services, providing a consistent service across the capital, filling gaps in provision and operating alongside criminal justice procedures.

Safestats crime and community safety data portal

I have approved receipt of £376,000 from TfL, LFEPA and MOPAC and the expenditure of this £376,000 to continue providing existing Safestats services and to fund the rebuilding of the system to facilitate an improved analytical capability.

Transport

Calling on Government to freeze national rail fares

On 16 November, I was pleased to confirm that fares set by TfL will again be frozen in 2018 - after increasing by more than 42 per cent in the eight years before I became Mayor. By 2020, the average London household will have saved around £200 thanks to my fares freeze.

I also announced that passengers in London will benefit further, as the unlimited one-hour Hopper fare for bus and trams will now be introduced early next year, and weekly capping will be brought to Oyster cards later in the year.

The Government now needs to follow my lead and freeze fares on national rail services which they run - including London's suburban rail lines.

Latest figures by the Office of Rail Regulators show that London Overground, where my fares freeze applies, was the only one of the four main train operators within London and the South East to see passenger numbers rise.

Passengers on Govia Thameslink Railway, South Trains and Southeastern all fell by more than five cent in April to June 2017-18, compared to the previous year, as their fares rose.

If TfL assumes responsibility for more suburban rail services, fares on these services would be covered by the fares freeze.

Bold new housing and infrastructure around cycling in London

On 28 November, I outlined ambitious new proposals to encourage Londoners out of their cars, and make cycling and walking an easier and more convenient alternative across the capital.

As I set out my vision for what London should look like over the coming decades, bold new requirements will be put on developers and councils to increase the proportion of cycle parking around new shops and homes, with car-free developments being the starting point for new sites that are well-connected by public transport.

As set out in my draft Transport Strategy, I want to increase the proportion of trips in London made on foot, by cycle or using public transport to 80 per cent by 2041, compared to 64 per cent now, meaning an average of 3 million fewer car journeys in London each day.

The Healthy Streets Approach will therefore be at the core of my draft London Plan, which is putting new requirements on developers to reduce the dominance of vehicles and prioritise more active transport in creating inclusive, safe and accessible streets across London.

My Plan will help to create a fairer, greener, healthier and more prosperous city. Achieving this mode shift target is vital if London is to grow in a way that does not undermine the city's health, environment and economic competitiveness.

Some of the measures in my draft London Plan include:

- In many parts of London, the level of cycle parking required outside shops will be doubled. Cycle parking requirements for new office developments will increase significantly in areas of London where demand for cycle parking is high, or which have the most potential for cycling growth. Cycle parking in some parts of outer London will be doubled to match levels required in central and inner London;
- The requirements for long-stay cycle parking for student accommodation will double from one space per two bedrooms to one-to-one provision, so all students can own a bike if they want to;
- Housing developments in the parts of London that are best connected by public transport will now be expected to be car-free, with no parking provided, other than for disabled people. Residential car parking will no longer be differentiated by unit size, meaning that the amount of parking allowed will not increase as unit sizes increase;
- Office developments in central and inner London – the areas best served by public transport – will no longer provide any commuter or visitor parking, other than for disabled people and for essential delivery and servicing purposes; and
- Any parking that is provided will be required to support electric or ultra-low emission vehicles to meet my target for carbon free travel in 2050. All new taxi spaces will be required to have active electric charging points, and the Plan supports hydrogen refuelling or rapid charging infrastructure for essential freight, servicing and construction vehicles.

In general, parking standards will be significantly tightened, with less provision in many areas, particularly in the most accessible parts of central and inner London and town centres. Instead there will be wide-ranging requirements for developments to adhere to the key principles of the Healthy Streets Approach.

Plans for transformation of Oxford Street published for consultation

On 6 November, alongside the Deputy Leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr Robert Davis MBE DL, I unveiled ambitious plans for the start of the transformation of the Oxford Street area, centred on new world-class public spaces

If approved, the plans, which are being publicly consulted on until 17 December 2017, will turn the Oxford Street district into the world's best outdoor shopping experience and will create new traffic-free public spaces in the heart of London to rival other world cities such as Paris and New York.

Night Overground to launch

On 20 November, I announced that Night Overground services will begin in east London on Friday 15 December, making travelling at night even easier for thousands of Londoners.

The 24-hour services will operate on Friday and Saturday nights on the London Overground between New Cross Gate and Dalston Junction, extending to Highbury & Islington next year.

This will help Londoners working through the night, as well as those enjoying east London's thriving nightlife.

The launch follows the success of the Night Tube, which has seen more than nine million journeys and contributed more than £170 million to London's economy in its first year.

New TfL Business Plan sees record investment in transport

On 24 November, TfL published its updated Business Plan, which covers the period from 2017/18 to 2022/23.

The Plan sets out how, over the next five years, TfL will deliver my Transport Strategy and make London a fairer, greener, healthier and more prosperous city.

My Transport Strategy seeks to reduce reliance on the car, tackle air pollution and change the face of the travel in London, so that 80 per cent of journeys are made by public transport, cycling or walking by 2041.

TfL needs to absorb an average £700 million per year cut in Government funding over five years, with the general grant to support operating costs removed from 2018/19. This means that London will become one of the only major cities in the world with a public transport and road network that doesn't receive Government subsidy to support operating costs.

From 2020, the £500 million raised every year from Londoners paying Vehicle Excise Duty, will be collected by central Government and, at present, only investment in roads outside the capital has been confirmed.

TfL and I are therefore calling on the Government, as part of its Transport Investment Strategy, to make sure the link between 'roads tax' and roads investment is applied in London, as well as the rest of the country.

King's Cross anniversary

On November 18, I attended an event to mark the 30th anniversary of the King's Cross station fire. This was the worst fire in the history of the London Underground and claimed the lives of 31 people, including London Fire Brigade Station Officer, Colin Townsley.

I joined survivors, victims' families and emergency service crews who attended the incident at a special service to mark the anniversary.

London will never forget the people who lost their lives.

Northern Line Extension - tunnelling machines reach final destination

On 3 November, the Northern Line Extension reached a major milestone with the completion of tunnelling work.

When the huge tunnel boring machine, Amy, broke through at Kennington, it marked the completion of the two 3.2km tunnels from Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms.

Since their launch in the spring, Amy and her sister tunnelling machine Helen have been working around the clock to create the north and southbound tunnels that will extend the Charing Cross branch of the Northern line.

The extension, targeted for completion in 2020, is the first major extension to a Tube line since the Jubilee line in the late 1990s.

It will add vital new capacity to the capital's transport network, bringing Battersea and surrounding areas to within 15 minutes of the City and the west end and enable the regeneration of the Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea areas.

Partnership checks more than 33,000 vehicles to keep London's roads safe

On 15 November, TfL marked the two-year anniversary of the London Freight Enforcement Partnership (LFEP) which works to make London's roads safer by raising compliance standards across the freight industry.

The LFEP is a joint partnership between TfL, City of London Police, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and the Metropolitan Police Service, in order to target dangerously non-compliant drivers, vehicles and operators on London's roads.

Since its launch, more than 33,000 freight vehicles have been stopped and checked, and 9,114 fixed penalty notices and traffic offence reports have been issued, acting as deterrents and forcing operators to improve their standards.

The multi-agency approach to road safety has led to 106 arrests, 221 vehicles seized and 12 operator licences being revoked, sending a clear message that dangerous freight practices will not be tolerated.

Londoners' views sought on a new Safety Permit Scheme for HGVs

Since 16 November, Londoners and stakeholders have been invited to give their feedback on a proposed safety standard permit scheme for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), as part of our work to reduce danger on the capital's roads.

The proposed scheme would require all HGVs over 12 tonnes to hold a safety permit to operate in London from 2020. The specifics of the permit will be developed next year, following this consultation, but could include specific safety systems such as sensors, visual warnings and comprehensive driver training. The permit would evolve over time to set increasingly ambitious requirements as technology advances.

The development of the proposed permit scheme forms part of my Vision Zero approach to eliminating all deaths and serious injuries from London's roads by 2041. Research by TfL shows that in 2015, HGVs were involved in disproportionately high numbers of fatal collisions with cyclists (78 per cent) and pedestrians (20 per cent) on London's streets, despite only making up four per cent of the overall miles driven in the capital.

New funding for bus operators to develop safety improvements

On 15 November, TfL announced it had awarded a £500,000 pot to six bus operators to develop new ideas that will improve safety across London's bus network. The successful bids from the TfL Bus Safety Innovation Fund were announced at the London Bus Safety Summit

Abellio, CT Plus, Go-Ahead, RATP, Tower Transit and Metroline were all awarded funding for their ideas for safety devices and to improve workplace behaviour. The ideas included alarms to alert nearby pedestrians to approaching buses, sensors, acceleration limiters, psychometric testing and a joint project with London Cycling Campaign to introduce road user champions in depots.

The money will now be used to develop the winning ideas further. All the projects will run on a trial basis on selected routes starting from next year. If the trials are successful, they will be considered for introduction across the wider bus network following consultation with unions and staff.

London Overground celebrates 10 successful years

On 11 November, London Overground celebrated 10 years of service. Since its launch in 2007, the London Overground has provided a vital transport link for millions of Londoners, creating an orbital route around inner London and serving 23 of the capital's boroughs, as well as southern Hertfordshire.

New entrance opens as Bond Street station upgrade is complete

On 17 November, TfL unveiled the completed £300 million upgrade of Bond Street Tube station, a key west end location and one of the busiest stations in central London.

Those using the station will enjoy quicker, easier and more comfortable journeys following the opening of the new entrance and ticket hall on the north side of Oxford Street at Marylebone Lane, which has delivered a 30 per cent increase in capacity.

The new entrance also provides step-free access for the first time at the station, making Bond Street the 72nd Tube station to become step-free and moving the Underground closer to the target of making 40 per cent of the network step-free by 2022.

Both ends of Oxford Street are now served by step-free stations following the installation of new lifts at Tottenham Court Road station earlier this year. The four new lifts at Bond Street will make life easier for people with accessibility needs or those with luggage or heavy shopping.

January 2018 Transport for London Fare Changes

I have approved the proposed revisions to fares to be implemented from 2 January 2018, and directed TfL, pursuant to the power in section 155 (1)(c) of the GLA Act 1999, to implement these fares on 2 January 2018.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

Landmark London Living Wage rises to £10.20 an hour

On 6 November, I announced a landmark increase in the London Living Wage, from £9.75 to £10.20 per hour – a 4.6 per cent rise and the first time the wage has been more than £10.

I also revealed that another 470 employers signed up to pay their staff the capital's hourly rate over the last 12 months, bringing the total number of accredited businesses in London to 1,502. As a result, London now accounts for almost 42 per cent of businesses paying the Living Wage in the United Kingdom and during my time in office, the number of businesses paying the London Living Wage has increased by 50 per cent.

Over the last year major companies and organisations including Lush, the National Gallery, Somerset House, the Southbank Centre, UBS and Societe Generale have become accredited as London Living Wage employers.

However, I am calling for more businesses to sign up to pay the London Living Wage to help tackle in-work poverty and the ethnic pay gap in London.

Nearly 60 per cent of Londoners living in poverty are in working households, compared to less than a third of Londoners twenty years ago and the ethnic pay gap remains unacceptably high, with the median wage for white groups £16.23 per hour, compared to £13.46 per hour for all black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) groups.

Next year, I will be launching my Good Work Standard which, with fair pay and the London Living Wage at its heart, will support employers to adopt best practice and achieve high standards in areas of such as workplace diversity, flexible working, health and well-being, skills development and ensuring employees' voices are heard.

Launch of tech initiatives to boost sector and quality of life

On 2 November, I launched two major new tech initiatives to boost the sector and help harness the capital's tech talent to make life better for Londoners.

Speaking at WIRED Live at Tobacco Dock in east London, I announced that City Hall will fund 20 investment days over the next four years, to give innovative tech firms the opportunity to attract crucial funding to enable them to grow.

Each event – run by the UK Business Angels Association (UKBAA) – will focus on a specific area of tech and will offer coaching to the leaders of these burgeoning companies, as well as directly linking them with experienced investors. The GLA will provide £280,000 in funding, which will be matched in kind by the UKBAA. The programme will be structured so it will be entirely self-funding by the end of the four years.

I also announced that Bloomberg Associates – Michael Bloomberg's philanthropic municipal consultancy – will help shape the new Smart London Plan, in partnership with the Smart London Board.

The document will lay out in detail how I plan to achieve my ambition of harnessing the new technologies being pioneered in the capital to transform London into one of the world's leading smart cities.

Banging the drum for London

On 17 November, I stepped up my efforts to ensure that London remains the best venue in the world for business in the wake of Brexit by opening up new overseas offices in six key cities.

London & Partners will significantly increase its overseas presence in the continuing drive to attract investment into the capital after Britain leaves the EU – and to ensure that jobs and growth for Londoners are retained.

London & Partners currently have offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Mumbai, Shanghai and Beijing, building and maintaining relationships with entrepreneurs, start-ups, potential and existing investors.

The network will now be boosted by new offices in Paris, Berlin, Bangalore, Shenzhen, Chicago and Toronto, as well as extra staff in the existing San Francisco office. The new sites represent some of the most important markets for foreign direct investment into London.

I also announced that I will be providing £100,000 of funding to my International Business Programme, which has supported 600 businesses and created 500 jobs over the last three years.

Creating a world-leading skills system

On 24 November, I outlined my ambition to make the capital's skills and adult education system the envy of the world.

My draft Skills and Adult Education Strategy, which has been published for consultation, is a call for ideas to London's businesses, of all sizes and sectors, to help shape the future of the capital's skills offer by outlining what they need and what they can contribute to build the workforce of the future.

The Strategy includes plans for the Adult Education Budget, which will be devolved to London from 2019, focussing on tackling London's low levels of basic skills such as literacy and numeracy among groups including disabled people, care leavers, ethnic minorities and the unemployed.

It also advocates a more collaborative approach between City Hall, London's Boroughs, central government, skills providers and employers, to ensure training matches the needs of businesses of all sizes and sectors.

I am also calling for a devolution deal for London's 16-18 education, careers services, the apprenticeship levy and replacement for EU funds.

Good Growth Fund

I have approved:

- The receipt of £60.88 million of funding from Government awarded to the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) as part of the Growth Deal 3 allocation;
- Spend of £67.183 million from the Good Growth Fund, including:
 - (i) £61.095 million as a contribution to the costs of delivery of projects
 - (ii) up to £6.088 million revenue expenditure for costs to support applicants in the development of their project proposals and to provide for associated operational expenditure and programme support costs to enable the delivery of the programme;
- The expenditure of up to £5.89 million of the GLA Co-Financing Organisation's European Social Fund allocation to support Good Growth Fund projects and the associated receipt from external organisations and expenditure of up to £5.89 million match funding;

I have also agreed to delegate to the GLA's Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment, to approve detailed allocations of the funding proposed above, in consultation with LEAP.

Housing and Land

London needs the freedom to build more affordable homes

On 20 November, I joined forces with 21 London boroughs to urge the Government to give the capital the powers and investment it needs to build more genuinely affordable homes, including a new generation of council housing.

Together we wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond, ahead of the budget, to tell him that London's housing crisis will only be brought under control if local councils and City Hall are given the money and powers they need to deliver more affordable homes for Londoners.

In the letter, the Chancellor is urged to:

- Give councils the freedom to invest fully in building new council housing;
- Agree a step-change in investment in affordable housing and infrastructure for City Hall, councils, and housing associations; and
- Empower City Hall and councils to bring forward land for new affordable homes.

Borrowing caps are artificially limiting boroughs' ability to invest in new council housing, as are current restrictions on how and when councils can spend their Right to Buy receipts.

City Hall's own analysis suggests that London needs Government investment to increase five-fold from the current £500 million a year, alongside a long-term commitment to greater support for infrastructure.

The letter also called on Government to give City Hall and councils an effective set of powers to bring forward land at reasonable values for new affordable homebuilding. It cites current land assembly powers as ill-suited to doing so, and underlines that land values in London have soared to £29.1 million per hectare – nearly 14 times the figure for the rest of England.

Government letting down renters

On 2 November, I accused the government of 'bottling it' on pledges to help renters in the capital after ministers significantly watered down plans to 'cap' deposits for tenants.

In the Queen's Speech earlier this year, the Government said it would cap deposits at one month's rent to help Londoners – and those renting in the rest of England – with up-front costs.

I argued that more should be done to support tenants with the cost of deposits, and that they should be capped at a maximum of three weeks. My call was echoed by Citizens Advice, Shelter and Crisis, who all recommended a cap of three weeks' rent.

Most letting and estate agents, however, supported a six-week cap, and now ministers have agreed with them in a move which will hit the capital's renters in the pocket. This will see renters face up-front costs of about £2,000 – double the £1,000 deposit cap I proposed and £500 more than the Government said it would do.

I also proposed a cap on 'holding deposits', charges that cover the cost of references or losses in rent if a new tenant needs to be found, which should be set at one day's rent, around £50.

However, the Government now says a holding deposit will be allowed to go as high as a whole week's rent, which would work out in London at a staggering £340.

I also criticised the Government's failure to use this opportunity to bring financial penalties for letting agents into line with those currently in place for landlords.

I believe they should be put on par with the £30,000 fines councils can use to punish rogue landlords for breaching housing legislation. Instead the Government has set the initial fine for breaking the law at only £5,000, which I believe is far too low and has proven to be wholly ineffective for similar offences.

Calling on Government to push affordable homes at Holloway Prison

On 10 November, I urged the government to ensure that valuable land at the Holloway Prison site is used to build genuinely affordable housing as quickly as possible. I want affordable homes to be the priority, rather than the former prison being sold to an investor who could 'land bank' the site.

Holloway Prison, a 10-acre site in Islington capable of delivering about 1,000 new homes, is being marketed for sale by the Ministry of Justice.

I am concerned about the Government's disposal process, with the site being offered to purchasers with no restrictions or constraints. This increases the risk that it could end up being 'land banked', a process which sees sites lying idle and unused for years.

However, I have been working closely with Islington Council on its new planning document for the site, which sets out that the site can viably include 50 per cent affordable housing.

I have therefore written to the Justice Secretary, David Lidington, offering City Hall housing and land experts to work with the Ministry of Justice to secure the best deal on the site which can be reinvested in the Government's prison reform programme, whilst crucially also ensuring new homes are built at pace with a high level of genuinely affordable homes for Londoners.

Gallions 3B, Royal Albert Basin, Royal Docks

I have approved:

- The selection of Notting Hill Housing Trust as preferred development partner for the scheme;
- GLA Land and Property Limited's (GLAP) entry into the Development Agreement with Notting Hill Housing Trust which will result in closure of the procurement process;
- GLAP's entry into the ancillary legal documents with Notting Hill Housing Trust; and
- Revenue expenditure on the legal fees associated with the work.

Environment

ULEZ announcement

On 3 November, I announced that I am bringing forward the introduction of the central London ULEZ by 17 months to April 2019.

The ULEZ will build on the T-charge, which was introduced on 23 October 2017, and will introduce even tougher standards for vehicles entering the zone and will operate 24/7.

Only the newest, least polluting diesel and petrol vehicles (Euro 6 emission standard for diesel and Euro 4 for petrol) will be allowed to enter the zone without paying the additional fees on top of the Congestion Charge (£12.50 for light vehicles and £100 for heavy vehicles).

This announcement follows a public consultation where 63% of those that responded supported the early introduction of the ULEZ.

Consultation on ULEZ expansion

On the 30 November, I launched my final consultation on the ULEZ. This consultation will seek the public's views on extending the central London ULEZ emissions standards to the M25 for heavy vehicles, such as lorries and buses, and expanding the central London ULEZ to the North and South Circular for light vehicles, such as cars and vans.

The consultation will be open until 25 Feb 2018 and can be found at:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/air-quality-consultation-phase-3b/?cid=airquality-consultation>.

Community Tree Planting Grants and Green Capital Grants

On 27 November, as part of National Tree Week (25 November to 3 December), I announced the 29 local projects benefitting from funding through my Community Tree Planting Grants this year.

I have awarded £400,000 in grants to projects which will help create more community orchards, revitalise parks, plant trees in housing estates and create new urban woodlands this winter.

I also called on community groups, schools and charities to apply for the 10,000 free trees available through a new partnership with The Conservation Volunteers.

In addition, I have launched the new Green Capital Grants, part of my Greener City Fund. Up to £2 million of funding is available through Green Capital Grants – which will be up to £500,000 each – for outstanding projects to transform green spaces across London.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 19 February 2018 and more information on how to apply is available at www.london.gov.uk/greener-city.

'No' to fracking in London

On 26 November, I reiterated my manifesto commitment to use my planning powers to prevent fracking within Greater London.

As proposed in my draft London Environment Strategy, a new policy in my London Plan states that any application for the exploration, appraisal or production of shale gas via hydraulic fracturing in London, should be refused by boroughs.

We must focus our resources on developing measures to improve energy efficiency and use clean, renewable forms of energy, rather than coming up with more innovative ways to keeping burning fossil fuels.

Calling on Government step up in the fight against air pollution

On 23 November, I gave evidence at the Environment Food and Rural Affairs and Health, Transport and Environmental Audit Committees' joint 'Improving Air Quality' inquiry, which is looking at whether the Government's National Air Quality Plan goes far enough to address poor air quality.

I highlighted the importance of action on air pollution in London, set out the bold steps I am taking to cut pollution, and outlined the action that is desperately needed from Government to help address this public health crisis.

At this committee, I called on the Government to urgently step up and play its part to protect the health of Londoners. Crucially, they need to:

- Deliver a new a Clean Air Act fit for the 21st century;
- Fund a diesel scrappage scheme to help small businesses and those on low incomes make the to switch to cleaner vehicles; and
- Provide adequate funding for London to address air pollution. In spite of the fact that roughly 40 per cent of roads which exceed legal limits in the UK are located in London, the Government has shockingly just announced that London will not be able to bid for money from a new £220 million fund announced in the budget.

I will continue to do everything I can to lobby Government to stop abandoning Londoners affected by toxic air pollution.

Announcement of successful Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods

On 24 November, I announced the five successful Business Low Emission Neighbourhood projects which will share a £1 million fund to deliver a range of pollution-busting initiatives in five air quality hotspots.

The five 'Business Low Emissions Neighbourhoods' will include measures such as anti-idling campaigns, zero emission delivery services and cleaner walking routes for staff and customers. They are being delivered by local business groups working in partnership with their local councils, who have supported the development of the proposals.

The Business Low Emissions Neighbourhoods will take place in and around: Borough High Street; the Hammersmith Flyover; Archway; Aldwych and the Strand; and between Euston station and Regents Park. A small amount of remaining funding will also go to support some elements of a Low Emission Neighbourhood around Homerton Hospital in Hackney.

Energy for Londoners Energy Supply Company

On 15 November, as part of my plans to help Londoners access better and fairer energy bills, I published a Prior Interest Notice (PIN) to test the market for an energy supply company for London. This testing is prior to launching the procurement process next year.

The PIN outlines my expected outcomes and gives suppliers a short overview of what I want to deliver in London. Outcomes I want to see include offering competitively priced energy, having exemplary customer satisfaction, innovation to help the fuel poor, offering low carbon and energy options and reinvesting revenues in London.

Natural Capital Account for Public Green Space in London

On 23 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, launched the Natural Capital Account for London's Public Green Spaces with Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General of National Trust, and Ros Kerslake OBE, Chief Executive of Heritage Lottery Fund.

The account reveals that for every £1 spent on London's public green space they provide £27 in value for the public. It also illustrates that accessible public green space saves £950 million a year in health costs. The report highlights the potential risks of not investing in London's green infrastructure and its consequences for the capital's prosperity.

This new research illustrates the economic importance of parks and highlights its importance as essential infrastructure for the city. This is why I have committed to protecting the Green Belt, making London the world's first National Park City and increasing and maintaining our incredibly valuable green space.

The report and supporting information is available at: www.london.gov.uk/natural-capital-account

Education and Youth

Science and technology education

On 9 November, I launched my series of 'RE:CODE London' workshops, where hundreds of London primary school children designed and coded their own robot to remove rubbish from the Thames. This has been achieved in partnership with Lego and the Institute of Imagination. Six more of these workshops will run in 2018.

I was also delighted to announce my London Scientist programme, which will provide funding for 5,000 pupils from backgrounds underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programmes, to achieve the CREST Award in 2018 — the top science scheme for schoolchildren in the country. They will undertake real-life science projects to investigate issues important to them and their city, from air pollution to helping urban wildlife.

To round off our science activity, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed over 100 STEM businesses to City Hall on 24 November to launch Big Bang London.

Through regional fairs and competitions, Big Bang London shows young people from all backgrounds how their studies can lead to a rewarding career in STEM. It is a key opportunity to show businesses what I am doing to engage more young Londoners with STEM careers.

Children's Rights Inquiry

On 17 November, during Parliament week, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, opened London's second Children's Rights Inquiry.

The inquiry saw various organisations give evidence on the topic of jobs, apprenticeships and training. The four sub topics included: a regional overview, excluded and marginalised young people, vulnerable young people, and diversity and inclusion. Each session was chaired by a key decision maker and a young person.

The day was led by young people from my Peer Outreach team and Lynk up Crew, and in partnership with the Parliamentary Outreach Team.

NASUWT Regional London Conference

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, spoke at the NASUWT Regional London Conference, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers in the UK.

Joanne spoke about the importance of respecting, recognising and rewarding the vital role teachers play in inspiring the next generation of Londoners to achieve their full potential. She also heard from teachers about their concerns over pay and workload, funding pressures and the impact of Brexit on schools.

Joanne reassured them that I will continue to fight for a fairer funding system for London schools and will make it easier and more affordable to be a teacher in London, improve professional development and properly nurture our teachers.

Ambitious College

On 23 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, visited the Ambitious College at the Pears Campus at Conel. The college is for young people aged 16-25 with complex autism and Joanne spoke to students and staff to hear about their issues for Autism provision.

Health

Landmark devolution deal to improve health and care across the capital

On 16 November, I signed a ground-breaking devolution deal that will lead to improvements in health and care in London with the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, London Councils and NHS, Public Health and wider health and care leaders.

The landmark agreement gives the Mayor, London Councils and health leaders more control over health and care in the capital, leading to more joined-up services for Londoners. The deal is the largest of its kind in England, with over 100 organisations involved in shaping it over the past couple of years.

Localising decision-making to London through devolution will bring many improvements to health and care. It is a really important step in the right direction in our journey to becoming the world's healthiest city.

The NHS is one of the largest owners of land and buildings in London, it owns land up to three times the size of Hyde Park and has an estimated value of more than £11 billion. The announcement also means that money from the sale of NHS-owned assets will be available for much-needed primary and community care and wider public services in the capital. The release of unused land will also create the opportunity to develop more housing.

A London Estates Board will bring together London and national partners to support the release of capital from surplus NHS estate and land to be reinvested in the city's health and care system. This new way of working will speed up decision-making and ensure improvements happen much faster than the current five to 10-year average time to develop NHS estates.

This deal brings health and social care services closer together, meaning that Londoners will experience more joined-up care that better meets their needs. This will help to overcome many of the barriers to health and care organisations working better together - such as around payments, regulation or workforce.

Cracking down on opening of new hot-food takeaways around schools

On 27 November, I set out that my draft London Plan – for the first time - contains detailed policy guidance on my manifesto commitment to put restrictions in place around new fast-food outlets.

My draft London Plan says that new takeaways should not be permitted within 400 metres walking distance of an existing or proposed primary or secondary school. A quarter of the UK's takeaways are located within a five minute walk of a school.

Where new takeaways are granted planning permission, they will be required to sign up to the Healthier Catering Commitment, a scheme which I support and promoted by local authorities to help caterers and food businesses make simple, healthy improvements to their food, such as grilling or baking instead of frying and adding less salt.

Currently, almost 40 per cent of children in London are overweight or obese when they finish primary school, the highest proportion in England. Through my Health Inequality Strategy, I am working towards a reduction in childhood obesity rates.

Overweight or obese children are more likely to miss school due to illness and are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes, heart disease and strokes as adults. Health experts therefore support the recommendation to restrict the proliferation of takeaway shops, particularly around schools, in order to help create a healthier food environment.

City Mental Health Alliance

On 27 November, I gave the opening address to a City Mental Health Alliance event which was hosted in London's Living Room.

The City Mental Health Alliance was established four years ago to help create an environment in London where mental health is discussed in the same way as physical health.

This year around 100 businesses and other organisations gathered to celebrate the progress they have made in raising awareness and tackling stigma. fhealth

London Healthy Workplace Charter awards ceremony

On 13 November, my health advisor, Dr Tom Coffey, hosted the London Healthy Workplace Charter annual awards ceremony at City Hall on my behalf.

65 organisations of all sizes and sectors received an award to mark their accreditation to the Charter during the past year.

The keynote speech was given by Laura Tenison, founder and managing director of at JoJo Maman Bébé who is also a member of my Business Advisory Board.

The Charter now has 665 employers signed up, of which 95 organisations are accredited at commitment, achievement or excellence levels, representing almost 320,000 employees.

Healthy Schools London

On 30 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, visited Ray Lodge Primary School in LB Redbridge in order to congratulate them on their fantastic work as part of my Healthy Schools London programme.

They have achieved bronze and silver awards for their work on pupils' mental health, pupil voice and physical activity.

Macmillan London Cancer Voices

On 21 November, I launched a London-wide campaign aimed at improving early cancer diagnosis. Over 100 stakeholders attended the "London Cancer Voices" campaign launch in London's Living Room, led by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Team London and Volunteering

Team London Awards

On 6 November, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, hosted my annual Team London Volunteering Awards, where Londoners were recognised for their amazing contributions to volunteering.

During the evening, 30 awards were distributed by guest presenters, including Dame Barbara Windsor and Wayne Hemingway MBE.

Now in their sixth year, the awards congratulate Londoners who are active citizens in their communities and are helping to make London a better place to be and improving the lives of those around them.

Team London Young Ambassadors

On 24 November, Team London Young Ambassadors at Berrymede Primary School in Acton hosted a Youth Summit which brought together 100 students from local schools.

The young volunteers discussed mental health and wellbeing before developing action plans to tackle these issues.

The young people heard from Sharmarke Dhaqane, an ex-Team London Young Ambassador, who organised the first-ever student run mental health conference in north London and launched the Barnet Young People Mental Health Charter. The initiative was awarded a Point of Light award by the Prime Minister in 2016.

Team London Ambassador Programme (Visitor Welcome)

I have approved expenditure of up to £705,000 towards planning, delivery and management of the Team London Ambassador programme over 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Culture and Events

Remembrance Day Service

On 10 November, I was proud to mark Remembrance Day at City Hall to commemorate the bravery and selflessness of all the men and women in London who gave their lives to serve and protect our great city in times of war.

The Chair of the London Assembly, Jennette Arnold OBE AM, and the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion joined me, as well as members of the London Assembly, City Hall staff, public service organisations, members of the Armed Forces and representatives from London Government, including London MPs and councillors, leaders and mayors from across London's boroughs.

The service was led by the Dean of Southwark, the Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, with an address given by the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Reverend Peter Smith. Jasvir Singh OBE, from City Sikhs, Rabbi Debbie Young Somers, from the Movement for Reform Judaism, Harun Khan, from the Muslim Council of Britain and Dr Deesha Chadha, from the Hindu Forum of Britain, also took part in the service, representing their respective faiths.

Representatives from London's functional bodies, including TfL Commissioner Mike Brown, Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner, Craig Mackey, and London Fire Brigade Director of Operations, Tom George, were among those taking part in the service to honour the staff from their organisations who died or suffered injuries in war.

One year anniversary of Night Czar

On 3 November, I marked the one year anniversary of the appointment of London's first Night Czar.

Over the past year my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, has advocated for the night time economy and culture, leading my successful review of the use of Form 696, holding London's first ever Women's Safety Summit and undertaking night surgeries across London boroughs.

With Amy across the past year, I have published research on the number of grassroots music venues, pubs and LGBT+ venues in London and, on the impact of business rates rises for music venues, as well as producing an LGBT+ Venues Charter.

My Night Czar will now work full time to continue to champion London as a 24hr city.

Night Time Economy and Culture Supplementary Planning Guidance

On 3 November, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, launched the Night Time Economy and Culture Supplementary Planning Guidance to support London's night time culture and to help protect and sustain London's night-time venues.

The new guidance sets out how boroughs can promote the night time economy and night time cultural offer, whilst achieving a balance with the needs of local residents.

Hull City of Culture Visit

On 17 November, I visited Hull with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, to learn about their experience as UK City of Culture for my new initiative London Borough of Culture.

We met with volunteers, local artists, businesses and residents to hear about their experience and I also visited the Turner Prize at Ferens Art Gallery and Martin Parr's exhibition at Humber Gallery.

I was inspired by the volunteers and the engagement from people of all ages in the Hull City of Culture programme, and by the leadership shown by city leaders to transform the city through civic pride.

World Cities Culture Forum Summit

From 1 to 3 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired the sixth World Cities Culture Forum Summit in Seoul, South Korea. Justine gave a keynote speech alongside Park Won-soon, Mayor of Seoul.

The World Cities Culture Forum is the largest global network of senior leaders from city governments, championing the pivotal role of culture in cities. It has grown from 9 to 35 cities over the past 5 years.

This year's Summit was attended by 28 cities, including Tokyo, Sydney, New York, Taipei, Toronto, Rome, Zurich and Stockholm. A new Leadership Exchange Programme, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Google Arts and Culture, was launched and will support exchanges between cities to deepen learning from each other.

London Borough of Culture/Into Film: My Local Culture Filmmaking Competition

On 21 November, as part of my London Borough of Culture programme, I launched a new filmmaking competition, in partnership with James Bond producer, Barbara Broccoli, and film education charity Into Film. Together, we want to find the next generation of London film talent and inspire young people.

The competition invites young Londoners to make a short film celebrating who they are and why they love where they live.

Winners of the My Local Culture Filmmaking Competition will receive equipment and guidance to pursue a film career. The competition is a celebration of the capital and the young citizens

in it who are the life blood of the city, and is part of my plans to support the arts and social cohesion across London through the London Borough of Culture.

Cultural Leadership Board

On 21 November, my Cultural Leadership Board met for the third time, and the focus of the meeting was to advise on my draft Culture Strategy.

Updates were given from three sub-groups which had met to develop actions about Diversity in the Creative Workforce, Youth Culture and my new Creative Enterprise Zones. The Board also discussed my Sports Strategy which is in development and opportunities for Culture links with my Thrive LDN programme.

London Plan – culture, creativity and character

I have announced new policies in my London Plan that will protect London's character, including its valuable culture and heritage assets including pubs.

Pubs are a unique and intrinsic part of British culture - steeped in history – and are part of London's built, social and cultural heritage.

My new draft London Plan is the most pro-culture ever; it includes new policies protecting pubs, my new Agent of Change policy, and a policy for supporting London's culture and creative industries, which also sets out how Creative Enterprise Zones could be identified in Local Plans and I will soon publish a prospectus inviting boroughs to apply for funding to develop their own zones.

It also strengthens policies for affordable workspace and low-cost business space, including vital creative industries and artist studio space.

Culture Keynote to developers

On 30 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a speech about development and culture in London.

Justine outlined emerging ideas on culture and cities to a number of developers, hosted by property consultancy GL Hearn, and outlined how my ambitious plans for culture add value to development in London.

Southwark Night Surgery

On 24 November, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held a night surgery in the London Borough of Southwark supported by Southwark Council.

This surgery highlighted the vibrancy and diversity of Southwark's night time offering. Amy met and spoke with police and the street pastors team. By speaking to community groups, residents and workers, night surgeries are a unique and valuable way to find out how we can improve London's life at night for all Londoners.

Communities and Social Policy

New work to help London's BAME communities thrive

On 29 November, I outlined how I have put the capital's diverse communities at the centre of my new draft London Plan.

For the first time, the draft Plan makes strengthening BAME communities and relationships across London's diverse groups a key priority, outlining work to ensure Londoners from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to develop businesses and benefit from the capital's cultural offer.

The draft Plan provides a framework to ensure tailored support is given to BAME Londoners who want to start, or grow, a business. Complementing my Economic Development Strategy, this support includes the retention and provision of workspace, which offers valuable collaboration opportunities for fledging businesses. And with London's population set to grow to around 10.8 million by 2041, I have outlined plans for new 'growth corridors' in areas of higher density, set out alongside planned new infrastructure which will support new employment opportunities. These include Crossrail 2, Thames Estuary, and the Bakerloo line extension.

The draft Plan also encourages boroughs to consider how their cultural offer serves different groups of people, including those from BAME backgrounds, how these facilities can be protected and where gaps may be.

Most pro-LGBT+ London Plan yet

On 29 November, I made clear that my draft London Plan contains a raft of measures to make the capital more inclusive and welcoming for its LGBT+ citizens.

Ensuring that the LGBT+ community feels truly valued, happy and safe is a key priority of mine and for the first time, the London Plan focuses on strengthening the capital's diverse communities. The plan outlines measures to ensure all Londoners, regardless of ethnicity, race, sexuality, disability or gender are able to fulfil their potential in the capital and that the city is a welcoming, open place for everyone.

To protect LGBT+ spaces, I have introduced the Agent of Change principle. This means that developers building new residential properties near LGBT+ venues will be responsible for ensuring they are adequately soundproofed and designed to reduce sound from nearby pubs, clubs and live music venues, instead of the crippling cost falling on the pubs and clubs.

I have also called on local authorities across the capital to recognise the importance of LGBT+ venues to local communities and I urge them to protect the character of areas with a high proportion of LGBT+ venues or clientele.

I am also encouraging developers to provide more gender-neutral toilets in new developments in the capital, to help trans and non-binary people feel more comfortable.

Gender-neutral toilets are particularly important for trans and non-binary people, and anyone whose gender expression doesn't conform with traditional gender roles. They help to prevent people being made to feel uncomfortable or unwelcome when using toilets that are gender-segregated, and therefore help Londoners of all genders to move around the city with dignity.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

David Goldstone CBE

David Goldstone CBE has now left the LLDC to take up the Chief Operating Officer role at the Ministry of Defence. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for all his hard work and successes on and around the Park.

LLDC will be appointing a Chief Executive shortly, with Deputy Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, covering the role in the interim.

Bloomberg Philanthropies Board

On 12 November, LLDC welcomed Michael Bloomberg and the Bloomberg Philanthropies Board to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

This was an opportunity for the Board to see first-hand some of the work that Bloomberg Associates have been supporting in London and also to learn about the 2012 Games legacy and the plans we have in place for the forthcoming cultural and education district on the Park.

The delegation had the chance to meet gold-medallist, Paralympic swimmer, Ollie Hynd MBE during their visit to the London Aquatics Centre, as well as meeting key business and cultural partners at Here East.

Fire

Calling on Government to 'step up' around fire safety

On 26 November, I called on the Government to step up and do more to improve fire safety in the wake of the Grenfell disaster, as I made clear that my new draft London Plan will provide a significant boost to fire safety in London.

For the first time, the London Plan will require new development proposals to go beyond the minimum and achieve the 'highest standards' of fire safety to ensure the best possible protection for all building users should a fire break out.

Following the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower earlier this year, I am determined to drive forward every possible improvement to fire safety, so that nothing like it is ever allowed to happen again. This means safety considerations must be central to the design and operation of all new buildings.

My new policy will mean robust fire safety plans and features to help stop fires spreading, and aid escape, rescue and evacuation – such as fire evacuation lifts and sprinklers – must be incorporated into building designs from the outset.

Planning applications for all major developments will in future need to be accompanied by an independent 'Fire Statement' – produced by a qualified third-party assessor – setting out how the 'highest standards' will be achieved appropriate to each specific building or development, from the enormous variety of fire safety solutions and measures available.

The aim is for all users of new developments, including disabled people, to have full confidence that they are as safe and protected as possible and that there is a robust evacuation strategy in place should it be needed.

However, I believe the Government needs to do more to strengthen fire safety across the country. This means ensuring the Grenfell Public Inquiry reports as soon as possible so that action can be taken, ensuring the independent review of building regulations and fire safety is as full and effective as possible and appointing an independent commissioner to give residents across the country a stronger voice in future social housing decisions.

Blue Light Collaboration Day

On November 8, I attended the Blue Light Collaboration Day to watch London's emergency services show how they work together.

The London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police Service, London Ambulance Service and other partner organisations took part.

It was incredibly impressive to watch our emergency services train to improve our response to incidents and ensure we're as prepared as possible. It's vital that we all, including London's emergency services, work together to keep London safe.

Budget and Finance

The most anti-London Budget in a generation

On 22 November, I condemned the Government for delivering the most anti-London Budget in a generation and warned that hammering London will not encourage growth elsewhere in the UK.

With the Brexit negotiations in chaos, and the economic impact of the current uncertainty being felt across the city, this year's Budget was a chance for the Chancellor to reaffirm his commitment to London through a major programme of investment – a chance Philip Hammond totally failed to take.

He has failed to deliver the measures the capital desperately needs to fix the housing crisis, keep Londoners safe, tackle toxic air pollution and invest in future infrastructure.

In fact, the Chancellor failed to even mention counter-terrorism, policing and security, this in a year when London has been victim to four terrorist attacks, crime is on the rise across the UK and there has been a spike in violent crime.

The Government refused to back the Metropolitan Police and it is sadly now inevitable that police officer numbers will continue to fall and we are left with no choice but to scrap London's strategic target for 32,000 police officers that has been in place since 2012.

However, the Government's most astonishing failure is on housing. The Chancellor did not announce a penny of extra grant for affordable housing in London, even though we know the current spending is less than a fifth of what we need. We need councils to be able to build more, but there was no commitment that any councils in London will be given the powers to do so. This Government is all talk and no action on housing.

The measures announced to clean up our polluted air are also totally inadequate and the budget included no action to introduce a desperately needed diesel scrappage fund.

Planning and Development

Ripping up old planning rules to get London building

On 29 November, whilst launching my new draft London Plan at Barking Riverside, I set out my determination to get London building the affordable homes it needs by ripping up existing planning rules and calling on homebuilders to develop sites at higher housing densities to substantially increase capacity in the capital.

I announced that I have removed outdated constraints and rigid density guidelines to give a significant boost to the number of new and affordable homes given planning permission in the capital. I have thrown out the previous Mayor's policy, which proved complicated and set meaningless maximum rules for the number of homes on developments, in favour of boosting the number of well-designed homes sites can deliver.

I am asking homebuilders to maximise the use of valuable land in the city - and that means developing sites with more homes on them than existing developments nearby that would have had to follow previous guidelines. I believe that increased numbers of homes should be built on sites near town centres or good public transport, reducing the need for car parking spaces within developments. My Plan clearly says that proposed development on sites that do not clearly maximise housing density should be refused.

My new Plan also emphasises the importance of good design and this will be applicable to buildings of all types, including low-rise, medium and high-rise. This new approach is supported by a far stronger policy on housing standards, including minimum space standards, which sets out how a home should be designed. I am clear that I expect councils to refuse any applications that come forward with homes that do not meet these new standards.

The draft London Plan also includes my key strategic housing commitment for 50 per cent of all new homes built to be genuinely affordable - to be achieved through planning, investment and building on public land. It also strengthens my approach to offer private developers a fast-track route to planning permission if they reach a minimum of 35 per cent affordable.

New ambitious targets have been set for councils across the capital, as part of an overall London Plan figure of 65,000 homes a year - roughly double the current rate of homebuilding.

I am also using the London Plan to provide greater protections for industrial land while also looking at innovative solutions such as stacking up distribution sheds or encouraging development of industrial workspaces side by side with new homes.

Plans for more public toilets to be built across London

On 28 November, I was pleased to announce that for the first time the London Plan contains detailed policy guidance on the provision of new free publicly accessible toilets in commercial developments. It set out that more public toilets should be built across the capital and they should reflect the diversity of the city.

The Plan states that more public toilets must be built in shops, leisure facilities and large public areas and that they should be suitable for all users, including disabled people and families with young children.

I believe that public toilets are a vital facility, both for Londoners and visitors to the city. They are especially important for certain groups, including older people, people with babies and young children, disabled people, and pregnant women, as well as tourists and visitors who may be less familiar with local amenities.

Public toilets can support businesses in boosting customer footfall, by giving people more confidence to move around the city and spend more time in a place or space, as well as helping to keep London clean.

I also want to see more 'Changing Places Toilets', which are designed to be suitable for people with profound and multiple impairments, some people with learning disabilities and people who require the assistance of a carer, included in all major new developments. Changing Places toilets are different to standard accessible toilets as they are built for people who may have limited mobility and need specific equipment or the assistance of carers.

For the first time, the London Plan also calls for the provision of gender-neutral toilets, to help trans and non-binary people feel more comfortable.

The Plan also calls for on-going surveillance, management and cleaning of toilet facilities to be secured and agreed at the planning stage to ensure long-term provision is achievable.

My new draft London Plan also calls for developers to install free drinking water fountains where appropriate. Areas to be considered for water fountains include town centres, shopping malls, parks and squares.

Protecting the Greenbelt

On 27 November, I revealed that I have strengthened the commitment to protect London's Green Belt and other important open spaces for future generations and have set out plans to help make more than half of London green by 2050 – both of which were key manifesto commitments.

My draft London Plan strengthens safeguards which prevent harmful development on vital green land both within and surrounding the capital.

This means a planning application which involves building on the Green Belt will be refused if it does not meet strict rules on what is appropriate, such as replacing existing buildings with new ones of a similar scale or the provision of new agricultural buildings.

London's Green Belt makes up almost a quarter of the capital's land area and benefits London's air quality, as well as helping reduce the risk and impact of flooding and providing habitats for London's wildlife. I will work with London's boroughs and other partners to ensure that public access to the Green Belt is maintained and that its overall quality is enhanced.

The draft London Plan also includes guidelines for increasing green infrastructure (such as street trees, green roofs, green walls and rain gardens) and a framework to help boroughs and developers determine how much should be required in new developments.

The guidelines make it clear that green infrastructure must form an integral part of new developments, rather than an 'add-on', and will be judged against a number of criteria, including promoting wellbeing, enhancing biodiversity and improving air and water quality.

The draft London Plan will also strengthen protections for Metropolitan Open Land, which is a network of strategic, designated green spaces within the capital and makes up a significant part of London's existing green infrastructure.

The Plan also encourages boroughs to protect existing allotments and provide space for community gardening, including growing food, in new developments.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Mayplace Primary School, Bexleyheath, 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.

Langley Park School, Beckenham, LB Bromley

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

St Hughes Playing Fields, Bickley, LB Bromley

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

6-8 Bishopsgate and 150 Leadenhall, City of London

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

585-603 London Road, Thornton Heath, LB Croydon

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

One Lansdowne Road, Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Queen's Hotel, Church Road, Crystal Palace, LB Croydon

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

Twyford Abbey, Park Royal, 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.

Imperial College Site, Perfume Factory, North Acton, 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.

Victoria Deep Water Terminal, 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.

First Central, Park Royal, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

I have written to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Corporation to determine the application itself.

2 Scrubs Lane, Old Oak Common, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

I have written to the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Corporation to determine the application itself.

Enterprise House, Buckle Street, Aldgate, LB Tower Hamlets

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

73-77 Commercial Road, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets

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

225 Marsh Wall, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets

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

562 Mile End Road, Mile End, LB Tower Hamlets

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

1-3 Corbridge Crescent and 1-4 The Oval, Bethnal Green, LB Tower Hamlets

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

St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, 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.

14-17 Paddington Green, Paddington, City of Westminster

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

5 Strand, 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.

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- 381-397 and 13-20 Park Parade Mansion, LB Brent
- Cannon Industrial Estate, Wembley, LB Brent
- Hanger Lane Gyratory, LB Ealing
- Unit 5, Martinbridge Industrial Estate, Enfield, LB Enfield
- 325 Lordship Road, Manor House, LB Hackney
- Quayside Lodge, Parsons Green, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Rom Valley Way, Romford, LB Havering
- 3 Viveash Close, Hayes, LB Hillingdon

- Former Master Brewer site, Freezeland Way, LB Hillingdon
- Frogs Ditch Farm, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- Ansell Garden Centre, Harmondsworth, LB Hillingdon
- Swakeleys House, Ickenham, LB Hillingdon
- 240 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, LB Islington
- London Television Centre, Southbank, LB Lambeth
- 17 Newport Street, Kennington, LB Lambeth
- Vauxhall Bus Station, LB Lambeth
- Axion House, Silver Road, Lewisham, LB Lewisham
- 259 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, LB Newham
- Bede Centre, Damory House and Thaxted Court, Abbeyfield Estate, Bermondsey, LB Southwark
- Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets
- 1-3 Tent Street, Bethnal Green, LB Tower Hamlets
- The Mall, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Kelaty House, LB Brent
- St Johns Wood Delivery Office, City of Westminster
- Kensington and Chelsea Local Plan Partial Review - Further Modifications Consultation, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Draft Estates Local Plan – Main Modifications, LB Merton
- Tower Hamlets Local Plan - Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation, LB Tower Hamlets
- Redbridge Local Plan 2015 - 2030 Proposed Main Modifications, LB Redbridge
- Epsom and Ewell Local Plan - Partial Review of the Core Strategy Housing Policies Issues and Options Consultation, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Consultation, Babergh District Council/Mid Suffolk District Council

Key Engagements

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

- I had an introductory meet and greet with a delegation from the European Society of Cardiology on 3 November, ahead of their announcement that they have chosen London again to host their annual congress in 2021
- I unveiled the plans to transform Oxford Street on 6 November
- I attended the launch event for London Living Wage Week on 6 November and announced the new London Living Wage rate of £10.20, the first time the rate has exceeded £10
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 November
- I had an introductory meeting with the Mayor of Buenos Aires, Horacio Rodriguez Larreta, on 7 November
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 7 November ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I met with the Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 7 November ahead of the Budget

- I attended the London Blue Light Collaboration Day event at the former LFB HQ, Albert Embankment, on 8 November
- I met with the Rt Hon David Liddington MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, on 8 November to discuss Criminal Justice Devolution
- I attended the Civic Ceremony taking place in New Addington on 9 November to mark the first anniversary of the Croydon tram incident
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 9 November
- I attended the Annual GLA Remembrance Day Service at City Hall on 10 November
- I attended the MTV European Music Awards Event taking place in Trafalgar Square on 11 November
- I attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on 12 November
- I attended the MTV European Music Award Ceremony at Wembley Arena on 12 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 13 November
- I appeared before the Home Affairs Select Committee on 14 November to discuss policing in London
- I visited the Photofusion studio in Brixton on 15 November to launch the “London Needs You Alive” anti-knife crime marketing campaign
- I attended the Jet Airways launch event on 15 November to mark the start of their third daily flight to Mumbai
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 November
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 16 November
- I visited Hull on 17 November to learn about their experience of being the UK City of Culture 2017
- I attended an event at Kings Cross Station and St Pancras Church on 18 November to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the King's Cross fire
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 November
- I attended the Google HQ Groundbreaking ceremony at the new Google HQ site in King's Cross on 21 November
- I addressed the first Victims Summit on 21 November
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley on 21 November to discuss policing and security
- I officially opened the East London Mosque Archives Strong Room on 22 November
- I appeared before the EFRA, Health, Transport and Environmental Audit Committees joint 'Improving Air Quality' inquiry on 23 November
- I met with Manuel Cortes, General Secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, on 23 November to discuss transport issues
- I had my regular meeting with Craig Mackey, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 23 November
- I had an introductory meeting with Jane Cummings, the NHS's Interim Regional Director for London, on 24 November
- I addressed the City Mental Health Alliance Annual Celebration taking place at City Hall on 27 November
- I visited Kensington Aldridge Academy on 27 November as part of the Speakers for Schools programme
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 28 November
- I unveiled the new bust of Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the South Asia and China Gallery of the British Museum on 28 November
- I visited Barking Riverside on 29 November to launch the draft London Plan

- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 29 November
- I attended a meeting with Assembly Members to discuss Tube noise on 29 November
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 30 November
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 30 November
- I attended the Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope Carol service at St Bride's Church on 30 November

Ends