

27th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 20 December 2018

This is my twenty-seventh Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9th November – 6th December 2018.

Executive summary

Dublin visit

On 6 December, I was in Dublin as part of a series of visits to European cities to make the case that despite Brexit, London remains open to the world: open to business, open to ideas, open to investment, open to trade and open to talent.

I spoke about the importance of maintaining strong links between London and Irish businesses at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce's Annual Lunch. I also met with Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, President Michael D. Higgins and the Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee to discuss the enduring friendship between London and Ireland.

First ever dedicated facility opens for young victims of sexual abuse

On 5 December, the country's first ever dedicated service for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse opened in London.

This ground-breaking centre, The Lighthouse, brings together the NHS, social workers and the police in one place to make sure young people who have experienced sexual abuse get the support they need. It's essential that we do everything we can to make the path to recovery and justice as simple as possible.

Widening police funding gap risks

On 3 December, I set out the reality of austerity measures - police officer numbers in the capital could plummet to 26,800 – the lowest number in 16 years - unless the government provides urgently needed funding.

Government cuts have led to London losing 3,000 police officers and more than 3,000 PCSOs and 5,000 police staff. I'm genuinely concerned about how we keep Londoners safe with officer numbers as low as 26,800. We urgently need to see action to avoid officer numbers falling even further.

The Home Secretary has finally admitted that the Met won't be able to tackle violent crime without more funding from the Government. Ministers need to reverse the £1 billion savings forced on the Met and reverse their cuts on youth services and other preventative services so that we can keep our city safe.

Air pollution audits in nurseries

On 3 December, I launched a programme of air quality audits to help clean up toxic air and protect the health of young children at nursery.

The audits will target sources of indoor and outdoor pollution, with five of the 20 nurseries trialling new air filtration systems to test their effectiveness at reducing indoor pollution. They will focus on reducing NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} as research shows children exposed to these smaller pollution particles and gases are more likely to grow up with lung problems and to develop asthma.

The 50 school audits we delivered are already resulting in positive changes that are helping reduce pollution and clean the air for thousands of pupils. I will continue to prioritise the health of all Londoners with a range of strong measures.

Record 80,000 trees planted in London during National Tree Week

On 1 and 2 December, 80,000 new trees were planted across the capital by 15,000 Londoners in the city's biggest ever mass tree-planting weekend. I, with my Deputy Mayor of Environment and Energy, joined 500 volunteers at a Trees for Cities event at Forest Road Recreation Ground in Redbridge on 1 December, helping to plant 15,000 new trees to transform this space into a new community urban woodland. It was one of 30 events taking place across the city during National Tree Week and is part of my efforts to help London become the world's first National Park City. I also planted a tree in Potters Field with the cast of The Inheritance to mark World Aids Day.

It's fantastic that so many Londoners were inspired by the initiative and came out in force to plant trees across the city. As well as the volunteer planting events, 12,000 Londoners who won trees in the ballot organised with The Woodland Trust then planted them at home. Over 200 community groups and schools received packs of 50-200 trees to help green their local neighbourhoods and playgrounds.

Fares freeze confirmed for the third year in a row

On 30 November, I announced another TfL fare freeze from the New Year. Millions of passengers have already benefited from our TfL fares freeze and our expanded 'Hopper' fare since I became Mayor. Keeping transport fares affordable is a vital part of encouraging more people out of their cars and onto cleaner public transport. For Oyster Card users, the introduction of new weekly capping will help people save even more money from next month.

The TfL fares freeze is in contrast to the failing private rail companies, who are once again hitting London's suburban rail passengers with an unjustified fares hike. Given the daily experience of cancellations and overcrowding, the hike in rail fares is another kick in the teeth for fed-up rail passengers.

The launch of Economic Development Strategy

On 29 November, I published my Economic Development Strategy which sets out how we can build an economy that works for all Londoners and ensure that they have access to the opportunities that this city gave to me and my family. The strategy also includes plans to help small businesses take advantage of the opportunities created by the capital's flourishing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology sectors.

London Citizens Accountability Assembly

On 29 November, I attend the London Citizens Accountability Assembly, 'London a City for Life'. I spoke to over 1,200 citizens about the progress made and my ambitions for the future on the living wage, housing, citizenship and social integration and, knife crime and community safety.

Outreach team doubled to help rough sleepers

On 28 November, I launched my plans to help rough sleepers by doubling my street outreach team and opening London's severe weather shelters more often than ever before. This was alongside offering Londoners the chance to donate to homeless charity projects through new contactless donation points across the capital.

Ultimately, we need the Government to wake up and stop ignoring the fact that it is their cuts to welfare and support services pushing more people onto the street. Along with councils and charities in London, we need sustained funding to help people off the streets, and an honest focus by Ministers on the root causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Work begins to transform Old Street roundabout

On 26 November, I was delighted to announce that work to transform Old Street roundabout junction had begun. Old Street is one of the busiest junctions in London, but is currently an outdated roundabout that needs to be made safer for the thousands of people who pass through it every day.

Every death or serious injury on London's roads is one too many, and the improvements at Old Street are part of our ambitious plans to improve road safety all across London.

London joins world cities to prepare for economic and social challenge

On 26 November, I appointed Fiona Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, as Chief Resilience Officer for London to lead the two-year project to prepare a resilience strategy for the capital.

With the imminent arrival of Brexit and the uncertainty around what our exit from the European Union will look like, it is vital London is properly equipped to tackle and address a number of challenges at one time to ensure services are in place and to make the best use of resources.

Ban on junk food advertising on transport network

On 23 November, I confirmed that the advertising of food that is high in fat, sugar and/or salt will be restricted across the Transport for London (TfL) network from 25 February 2019.

London has one of the highest child overweight and obesity rates in Europe, with almost 40 per cent of the capital's children aged 10 and 11 overweight or obese. It's imperative that we take tough action against child obesity and reducing exposure to junk food advertising is one part of my plan to do this. Advertising plays a huge part in the choices we make, and Londoners have shown overwhelming support for the restrictions on adverts for junk food and drink on our transport network.

London businesses launch 2,000 new apprenticeships

On 23 November, I reaffirmed my commitment to delivering skills and training for London's young people by announcing £1.3 million in funding to help businesses create 2,000 new apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are a key part of my commitment to being London's most pro-business Mayor and giving young Londoners the skills they need to succeed. This will benefit individuals, businesses and the whole London economy – so I was delighted to be able to announce further funding to unlock more opportunities across the capital.

City Hall celebrates commitment to healthy staff

On 20 November, over 50 businesses and organisations from across the capital had their commitment and investment in employee welfare celebrated as they were accredited the London Healthy Workplace Charter.

Londoners are our city's greatest asset and our health and wellbeing is vital in making London the fast-paced and successful city it is. These businesses and organisations understand that a healthy and supportive working environment not only empowers employees to give their best, it actually improves productivity. That's why I'm so pleased to see that record numbers are signing up to the Charter.

Unused water cannon sold to help fund youth

On 20 November, the three redundant and unused water cannons bought with London taxpayers' money by the previous Mayor Boris Johnson have finally been sold. The funds from the sale will be invested in projects to tackle the root causes of serious violent crime.

New Step-free station at Newbury Park

On 16 November, I visited Newbury Park station with the leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal to see the improvements which have made it step-free, boosting accessibility for thousands of people.

The introduction of two new lifts will make a big difference to the daily lives of thousands of people who use this busy station every year, including the disabled, older people and those with young children.

Five new Low Emission Bus Zones launched

On 15 November, I launched five new low emission bus zones. Low Emission Bus Zones are an effective way of dramatically reducing pollution and improving the health of thousands of Londoners who live or work along the worst air quality hotspots. As a result of these Zones, 1,440 cleaner buses are now operating in ten boroughs. The results in Putney and Brixton speak for themselves, which is why I am committing to delivering all 12 routes ahead of schedule in 2019 rather than 2020.

I'm doing everything in my power to improve our air, but with half of the UK's roads which exceed legal limits located in London, the Government urgently needs to step up and allow us to access national funding for cities and to fund a national vehicle scrappage scheme to rid London's streets of the dirtiest vehicles now.

Centenary Remembrance Day service

On 9 November, we came together to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. The valour of those who have served and paid the ultimate price for our freedom is humbling.

This year, as every year, Remembrance Day invited us to reflect on the immense contribution the men and women of our armed forces make to keep us safe. We must never forget their sacrifice and dedication, and I'm proud that we will have a permanent memorial at City Hall in honour of their incredible contribution to our country.

London in Berlin and Paris

On 12 and 13 November, I travelled to Berlin and Paris on a trade mission to make the case that despite Brexit, London remains well and truly open.

London benefits from fantastic trade, business and cultural ties with both Paris and Berlin, and as Mayor it is my job to do everything possible to build on those key relationships to attract jobs, investment and trade for the benefit of every Londoner.

In Berlin, I met with Olaf Scholz, the German Minister of Finance and Vice Chancellor, and reiterated the importance of London's finance sector not only to the UK but also to the rest of Europe, highlighting the city's leading role in Euro-clearing. I also met the Mayor of Berlin, Michael Muller and the Mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena to discuss the shared challenges facing European cities at times of rising right-wing populism, immigration and the tests posed by Brexit.

In Paris, I met with Nathalie Louiseau, Minister for European Affairs, for a discussion about the importance of maintaining a close and open relationship between London and France post-Brexit.

In both cities, I met with leading business people to listen to their concerns and offer them reassurances that London will remain open to business. This included meeting major German and French companies including Bosch, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas and BPI France about business opportunities in London, speaking to over 200 representatives of the tech industry from the UK and France, and meeting with French start-up companies interested in working in London.

In Paris, alongside Prime Minister Édouard Philippe and Mayor Anne Hidalgo, I attended the national memorial services for those who died in a terrorist attack at the Bataclan Theatre in 2015. This event clearly brought into focus the vital importance of ensuring that our security services are able to continue to share information and intelligence post Brexit.

Policing, Crime and Security

The Lighthouse: providing the best possible support to young victims of sexual abuse and exploitation

On 5 December, I was delighted to open the Lighthouse in North London – a pioneering project to provide comprehensive support from medical, investigative and psychological professionals, all in one child-friendly location. The Lighthouse, based on the Icelandic Barnahus ('Child House') model, promotes a multi-agency approach that puts the health and wellbeing of the young person first. It minimises the trauma experienced by young victims, increases the length of time support is provided, gathers more effective evidence from interviews and offers speedier progress in investigations and court cases.

The new facility, which will make a huge difference to some of the most vulnerable young people in our city, has been funded through £8 million of investment from the Home Office, NHS England, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Department for Education. NHS England has commissioned the health and wellbeing services which will be provided by University College London Hospitals (UCLH) and The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trusts, and NSPCC, supported by Morgan Stanley.

Continuing the fight for police funding

On 4 December, I met with the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid MP and reiterated my serious concerns about police funding in London. The latest projections set out in MOPAC's draft budget submission indicate that Met officer numbers could fall as low as 26,800 by 2022 – the lowest level in 16 years. This is plainly unacceptable and requires urgent action – points I made strongly to the Home Secretary. The announcement of the forthcoming Police Grant settlement is imminent, and I have been absolutely clear that if the Government again fails to act decisively to reverse the cuts to policing, public safety will be further jeopardised.

Unused water cannon sold

On 20 November, I announced the sale of the three ageing water cannon bought, refurbished and maintained at huge expense by previous Mayor Boris Johnson despite failing to secure official approval for them to ever be used. After a lengthy and far-reaching process to try and sell the cannon, Reclamations (Ollerton) Ltd have purchased the vehicles for £11,025 – all of which will be directed towards vital frontline youth and community services. Whilst it is good news that youth services will receive some further funding as a result of the sale, it is regrettable that the £322,000 wasted by my predecessor on these unusable vehicles was not invested where it could really make a difference – in services to support our young people and prevent crime – in the first place.

On the same day, I visited Spotlight in Poplar, one of 72 new projects being funded through my Young Londoners Fund. Visiting projects like Spotlight, showing the fantastic work being done in our city to help young people reach their full potential, is always uplifting, and I'm delighted that this year, we have been able to support groups like this with £20.5 million of investment.

Transport

Tackling transport problems in partnership with Bosch

A new collaboration between TfL with Bosch will see experts from both organisations matched with small businesses to develop smart transport solutions for the future. This could include more efficient, greener and safer vehicles, reducing congestion and encouraging more people to walk, cycle and take public transport across London.

During the 18-month pilot programme, TfL will provide technical knowledge and a wide range of datasets. This will allow companies to test ideas and understand patterns in more detail than has been possible previously.

In return, Bosch will provide urban mobility professionals, providing expertise, guidance and mentoring. There will be a dedicated co-innovation space within Bosch's new 'Connectory' – currently under construction in Shoreditch.

Vision Zero

London politicians, council leaders and businesses joined victims of road trauma, emergency service representatives and international Vision Zero experts on 13 November to understand how they can help eliminate deaths and serious injuries from London's transport network.

Changes are already being implemented, including transforming London's most intimidating junctions, introducing the world's first Direct Vision Standard, which rates HGVs based on how much the driver can see directly through their cab window, and working closely with the police on a new approach to target dangerous drivers and illegal activity on the roads.

From next year, all new London buses must include a whole host of new safety measures, including technology that automatically limits the speed at which buses are able to travel, an audible alert for pedestrians and other road users, and more blindspot mirrors and reversing cameras.

No death or serious injury on London's roads should ever be treated as acceptable or inevitable. We will do everything in our power to make our streets safer. As the first Mayor of London to commit to a Vision Zero ambition, I recognise that we need an ambitious new approach if we are going to eliminate deaths and serious injuries.

94 new-generation trains to replace the 1970s fleet on the Piccadilly line

On 20 November, Transport for London (TfL) announced the signing of a contract with Siemens Mobility Limited to design and build 94 new-generation trains to replace the existing 1970s fleet on the Piccadilly line as part of the Deep Tube Upgrade Programme (DTUP).

The current trains are old, increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain. From 2023, new spacious 'Inspiro London' trains will be delivered for testing on the Piccadilly line, with current estimates indicating the first of these trains will be serving customers in 2024. These will improve reliability and enable increased frequencies during peak times by the end of 2026 (up from 24 to 27 trains per hour) – a train every 135 seconds.

The state-of-the-art Tube trains will have wider doors and longer, walk-through, fully air-conditioned carriages. In addition, in-train information systems will help all customers plan their onward journey more easily.

The introduction of new trains on the Piccadilly line will significantly improve the journeys of millions of our customers, providing more frequent and more reliable trains for decades to come. This order will help address crowding on the line as London's population continues to rise.

Contactless payment comes to Santander Cycles

For the first time, customers using London's Santander Cycles scheme will soon be able to use contactless payment cards to hire cycles. Starting mid-November, work will commence to modernise all 775 terminals to allow customers to hire a cycle using their contactless bank card, rather than chip and pin. The new system will accept all major UK and international cards.

The move is part of my ongoing commitment to encourage more people to make their journeys by walking, cycling or public transport. Reducing reliance on the car and increasing sustainable travel will help reduce congestion, improve air quality and make London's streets safer, healthier and more inviting places.

Transport for London (TfL) sets out new commitments to small businesses

On 1 December, Transport for London (TfL) published its 'Statement of Support for Small Businesses'. The statement showcases TfL's commitment to the SME community and its understanding that small businesses are drivers of the capital's growth and are vital to ensuring London is the best city in the world.

TfL is one of London's largest landowners, with more than 2,000 commercial units and more than 90 per cent of its tenants are small businesses. Earlier this year, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) called on landowners in London to publicly show their commitment to small businesses and proactively support them, so that they can flourish in the capital. TfL is the first landlord to respond to the FSB's call.

TfL's Statement of Support sets out how it intends to be a landlord that is easy to work with. The statement highlights the importance of the landlord-tenant relationship and how TfL can positively enable small businesses on its estate to thrive.

I'm really pleased that Transport for London is leading the way and has pledged to do even more to support London's small businesses. There are a wide variety of small businesses across Transport for London's estate and this is something that should be celebrated and nurtured.

'Operation Vision Zero' clocks up more than 4,700 driving offences in two weeks

TfL and the MPS have been cracking down on illegal, dangerous and careless behaviour that creates risk on our roads, as part of their joint Vision Zero commitment to eliminate death and serious injury on London's roads by 2041.

During an enhanced two week programme of enforcement, named Operation Vision Zero, 4,758 offences have been dealt with by on-street officers alone – more than 800 offences higher than an average two week period in 2016.

DLR ambassadors offer travel safe training for mobility scooter and wheelchair users

Free advice and training is being offered to mobility scooter and wheelchair users as part of the Dockland's Light Railway (DLR) Community Ambassador programme.

The voluntary scheme will help mobility impaired passengers stay safe while travelling, as well as boost their confidence and independence when on the transport network.

The DLR network is fully accessible and helping people feel more confident while travelling is an important way to build their independence. This training will be invaluable to many people and I invite them to sign up.

First Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) signs go up in London

I can confirm that TfL has begun installing more than 300 Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) warning signs across central London in advance of the new zone starting in April next year. The signs, which are being installed at the same locations as existing Congestion Charge signs, warn drivers at all entry points to the zone, and on a number of key approach routes, to ensure their vehicle meets the tough new emission standards that come in to effect next year.

This is part of an extensive communications campaign that TfL have been running across multiple channels to prepare drivers for the ULEZ, including speaking to 5,000 businesses, emailing over 2.5 million registered customers, displaying posters and digital displays across the TfL network, social media interaction and adverts in print, radio and video-on-demand.

The Ultra Low Emission Zone will help take the most polluted vehicles off London's streets. It is a central part of my far-reaching work to make London a healthier, greener place by tackling the severe health impacts caused by London's polluted air.

Fire and Resilience

London Fire Brigade carol service

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM attended and gave a reading at the annual London Fire Brigade Carol Service. The Service was for London Fire Brigade staff and their families.

London Assembly Plenary

On 6 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM appeared before a meeting of the London Assembly. The purpose of the meeting was to allow Assembly Members to put questions to the Deputy Mayor and London Fire Commissioner on a range of issues.

Enhancing Fire Safety Standards across the housing sector

On 4 December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, gave the keynote address at *Enhancing Fire Safety Standards Across the Housing Sector*. The event brought together housing and fire safety professionals to consider the latest regulatory and policy changes around fire safety across the UK housing sector.

Brexit contingency planning

On 30 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Fiona Twycross AM, chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Project Group.

Food and Brexit

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM chaired a Food and Brexit Roundtable jointly with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, bringing together a range of leading experts to consider the impact and implications of a no-deal Brexit on the food industry.

100 Resilient Cities launch

On 26 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM launched London's participation in the 100 Resilient Cities Programme with an agenda setting workshop attended by Assembly Members, GLA Teams and representatives of the London Resilience Partnership. The project will ensure that London is prepared to tackle future challenges facing the capital, including the impact of Brexit and a growing population. London has joined other world cities to form a partnership with 100 Resilient Cities – a network to share best practice on how to prepare for economic, social and physical challenges over the coming decades. I have appointed my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience as the GLA's Chief Resilience Officer for London to lead the two-year project to prepare a resilience strategy for London.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 22 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross appeared before the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Committee to question the Deputy Mayor, the Head of London Resilience and the London Fire Brigade's Director of Safety and Assurance on a range of issues relating to resilience.

Strategic Coordination Summit

On 20 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross, attended and spoke at the London Resilience Partnership's Strategic Coordination Summit. The Summit focused on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks and necessary arrangements in a counter-terrorism context.

The event provided an opportunity to bring together strategic representatives to enhance their understanding of the prevailing risks and threats and the Partnership's Strategic Coordination arrangements.

Meeting of Resilience Forum Chairs

On 14 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross, attended and spoke at a joint meeting of the Resilience Forum chairs, bringing together London's 32 Borough Resilience Forums and the London Resilience Forum. The event provided an opportunity to explain the work of the Resilience Partnership and to share best practice and learning.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

New Learning Resource Centre – Zephaniah Building

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, officially opened the new Learning Resource Centre at Harrow College on 5 December. The Skills for Londoners Capital Fund has contributed towards the centre, named the Zephaniah Building after Benjamin Zephaniah – poet, writer, lyricist and musician. The building provides new classrooms, IT facilities and online resources, plus a dedicated social space specifically for disabled students and those with learning difficulties.

Skills London

On 23 November, I announced £1.3 million of funding for a series of new pilot schemes that will help to create almost 2,000 new apprenticeship opportunities across London. City Hall will work directly with employers who pay the apprenticeship levy, giving them the support they need to invest more of their levy funds into creating apprenticeships in their organisations. And where employers are not able to use all of their funding, we'll help them to transfer money to other, smaller businesses, supporting the work of the levy-payers and preventing the funding and opportunities going to waste.

I made the announcement at Skills London, the UK's biggest jobs and careers event for 15-24-year olds and their families, organised by London First. Tens of thousands of people attended over two days, and I was pleased to be able to meet some of the young people who were there getting new ideas for their future careers.

I also published my 'Careers for Londoners' Action Plan on the day. The plan sets out my vision for the future of careers provision in London, details the action I am taking to realise this vision, and explains how employers, schools, colleges, and universities can all play a key role in improving access to high-quality careers advice for Londoners. Through the plan I have also called on the Government to reverse recent cuts to the National Careers Service, and devolve adult careers services to London.

Growth and Infrastructure – Connected London team

On 22 November, I met with Dana Tobak the CEO of Hyperoptic, which provides Fibre to the Building services across London. I made a manifesto pledge to improve Londoner's access to digital infrastructure. I encouraged Hyperoptic to consider underserved areas of London in developing its business plans. Over the next few months I plan to meet with other providers to encourage them to bring full fibre connectivity and next generation mobile to London to meet the capital's digital needs.

My Connected London team will continue to engage with and assist providers and boroughs to overcome the barriers to London becoming the world's most connected city.

Scratch Hub opening

The Scratch Hub, a new community co-working space, based beneath Battersea Arts Centre's historic Grand Hall, officially opened on 14 November. The workspace hub will be home to local businesses, start-ups, artists, creative companies, charities and social enterprises. It features a combination of permanent desks for 'anchor' companies and hot-desking space. I invested £538,000 from the Mayor of London's regeneration funds, with additional funding for its activity programme coming from the Battersea Power Station Foundation.

The first businesses, creatives and charities to move in include Link UP London, who connect specialist volunteers willing to share their professional skills with local charities, TEAFilms, a production company working with arts organisations, charities and educational institutions, and Baby Reign, which brings together young parents for creative workshops to prevent isolation and stigmatisation. Baby Reign is one of several alumni enterprises from Battersea Arts Centre's Agency programme, which works with young people to make their entrepreneurial ideas a reality.

Mountview opening

Mountview in Peckham, the first project to be completed this year from Round 1 of my Good Growth Fund, opened on 7 November. I invested £848,543 into this new mixed-use drama and cultural space, which has two theatres, rehearsal and performance studios, production workshops, music practice rooms, TV studios and a radio suite. It will be used by a range of people, from vocational students, young people and life-long learners to industry professionals and visitors.

Housing

The launch of my new rough sleeping campaign

It is shameful that rough sleeping has risen so much under this Government, and it is our moral duty to do all we can to help people facing homelessness in our city. On 28 November, I launched my winter rough sleeping campaign, and my plans to help rough sleepers this winter. I outlined that I have doubled our street outreach teams, made sure severe weather shelters across the city are open whenever freezing temperatures are forecast anywhere in the capital, and persuaded all London boroughs to sign up to my 'In For Good' principle, which means a rough sleeper going into an emergency shelter will be accommodated until a support plan is put in place to help them off the streets for good.

I also unveiled 35 new TAP London contactless donation points across the city to make it easier for Londoners to donate to homeless charity projects. The number of donation points will rise to 90 over the winter. This follows the huge success of my campaign last year, which raised nearly £200,000 for charity projects. Once again, I am working with the London Homeless Charities Group – a coalition of 22 charities working with homeless people across the capital. I'm also urging Londoners to use the Streetlink app and website to alert outreach services to rough sleepers who need support.

To mark the campaign launch, we hosted theatre company Cardboard Citizens the night before at City Hall - some members of which had previously been homeless - to perform 'Rising', an interactive performance on one man's journey once released from prison.

Announcement of new Strategic Partnerships

On 27 November, I announced new allocations totalling £490 million for 9,937 additional genuinely affordable homes, of which over 4,000 will be based on social rent levels, to be delivered by housing associations in London. I also announced six new Strategic Partners, continuing an approach which has proved successful in collectively maximising delivery of genuinely affordable homes. Along with my Homes for Londoners team, I look forward to working closely with all 15 housing associations who are now signed up as Strategic Partners to deliver the genuinely affordable homes that Londoners so desperately need.

Leadership 2025

I was pleased to have recorded a video message for the recent Leadership 2025 celebration event, which my Deputy Mayor James Murray attended on my behalf. At the event, James presented awards to those who have successfully completed this leadership programme, which is specifically aimed at increasing the number of BAME leaders in the housing sector. London's diversity is its greatest strength, and we must work tirelessly to ensure that the leadership of housing organisations reflect the city they serve.

Housing association roundtable on homelessness

Deputy Mayor James Murray and Mark Baigent, Director of Housing and Regeneration at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Chair of the London Housing Directors' group, co-chaired a roundtable forum with Chief Executives from g15 housing associations. The event encouraged housing associations to consider ways in which they could do more to support London boroughs with the increasingly challenging and costly task of securing accommodation for homeless households. GLA will work with the g15 and London boroughs to follow up this discussion.

James Murray meeting with Kit Malthouse MP, Housing Minister

On 29 November, James Murray met with the Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, to discuss housing delivery in London. James noted strong affordable housing delivery in the capital and reiterated the Mayor's calls for the Government to devolve additional resources and powers to the capital so that we are able to go even further.

Homes for Londoners Board

On 4 December, I chaired a meeting of my Homes for Londoners Board bringing together colleagues from London's councils, housing associations, Transport for London and the commercial residential development sector. We discussed: my Building Council Homes for Londoners programme; a proposed additional £486 million of funding from government; the Housing Infrastructure Fund; my Homes for Londoners property portal; the progress of the London Estates Board; a proposed partnership agreement with Whittington Health NHS Trust; the progress of the construction quality sub-group since it reported and the latest information about housing delivery in London.

LLDC meeting with London Citizens

Deputy Mayor James Murray and officers met with representatives of London Citizens and the London Legacy Development Corporation to discuss options for taking forward community-led housing on the site.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Economic Development Strategy

On 29 November, I launched my Economic Development Strategy for London. Developed after extensive consultation with stakeholders, the strategy sets out my plans to create a fairer, more inclusive city with an economy that works for all Londoners. It is accompanied by an Implementation Plan which sets out the actions I will prioritise, and how progress will be measured.

Visit to China

In mid-November, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, took ten FinTech companies on a trade delegation to Shanghai, Hangzhou and Beijing where they met with top corporates and founders representing fintech. The group toured Huawei, WeWork & JD.com, and met with leading tech giants Alibaba.com and ANT Financial. Rajesh delivered a key note speech at Money 2020 in Hangzhou, which brings together some of the most innovative leaders in the global financial sector. The week concluded with the delegation attending a seminar on fintech regulation at the 2018 Beijing Global Fintech summit with the Department for International Trade.

CleanTech London Work Programme

As part of my developing CleanTech London work programme, I have been collaborating with Climate-KIC (part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology), LWARB (the London Waste and Recycling Board) and Knight Frank to look at how we can overcome the challenges facing innovative small CleanTech businesses in accessing London's public sector market opportunities. On 21 November, we held a joint event with London Boroughs and CleanTech SMEs to examine the challenges and opportunities of procuring CleanTech innovation with a view to identifying future opportunities for co-design and testing across local authority areas.

Mayor's International Business Programme (MIBP) award

I am delighted that the Mayor's International Business Programme (MIBP), 'Go to Grow', which is run by London & Partners, was the winner of the "Business Growth Enabler of the Year" category at the Start Up Awards held on the 21 November. The MIBP has been running successfully for three years and in that time has supported more than 500 companies to internationalise.

Engagement with business leaders

In the past month I have met with Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan & Chase, and Helen Dickinson, CEO of the British Retail Consortium, to understand the impact of a 'no deal' Brexit and to set out why I believe that despite the challenges of Brexit, London's appeal as a place to do business will endure.

Immigration White Paper

I wrote to the Home Secretary, along with London First, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Small Businesses, to highlight our concerns about the Migration Advisory Committee's proposals. including the restriction of tier-two visas to roles paying over £30,000 a year. The Government's delayed Immigration White Paper has not yet been published, and we do not yet have the full details of the Government's proposals for our future migration system. However, it is clear that without a system that provides for some level of free movement of labour between the UK and European Union, this would mean businesses struggling to fill key posts. Almost half of all the jobs in the capital across the board pay less than £30,000 and EEA workers are most likely to work in sectors with a large proportion of roles paying less than £30,000.

Environment

Five new Low Emission Bus Zones launched

On 15 November, I visited one of my new Low Emission Bus Zones running from Camberwell to New Cross. I met local schoolchildren and a doctor from a GP surgery that runs an asthma clinic based within the new zone. This is one of five new Low Emission Bus Zones, which are:

- Camberwell to New Cross, cleaning up more than 380 buses
- Wandsworth to St John Hill, cleaning up more than 200 buses
- High Road Haringey to Green Lanes, cleaning up more than 330 buses
- A12 Eastern Avenue to Homerton Road, cleaning up more than 290 buses
- Edgware Road Kilburn to Maida Vale, cleaning up more than 240 buses

Low Emission Bus Zones deliver the cleanest new and retrofitted buses on some of the most polluted roads in London, thereby targeting improvements where they are most needed. I will provide 12 of these in total. Including these five, I have now delivered seven; the rest will be delivered by the end of 2019, brought forward from the originally planned completion date of 2020. It is estimated that annual bus NOx emissions will be reduced by an average of 90 per cent along the seven bus zones delivered so far.

Air Quality community event

On 6 November, I held an event, organised with the London Sustainability Exchange, for community groups from across London to discuss how we can work together to improve the capital's air. People from 64 different organisations attended, and it was inspiring to see so many people committed to improving London's air quality gathered together in one place, and a great opportunity for London's local communities to network and learn from each other's experiences.

I also invited a panel of experts to discuss how we can continue working together to improve air quality. Speakers included the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Shirley Rodrigues, Director of UK 100 Polly Billington, Chief Executive of London Sustainability Exchange Samantha Heath, Professor Stephen Holgate of the University of Southampton and Client Earth's Andrea Lee. The community representatives then provided a host of great ideas and suggestions as to how communities can help cut pollution in London.

Launch of the nurseries air quality audit programme

On 4 December, I launched my £250,000 nurseries air quality audit programme, building on the success of the air quality audits I've delivered at 50 London primary schools.

The nursery project will deliver audits at 20 of London's most polluted nurseries, helping to identify measures to reduce the exposure of children at the nurseries to toxic air pollution. I will then deliver and fund some of the recommendations from these audits at the 20 nurseries. As part of this project I will be installing air filtration systems at five of these nurseries, testing the effectiveness of these at reducing indoor pollution. A report on this study will be released at the end of the project.

Mass tree planting weekend

On 1 and 2 December, 80,000 new trees were planted across the capital by 15,000 Londoners in the city's biggest ever mass tree-planting weekend. It's fantastic that so many Londoners were inspired by the initiative and came out in force to plant trees across the city.

I, with my Deputy Mayor of Environment and Energy, joined 500 volunteers at a Trees for Cities event at Forest Road Recreation Ground in Redbridge on 1 December, helping to plant 15,000 new trees to transform this space into a new community urban woodland. It was one of 30 events taking place across the city during National Tree Week and is part of my efforts to help London become the world's first National Park City. I also planted a tree in Potters Field with the cast of The Inheritance to mark World Aids Day.

Several of my Deputy Mayors also planted trees over the weekend, with , Rajesh Agrawal volunteering in Ealing and Joanne McCartney in Enfield.

As well as the volunteer planting events, 12,000 Londoners who won trees in the ballot organised with The Woodland Trust then planted them at home. Over 200 community groups and schools received packs of 50-200 trees to help green their local neighbourhoods and playgrounds. An extra 5,000 trees were also available to collect over the weekend.

New tree canopy cover mapping

On 20 November, I released new data about London's tree cover which shows that around 21 per cent of the capital's land area is covered with trees. This new mapping helps us analyse canopy cover by area. Previous estimates of London's tree cover were based on statistical sampling. This new map uses high-resolution aerial imagery of the whole of London to analyse tree cover using machine-learning techniques. It will help us and Londoners to pinpoint where trees are, and which parts of London have low tree cover and could be targeted for future tree planting projects. We have made this data publicly available on the London Datastore so anyone can download it and use it for further research.

View the map: www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/trees-and-woodlands/tree-canopy-cover-map

Applications open for Drinking Fountains for London

On 16 November, I opened applications for sites that want to host new drinking water fountains in London, as part of my £5 million Drinking Fountains for London partnership with Thames Water. My aim is to install at least 100 water fountains.

London boroughs, other public landowners, private landowners, and leaseholders / managing agents who have secured necessary permissions, can apply to host a fountain. We're looking for locations that are busy - with lots of people passing by, publicly accessible and not near existing fountains (unless there is lots of demand for more fountains). We're especially looking for places where lots of people use single-use plastic water bottles but could be persuaded to refill a bottle instead. Applications close on Friday 7 December at 5pm.

Eligible organisations can apply here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/waste-and-recycling/single-use-plastic-bottles/drinking-fountains-london>

Responding to water company resource plans

I am continuing to hold London's water companies to account to ensure they provide efficient, secure, resilient and affordable water supplies to Londoners. On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues responded on my behalf to draft proposals from Thames Water on their updated plans to meet the water supply and demand needs for London over the next 80 years.

I'm encouraging Thames Water to take a regional approach to future water resources, working with other water companies to improve the infrastructure to share water more effectively between companies. I'm also urging Thames Water to bring forward the planning and construction of a new reservoir for London and the southeast to ensure we have secure supplies and are more resilient to drought in the future. I have asked Thames Water to do more to reduce leakage as well, as I'm particularly concerned that leakage is heading in the wrong direction, despite ambitious targets in their plans.

London Flood Awareness Week

London Flood Awareness Week 2018 ran between 12 and 18 November. This was a partnership campaign with the Environment Agency, London Resilience and Thames Water.

Roughly 1.3 million people are living and working in areas of tidal and fluvial flood risk and around a third of London's 80,000 basement properties are at risk of flooding in a severe storm. The campaign's objectives were to raise awareness of all types of flood risk in London, particularly surface water flooding, and specifically target people likely to be more vulnerable to flooding. It also encouraged individuals and communities to take low/no-cost actions before, during and after any period of flooding.

The week was marked by an innovative social media campaign that included a 'How would you cope' online quiz. Initial estimates suggest that the online campaign reached more than 21,000 Londoners, with approximately 1,075 participants signing up for more information. Materials such as flood packs, leaflets and posters, were also distributed to people via partners, such as Age UK and Thames21.

Electric Vehicle Taskforce Meeting

My Deputy Mayor Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, chaired the fourth meeting of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Taskforce formed of representatives from business, energy, infrastructure, government and London boroughs. Members of the Taskforce were updated on the outcome of technical workshops run by Transport for London over the summer, an outline of the challenges and opportunities related to increasing charging infrastructure in the capital in the coming years and some draft findings which will form the basis of recommendations. The Taskforce are working to agree a shared Delivery Plan to be published next spring.

Camden Climate Change Alliance 10 year anniversary

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at an event to mark the tenth anniversary of the Camden Climate Change Alliance alongside Cllr. Harrison, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport. The Alliance's membership of 260 businesses represent over half of the borough's non-domestic carbon emissions. My Deputy Mayor discussed the upcoming Ultra Low Emission Zone and key sustainability challenges for London including air quality, carbon emissions from buildings, and resource use, and outlined my support for businesses to tackle these issues including my £10 million Cleaner Heat Cashback scheme which gives cashback to SMEs that replace old and inefficient boilers with cleaner options.

Deputy Mayor visit to Harrow

On 4 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues visited Harrow to meet with the Deputy Leader, Cllr. Ferry and Cllr. Parmar, the Environment Portfolio holder discuss opportunities to work together to deliver key priorities in the London Environment Strategy. The meeting also included a visit to Headstone Manor Park which is receiving a £300k grant through my Greener City Fund to help support the renovation of the park. My funding is supporting the creation of new wetland habitats including a pond which will be designed to provide an outdoor learning area.

Education and Youth

Early Years in London

On 4 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests to the phase two launch of the Working Together Early Years Hub in Newham.

I launched my Early Years Hubs programme nearly a year ago, at the Newham Early Years Conference. Sheringham Nursery School, who lead the Working Together Hub, organised this most recent event in order to celebrate some of the Hub's successes in its first year of delivery, as well as to galvanise local support moving forwards. The event was well attended, with Newham's Mayor, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, also speaking and offering her support.

Over the past month, Joanne has also been to visit my other two Early Years Hubs: the BEYA Hub, based in Barnet and the Wandle Hub, which works across Wandsworth and Merton.

All three Hubs are providing vital opportunities for schools, childminders, Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries and others in these areas to work together over a three-year period. They are all working hard to achieve their aim of improving access to high-quality early education for the most disadvantaged families in London.

Children's Rights Inquiry

On 16 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM opened the Children's Rights Inquiry at the House of Commons. This was the third annual event of its kind, focussed on trying to find way to improve young people's lives across London. The topic of discussion this year was 'Youth Participation and Engagement' and the day was split into five themes: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Housing and Homelessness, Young Refugees and Migrants, Children in Care and Care Leavers and the Youth Justice System. Experts from organisations across London were invited to give evidence, with a panel of young people given time to ask questions to each speaker.

City Hall's own Peer Outreach Team partnered with Parliament's Outreach Team to organise the day. They ensured that young people were directly involved in planning the event. It's great to see young people leading the climate of change across London.

Careers Clusters visit

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Kingsmead School in Enfield, where she spoke to and joined Year 8 pupils for their careers fair. This event was designed to support pupils to explore career choices, in conjunction with choosing their preferred subjects to study as they move on to Year 9.

Kingsmead School is a member of one of London's twelve Careers Clusters, funded by the European Social Fund. The clusters work with senior leadership teams in secondary schools and further education colleges to help design high quality careers guidance offers for pupils. They help teachers understand London's job opportunities, support pupils into work placements and trial different employer-based activities for pupils.

This particular cluster is run by Reed in Partnership and supports schools and colleges across Barnet and Enfield. It has helped more than 11,000 young people in London over the last three years.

Through my 2019-23 ESF programme, I will be commissioning a further 10 Careers Clusters across London.

Young Londoners Fund

On 19 November, I announced further funding of £13.2 million for 72 youth projects as part of my latest Young Londoners Fund investment. This takes the total funding allocated this year to £20.5 million with 179 projects benefitting more than 63,000 young people in London.

My Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, and I visited Spotlight Youth Centre run by Poplar HARCA in Tower Hamlets, one of the projects that have received funding. Spotlight will provide more opportunities for young people across East London offering a programme of free activities under three strands: Get Creative, Get Active and Get Inspired. I spoke with young people who will benefit from the fund and took part in a music studio recording session with them.

The Young Londoners Fund is an essential part of my approach to supporting young people across our city and to tackling the root causes of serious youth violence. Projects funded cover a wide range of activities, from mentoring and mental wellbeing support to arts and sports groups.

Details of the projects funded so far can be found on the website: www.london.gov.uk/young-londoners-fund.

Improving the Financial Skills of Young Londoners Summit

On 12 November, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare welcomed guests to the summit.

I partnered with MAS (Money Advice Service) and the education charity Young Enterprise to bring together education providers, banks, charities and technology companies to discuss what can be done to improve young Londoners financial skills and investigate how City Hall is best positioned to help. The summit also marked the start of MAS' Talk Money Week, the annual celebration of the work thousands of organisations across the UK are doing to improve money management.

Communities and Social Policy

New Deputy Mayor for Social Integration starts

I'm delighted to welcome Debbie Weekes-Bernard as London's new Deputy Mayor for Social Integration. Debbie brings with her a wealth of experience, having spent years working to tackle poverty and inequality. I know she will do a great job in bringing together our diverse communities and ensuring that all Londoners feel a key part of our city.

Debbie is a trustee for the Equality and Diversity Forum and was previously Head of Research at the Runnymede Trust where she was responsible for conducting and commissioning research on racial inequalities in education, the criminal justice system and the labour market, as well as working closely with teachers, trade unions and academics.

Centenary and Community: London Celebrates the Polish community

I was delighted to host 'Centenary and Community: London Celebrates the Polish community' on 28 November. The event celebrated 100 years since Poland regained independence. It was wonderful to welcome community leaders, cultural organisations, businesses, the Polish Ambassador, his consul General and the Mayor of Warsaw to City Hall. The event was led and curated by Polish Community and Cultural Organisations and celebrated Polish culture and the stories of Polish communities in London.

London Faith and Belief Community Awards

On 27 November, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the London Faith and Belief Community Awards. The event was organised by the Faith and Belief Forum and celebrated the contribution of faith and belief organisations who provide support and services to London's communities. Debbie presented awards to five organisations under the 'Interfaith Relations' category.

50th Anniversary of the Race Relations Amendment Act

On 27 November, Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard took part in a British Academy event marking 50 years of the Race Relations Amendment Act 1968 and of the Runnymede Trust. The event reflected on progress in research and policy-making to tackle race discrimination. Debbie spoke about her role as the new Deputy Mayor, the importance of social integration for me, and the range of work that City Hall is doing to tackle race discrimination.

Naz Legacy Foundation 6th Anniversary Reception

On 29 November, Joanne McCartney my Statutory Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare attended the Naz Legacy Foundation 6th Anniversary Reception in Mayfair.

The evening saw a number of supporters and beneficiaries come together in support of the Foundation's incredible work in promoting diversity, educational excellence and positive integration for young people throughout the UK, as championed by the late Naz Bokhari OBE, the UK's first Muslim Head Teacher. The night also saw a number of key individuals recognised for their exceptional contributions to the mission and values of the Foundation.

Health

World AIDS Day

On 1 December, I attended the annual World AIDS Day Red Run in Victoria Park and cut the start ribbon. Thousands of runners took part in the event which brings together charities from across the country to raise money for HIV services. The Red Run, now in its ninth year, is the only event of its kind in the UK uniting the HIV sector, creating a platform for HIV organisations across the country to raise awareness and vital funds for their work.

On 30 November, my health advisers, Dr Tom Coffey and Professor Yvonne Doyle, hosted an event at City Hall to mark World AIDS Day and the London Fast Track Cities Initiative. Dr Coffey announced that London will host the first international gathering of more than 250 Fast Track Cities across the world in September 2019. The announcement came as Public Health England released the latest HIV data showing London is the first city with 95% of people living with HIV diagnosed, 98% of those diagnosed receiving treatment, and 97% of those receiving treatment with undetectable viral loads meaning it cannot be passed to others. This is a fantastic achievement, but we cannot be complacent. HIV is still a significant public health issue and we need to work together to tackle stigma and discrimination and eliminate new infections by 2030.

Healthy Schools London

On 21 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, visited Glebe Primary School in LB Harrow to congratulate them on their fantastic work as part of my Healthy Schools London programme. They have achieved bronze, silver and gold awards for their work on improving pupils' dental health and promoting opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating across the school.

London Healthy Workplace Charter awards

On 19 November, the Healthy Workplace Charter Awards recognised 58 London employers for their commitment to employee health and wellbeing. The awards were also an opportunity to recognise the hard work of local authorities and volunteers and who work to recruit and support employers. My Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, opened the event on my behalf and GLA Chief Officer Mary Harpley was the keynote speaker.

238 organisations have been accredited to date covering approximately 326,510 employees.

World Prematurity Day

On 14 November, to mark World Prematurity Day, the Smallest Things hosted their celebratory event at City Hall and Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare opened the event and delivered a few words.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Explore Your Horizons 2018

On 29 November, Team London, my volunteering and social action team, hosted Explore Your Horizons 2018 at Lord's Cricket Ground. The event brought together 250 students from London schools for speed networking with 250 business volunteers. This gave them the opportunity to talk about their career aspirations and to learn more about the world of work, with the aim of informing future academic and career decisions.

Major Events Volunteers

From 8 November – 18 November, 220 of my Team London Major Events Volunteers gave their time for free to support Shrouds of the Somme at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The volunteers helped over 85,000 members of the public experience the exhibition. On Remembrance Sunday, 110 volunteers supported visitors and participants to find their way around Whitehall to pay their respects to the fallen.

HeadStart Action YLF

On 13 November, as part of HeadStart Action Young Londoner's Fund, I awarded £200,000 to five place-based projects. Over the next two years these projects will support 400 disadvantaged young people who are at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training. The programme will use social action, volunteering, employability skills development and work experience to support these young people to develop confidence, skills and motivation to focus on their education and career opportunities.

2018 Nitto ATP Finals

In partnership with the ATP, I made 4,000 tickets available to schools so that children could attend the ATP finals, held at the O2 arena from 11 – 18 November, at a reduced rate. This offer was also extended to London's emergency services staff.

Powerday Foundation Annual Charity Boxing Dinner Fundraiser

On 10 November, Joanne McCartney, my Statutory Deputy Mayor of London represented me at Powerday's Annual Charity Dinner and Tournament. Powerday work across London with Boxing Clubs and have achieved tremendous success in collaboration with the clubs who have benefitted from over £7.5 million worth of direct investment into their facilities and projects.

Culture and Events

World Cities Culture Summit (San Francisco)

From 14 to 16 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired the seventh annual World Cities Culture Summit in San Francisco, USA, and met with San Francisco's Mayor London N. Breed. The World Cities Culture Forum is the largest global network of senior leaders from city governments, championing the pivotal role of culture in city policy and impact. The Summit was the largest to date, and 10 Deputy Mayors from around the world attended. It focused on how culture and technology are solving city issues and launched the third World Cities Culture Report 2018. The World Cities Culture Report 2018, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, is the Forum's landmark publication and the most comprehensive report published about culture and the role it plays in shaping life in major cities worldwide.

Since 2012 the World Cities Culture Forum has grown from 9 to 38 cities. This year's Summit was attended by 32 cities including Lagos, Melbourne, Amsterdam, New York, Taipei, Hong Kong and new members, Oslo, Helsinki, Dublin and Nanjing.

Culture and Creative Industries reception

On 20 November, I hosted a Culture and Creative Industries reception with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and Ben Evans, Chair of my Cultural Leadership Board. 120 senior figures attended from across culture and the creative industries including my Cultural Leadership Board. The reception was an opportunity to recognise the achievements leaders have made across the past year and to highlight the priorities of my Culture Strategy.

Supporting women in the music industry

On 22 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a speech to launch the #BehindEveryGreatCity EP. The EP has been released by Parlophone as an outcome of *Nexxt Step: Women in Music*, a talent development programme to support women in the music industry which has been curated by BBC 1Xtra DJ Sian Anderson and funded by the Government Equalities Office Centenary Cities Fund.

Chosen from 150 applications, ten young BAME women took part in a month-long music industry mentoring programme. The artists wrote and recorded their own music, based on the themes of #BehindEveryGreatCity, which can be downloaded on iTunes and Spotify.

Film Merton launch, New Wimbledon Theatre

On 26 November, my Culture team launched Film Merton. This is one of six projects I gave a Cultural Impact Award to through my London Borough of Culture programme. Through staging a new film festival curated by local people, Merton will build the case for future investment in a cinema in Mitcham. An audience of over 700 residents, cultural partners, community groups and artists from the borough enjoyed short films, live performances and interviews as part of an evening celebrating the communities who will curate the upcoming film seasons.

BECTU Theatre Diversity Action Plan

On 27 November, I launched a new industry-wide action plan to tackle the critical lack of workforce diversity in theatre. The Theatre Diversity Action Plan, created by the broadcast and entertainment union BECTU, provides theatres employers with step-by-step guidance to improve back-stage diversity. Nearly 100 theatres nationwide, and across the commercial and subsidised theatre sector, have signed up to the plan, with half of those being in London.

Illuminated River Reception

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE gave a speech at a reception to support partnerships and fundraising for Illuminated River. This iconic project will see world-renowned artist Leo Villareal and architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands create free public art on the city stage, by installing a unified lighting scheme on 15 of London's bridges. The first four bridges to be illuminated are London Bridge, Cannon Street Bridge, Southwark Bridge and Millennium Bridge. The commission brings together key partners including the Cross River Partnership, Historic England, Network Rail, Port of London Authority, TfL and seven local authorities.

Reception to celebrate London's most influential Women

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE attended and gave a speech at an event celebrating London's most influential women, as part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign. Fashion designer Bella Freud and artist Gillian Wearing OBE launched a new range of suffrage products at the event which will raise funds for gender equality charity the Fawcett Society. It took place in the recently renamed Millicent Fawcett Room at the restaurant sketch, where on 17 July 1869, Millicent Fawcett gave her first public speech calling for enfranchisement of women.

London College of Fashion reception at Buckingham Palace

On 28 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries attended a reception at Buckingham Palace to honour ten years of the London College of Fashion's commitment to bettering lives. The London College of Fashion is a key partner in my plans for East Bank. A new campus for the college will open at East Bank in 2022 alongside the V&A, Sadler's Wells and UCL. The college is also leading on the development of the Fashion District in East London. This will include an East Education strategy to raise awareness, aspiration and attainment amongst young east Londoners. The reception was attended by representatives of the fashion industry, including the Patron of the London College of Fashion, HRH Countess of Wessex GCVO.

Culture Seeds

Culture Seeds, the Mayor of London's £1 million micro grant programme to support grassroots, community-led arts, culture and heritage projects, awarded a further three grants to individuals and small organisations. This takes the total amount awarded since May 2018 to £225,871 to 52 projects in 25 London boroughs.

Caroline Heslop's 'Music and Mind' project held creative writing workshops for the local community in Kentish Town Health Centre, leading to a final performance in the atrium of the health centre. Connaught Opera continued their concerts in carer centres for those caring for loved ones across London with performances in Lewisham and Islington.

Remembrance Day events

On 9 November, I joined Assembly Members, representatives of the British Armed Forces and other special guests to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives fighting for their country.

Alongside the Chairman of the London Assembly, Tony Arbour, I was humbled to officially open The London Remembrance Gallery, formerly the Viewing Gallery, here at City Hall. Under a canopy of 48,000 poppies, we were joined by several senior representatives of the armed forces, members of City Hall branch of the Royal British Legion and the 56 (Woolwich) Squadron ATC Air Cadets drum core. The gallery exhibition highlights stories of Londoners who have served in the Armed Forces across each of the 33 boroughs who have been impacted by war over the last one hundred years.

After the opening, our annual Service of Remembrance took place in the Chamber with 250 invited guests. The service was conducted, by The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark with an address given by the Rt Hon & Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London. Wreaths were laid by myself, senior members of the armed forces and key agencies, including Transport for London, the London Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade. The service paid a fitting tribute to the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, with a special performance from the London International Gospel Choir.

It was an honour to be present this moving event, which was a collaborative effort between the GLA, the London Assembly and the City Hall Branch of The Royal British Legion.

Chanukah in the Square

On 5 December, I was delighted to continue our tradition of holding Chanukah in the Square. This important eight-day Jewish Festival took place between 2-9 December and a Menorah was once again placed on Trafalgar Square to mark it. It was an honour to speak at the public celebration event on 5 December, where I addressed an audience of thousands of Londoners, alongside Rabbi Bentzi Sudak and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. This event, led by Chazzanim, marked the fourth night of Chanukah and culminated in a ceremony to light the Menorah candle. The Chanukah song, Ma'oz Tzur, was performed by the Akiva School Choir along with other live music and accompaniments from the Kedma band and Rabbi Levene and the Solomon Brothers. As is now tradition, free doughnuts were distributed amongst the crowd by volunteers from the Jewish community.

This annual community event is supported by the GLA and organised by the Jewish Leadership Council, the London Jewish Forum and Chabad-Lubavitch UK. It is free of charge and open to everyone, with attendees from the Jewish community, Londoners and visitors to our great city.

London Legacy Development Corporation

First World War Centenary Celebration

To mark 100 years since the end of the First World War, between 8 and 18 November, the Park hosted the Shrouds of the Somme, which saw 72,396 shrouded figures laid out on the South Park Lawn, each figure representing a British or Commonwealth serviceman killed at The Battle of the Somme with no known grave. Around 85,000 visitors, including 4,000 children, attended the free, event.

London districts named in ARUP report

On 12 November, ARUP published the UK Innovation Districts Group report on the form and function of UK Innovation Districts. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the Kings Cross Knowledge Quarter were among the six districts in the country highlighted in the report.

The report can be read online here:

<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/research/section/innovation-districts-how-can-we-drive-growth-in-major-uk-cities>

Roundtable on delivering affordable housing and workspace

On 27 November, LLDC partnered with New London Architecture (NLA) to hold a high-level roundtable in Hackney Wick that brought together developers, local authorities, community groups and business representatives to address the challenges of delivering both affordable housing and affordable workspace in London. Jules Pipe, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills attended on my behalf.

LLDC's Revised Local Plan Consultation

The consultation on LLDC's Revised Local Plan continues through an online portal, with a number of events being held across the local area between 5 November and 17 December. The planning application for Stratford Waterfront, as part of the plans for the East Bank project, was submitted 26 November.

Bobby Moore Academy officially opens

The Bobby Moore Academy, a brand new all through school for east London, based in the Park, celebrated its official opening on 5 December. The academy will eventually be home to over 1,500 pupils.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

OPDC Board refresh

On 27 November, I appointed nine diverse and renowned leading industry experts to join the Board and Planning Committee that is responsible for governing the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC). The decision was made in response to a recommendation by my team and Liz Peace CBE, Chair of OPDC, following an open recruitment process.

New members will take a leading role in helping OPDC to deliver tens of thousands of new homes and jobs in West London. The appointments aim to strengthen the expertise that the existing Board and Committee provides to the Mayoral Development Corporation as it continues to deliver the UK's largest regeneration project.

Newly appointed Board members are:

- Natalie Campbell, Director of Insight and Innovation at The Royal Foundation
- Shevaughn Rieck, Partner at Farrells LLP
- Michael Simms, Director of the Acton Community Forum
- Helen Ward, Professor of Public Health at Imperial College London

Newly appointed Planning Committee members are:

- Karen Cooksley, Partner & Head of Planning Development at Winckworth Sherwood
- Sandra Fryer, Director at Sustainable Works Ltd.

Newly reappointed Board members are:

- Rahul Gokhale, Commercial Director at Allpex
- William McKee, CEO at Accessible Retail

Newly reappointed Planning Committee member is:

- Gordon Adams, Head of Planning & Public Affairs at Battersea Power Station Development Company

New Community Review Group

On 19 November, I announced the creation of a new Community Review Group to represent local people when deciding planning outcomes in Old Oak and Park Royal.

The initiative, that empowers locals to have their say on the design of the area, is part of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) plan to ensure that new developments serve local needs both now and in the future. The group will review development proposals from the perspective of those living, working and spending time in the area and the outcome of these discussions will influence planning decisions.

The OPDC Community Review Group has been selected to reflect the diverse community that makes up Old Oak, Park Royal and its immediate surroundings. The twelve members either live or work nearby and span multiple generations, the youngest member being twenty-one years old. In return for valuable local knowledge, members will gain skills in reviewing planning proposals, learn about their area and take an active role in creating change.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 30 October 2018 to 26 November 2018

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Pentavia Retail Park, Watford Way, Mill Hill, LB Barnet

I have written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Cleeve Meadow Free School, Sidcup, LB Bexley

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

Flamingo Park, Chislehurst, 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.

Wandle Road Car Park, 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.

SKLPC Community Centre and Sports Ground, India Gardens, Northolt, 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.

Britannia Leisure Centre, Hyde Road, Shoreditch, LB Hackney

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

Cargo Service Centre, Bedfont Road, Stanwell, LB Hounslow

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

Kensington Forum Hotel, Cromwell Road, Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea

I have written to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Ravensbury Estate, Mitcham, LB Merton

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

High Path Estate, South Wimbledon, LB Merton

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

Eastfields Estate, Mitcham, LB Merton

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

Store Road, North Woolwich, LB Newham

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Fulton Quarter, Wembley, LB Brent
- Land to rear of 416-444 High Road, Wembley, LB Brent
- Beaverwood Lodge, Chislehurst, LB Bromley
- Athletics Track and Pavilion, Norman Park, Hayes Lane, Hayes, LB Bromley
- Park View Place, Greenford, LB Ealing
- Acton Gardens (formerly South Acton Estate), Acton Town, LB Ealing
- Flint Glass Wharf, Charlton Riverside, RB Greenwich
- Tottenham Hale Centre, LB Haringey
- Harrow View East Plot A3, Harrow, LB Harrow
- Brunel University (Site 2), Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, LB Hillingdon
- Brentford Lock West, Brentford, LB Hounslow
- Hounslow Heath Golf Course, Hounslow West, LB Hounslow
- Lambeth Methodist Mission, Lambeth Road, LB Lambeth
- 1 Creekside, Deptford, LB Lewisham
- Creekside Village East, Deptford, LB Lewisham
- Former Tesco Car Park, 209 Conington Road, Lewisham, LB Lewisham
- Kew Biothane Plant, Melliss Avenue, Kew, LB Richmond upon Thames
- York Road Business Centre, Battersea, LB Wandsworth
- Land at 36 St John's Wood Road and 38-44 Lodge Road, St John's Wood, City of Westminster

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Thames Gateway Waste to Energy, LB Barking and Dagenham
- St Mary Magdalene School, RB Greenwich
- Plot 12 Beam Reach 5, LB Havering
- Hatton Cross Hotel, LB Hounslow
- Kings College Hospital, LB Lambeth
- Royal Docks Service Station, LB Newham
- Development Site at 14 to 17 Paddington Green, City of Westminster
- 70-88 Oxford Street, City of Westminster
- St Johns Wood Delivery Office, City of Westminster
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Local Plan Regulation 18 (Stage 3) Consultation, LB Lewisham

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the opening of the London Remembrance Gallery at City Hall on 9 November
- I attended the Annual GLA Remembrance Day Service at City Hall on 9 November
- I hosted a roundtable of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the EU27 Member States on 9 November
- I had an introductory meeting with HE Dr Peter Wittig, the new German Ambassador to the UK, on 9 November
- I attended the Ascension Trust 25th Anniversary Celebration on 9 November
- I attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on 11 November
- I opened the Royal Tea Exchange on 11 November
- I visited Berlin and Paris on a trade mission on 12 and 13 November to make the case that despite Brexit, London remains open
- I visited New Cross on 15 November to launch the New Cross Low Emission Bus Zone and to mark the Halfway point in the Low Emission Bus Zones Programme
- I met with Tracey Hanson, Josh Hanson Charitable Trust, on 15 November to discuss the work of the trust
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 15 November
- I visited Newbury Park Underground station on 15 November to mark the opening of step-free access at the station
- I visited Spotlight Youth Centre in Poplar on 19 November to announce the next phase of the Young Londoners Fund awards
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 19 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 19 November
- I attended the Brexit Advisory Panel Breakfast on 20 November
- I met with Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive of the BRC, on 20 November to discuss concerns around and preparations for Brexit
- I attended the Culture and Creative Industries Reception on 20 November
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 21 November
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 22 November
- I had an introductory meeting with Dana Tobek, CEO and MD of Hyperoptic, on 22 November
- I met with ten BAME artists who took part in the NEXXT STEP Women in Music programme on 22 November
- I had my regular update with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on the work of the Violent Crime Taskforce on 22 November
- I addressed the Skills London 2018 at ExCel London on 23 November
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 26 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 26 November
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 26 November to discuss policing and security
- I launched BECTU's new Theatre Diversity Action Plan on 27 November
- I had my regular meeting with representatives from the GLA Unison Branch on 27 November

- I met with Keith Prince AM and three representatives from Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) on 27 November, following a commitment made at June's Mayor's Question Time
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 27 November
- I launched the 2018 Rough Sleeping Campaign on 28 November
- I had an introductory meeting with Dario Nardella, the Mayor of Florence, on 28 November
- I had an introductory meeting with Rafał Trzaskowski, the Mayor of Warsaw, on 28 November
- I attended 'Centenary and Community: London Celebrates the Polish Community' on 28 November, an event organised at City Hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence and the contribution of the Polish Community to London
- I attended the Assembly Plenary on 29 November to answer questions on my Economic Development Strategy
- I attended the London Citizens Accountability Assembly at St Georges Cathedral on 29 November
- I attended a tree planting ceremony on 30 November in Potters Field to mark World AIDS Day with members of the cast of the West End play The Inheritance
- I visited Forest Road Recreation Ground in Redbridge on 1 December to take part in a mass volunteer tree planting event to highlight my National Park City tree planting weekend
- I visited Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets on 1 December to attend the annual World AIDS Day Red Run
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 3 December
- I chaired the Home for Londoners Board meeting on 4 December
- I met with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Home Secretary, on 4 December to discuss Police funding, serious violence and the MAC report on EEA migration
- I met with Robert Jenrick MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, and Andrew Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, on 4 December to discuss Crossrail
- I attended the Deputy Police Commissioner, Craig Mackey's retirement reception on 4 December
- I attended the opening of London Child House on 5 December
- I met with Mark Tucker, Group Chairman of HSBC, on 5 December to discuss concerns around and preparations for Brexit
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Peter John, the Chair of London Councils, on 5 December
- I attended a meeting of the Labour Lords Group on 5 December
- I attended Chanukah in the Square on 5 December
- I visited Dublin on 6 December to make the case that despite Brexit, London remains open

Ends