

## **48<sup>th</sup> Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

### **Mayor's Question Time – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

This is my forty-eighth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Please note that the information in the Mayor's Report is accurate at the time of publishing.**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Covid-19 Update**

This week the Government finally listened to the experts and took the inevitable step of announcing another full national lockdown. The virus is still out of control and our NHS is increasingly at risk of being overwhelmed by an exponential rise in cases, with Covid-19 admissions to hospitals now significantly higher than at any time during this pandemic.

The new variant of the virus is spreading quickly – the only way to get it under control was a full national lockdown. This alone will not be enough, and I have made my views on what more needs to be done very clear

I continue to call on the Government to make wearing masks mandatory outdoors when in queues, on the streets and other crowded spaces outside. To limit the risk of new variants spreading, we need more rigorous testing and quarantine rules put in place at our borders and airports.

The Chancellor's announcement this week of additional financial support for businesses was welcome, but it's scandalous that there are three million excluded self-employed people who continue to be ignored, many of whom are left facing the impact of these tougher restrictions alone.

The Government must look urgently at an extension to the business rates holiday and the VAT relief scheme, as well as targeted support for night-time economy businesses that have been forced to stay shut since March, and more support for those who are self-isolating.

I'm also urging the Chancellor to act swiftly and guarantee the furlough scheme will continue to protect people's jobs until the vaccine is rolled out widely and restrictions are lifted.

While the new lockdown will help to limit the spread of the virus, it is the rollout of the vaccines that is showing us all the light at the end of the tunnel. With the lockdown now in place, the Government must take every step possible to accelerate the vaccine programme – they must not let another opportunity to get a grip on this crisis pass them by.

The recent changes mean more difficult weeks ahead for our city. I know that Londoners have already made huge sacrifices, and I am sure that the city's remarkable spirit and resilience will get us through this. But once again I urge Londoners to follow the rules. Stay at home, protect the NHS and help to save lives.

### **Emergency accommodation for young homeless people**

On 17 December, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and I joined with the CEOs of four youth homelessness charities to write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Kelly Tolhurst MP, highlighting the huge impact the pandemic has had on the lives of young people, with lack of opportunities and unstable employment forcing hundreds into homelessness for the first time.

We urged the Government to provide funding to enable the GLA to open pan-London, Covid-safe, emergency accommodation specifically for all young people who have been sleeping rough or are at risk of doing so this winter.

More information can be found at this link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/more-funding-needed-to-tackle-homelessness>

### **End of the EU exit transition period**

The end of the EU exit transition period was an extremely uncertain and anxious time for London's businesses and communities. Despite a last-minute Brexit deal being reached, significant challenges remain, especially for businesses already dealing with the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.

Whichever way you slice it, there is no doubt that the deal falls short of what's best for London, the UK and our economy. It does not come close to the benefits we enjoyed as members of the EU. However, that was the deal the Prime Minister was able to reach, and Parliament and the nation were presented with a choice between the agreement or a catastrophic no deal Brexit.

Now is the time for us to focus on the future, not the past. That's why I will do everything I can to help Londoners and businesses to deal with this challenging new reality and to reassure European Londoners that they will always be welcome in our city. I will continue working for the UK to have a closer economic and political relationship with our EU friends in the future.

To help London's businesses during this time, I have scaled up the support available through my London Business Hub. EU Transition Advisers began one-to-one consulting with London businesses to help them resolve the issues they continue to face following the end of the EU Transition Period.

Despite Brexit, London will always remain open to business, investment and people from around the world - and, as the Mayor of London, I will go on banging the drum for our city across the globe.

## **Working to clean up London's toxic air**

On 16 December, the Coroner concluded that air pollution played a role in the tragic death of nine-year-old Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah in 2013. This was a landmark moment and was thanks to the years of tireless campaigning by Ella's mother Rosamund, who has shown an extraordinary amount of courage. I pay tribute to the family in their efforts to get the original inquest overturned and securing this important finding. This must be a turning point so that other families do not have to suffer the same heartbreak as Ella's family.

Toxic air pollution is a public health crisis, especially for our children, and the inquest underlined yet again the importance of pushing ahead with bold policies such as expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone to inner London. Ministers and the previous Mayor have acted too slowly in the past, but they must now learn the lessons from the Coroner's ruling and do much more to tackle the deadly scourge of air pollution in London and across the country."

Since becoming Mayor I have reduced toxic air pollution by a third, and my work to clean up our air continues at pace. On 14 December, as part of my ongoing work to tackle London's air pollution, I launched the next phase of the Breathe London air quality monitoring project, with match funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies over the next three years. The new network of over 100 sensors will give Londoners, businesses and community groups the opportunity to measure and monitor air pollution in locations of their choice. The new network will make accessing reliable air quality data affordable for Londoners for the first time. This is the next phase of the world-leading Breathe London low-cost sensor project, which I launched in January 2019.

## **Pay It Forward London scheme raises over £1.5 million**

Thanks to the generosity of over 20,000 Londoners, over £1.5 million has been raised to support more than 420 small businesses through my Pay it Forward London platform.

The scheme is still open, including the opportunity to receive up to £5,000 in match funding for eligible businesses through my Back to Business Fund. So far over 300 businesses have applied for the fund and over £400,000 has been allocated. These investments have been leveraged to generate an additional £1 million in investment for affected businesses.

## **New Homes on St Ann's Hospital Site**

On 10 December, I announced that I have selected Catalyst Housing Limited as my development partner for a major redevelopment of the St Ann's Hospital site in Tottenham.

Catalyst will deliver 934 homes of which 60 per cent will be genuinely affordable. 50 of these affordable homes will be set aside for community-led housing, enabling local people to own some of the homes and making St Ann's one of the largest community-led housing schemes in London. There will also be key worker housing for local NHS staff, with the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust able to make use of 22 London Living Rent homes.

St Ann's was one of the first sites I acquired through my Land Fund. In partnership with Catalyst and subject to Secretary of State and planning approval, I will now be building

almost twice as many homes, and almost nine times as many affordable homes, as was previously proposed to be delivered there prior to my intervention.

### **£25m Adult Education Skills Boost**

This month I set out how I will use up to £25m of the uncommitted Adult Education Budget (AEB) during the next academic year (2021/22) to support London's Recovery Missions. The funding will cover two key interventions. The first, a 'London factor' uplift of 10% to the funding rate of all AEB-fundable qualifications to encourage a renewed focus on lifelong learning, to support those Londoners lacking the basic skills to access learning pathways to progress from lower levels up.

The second, a £10m grant award programme for new and existing Adult Education providers, to deliver new provision that prioritises training, education, and employability support to enable Londoners to gain relevant skills, retrain, and move into good work in sectors key to London's recovery.

Alongside these changes, I will also be launching an Adult Education awareness raising campaign during the summer next year to promote the benefits of learning and how training can be accessed through our Adult Education offer, including the essential digital skills entitlement (free basic digital skills training), retraining and re/upskilling opportunities, and activity to support mental health and wellbeing to Londoners not participating in education.

### **£1.3m Creative Industries Job Boost**

On 4 December I launched a new £1.3m fund to help increase employment and training opportunities in the creative industries for Londoners.

As part of my Creative Enterprise Zones, the fund will support jobs and small businesses by providing skills and training to under-represented groups in the industry in Croydon, Hounslow and Lambeth.

It will particularly help create opportunities for young Black, Asian and minority ethnic Londoners and women, through work placements, training and mentoring delivered in partnerships in the boroughs. These Londoners are already under-represented in the industry and are likely to have been further disadvantaged by the impact of Covid-19.

### **New Year's Eve 2020**

New Year's Eve was particularly significant this year, closing an extraordinarily difficult year with a hope for better times ahead, so I was pleased to mark it with a very special broadcast from London. Our partnership with the BBC delivered a memorable moment for Londoners and the nation to enjoy from the safety of their homes.

At a time when so many were unable to be with loved ones, and without the usual festivities across our city, the messages of togetherness, caring, and positive hope for the future were much needed, along with a poignant look back at some of the major moments 2020 brought us. I'm pleased that Londoners stuck to the rules and largely stayed at home, helping to protect themselves and others.

New Year's Eve is traditionally an opportunity to show off our great city to the rest of the world, and I'm proud that despite the huge challenges we still did exactly that. Londoners have overcome adversity before and will do so again, supporting and caring for each other and standing strong as #LondonTogether.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **Protecting frontline policing in London**

There are more than a thousand additional police officers on London's streets than when I first became Mayor, a real achievement given the years of austerity that the MPS has faced. I'm determined to do everything in my power to support the MPS to protect the frontline in this time of new economic uncertainty arising from the pandemic.

The GLA Group faces a forecast £493 million budget shortfall over the next two years as a result of an unprecedented loss of business rates and council tax income. Savings to be delivered through policing, which includes the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police, are £45.5m for 2020-21 and then £63.8m for 2021-22. I have taken the decision to reduce the saving targets for policing and fire, with a greater burden falling on the other Greater London Authority budget and the two Mayoral Development Corporations.

In order to protect frontline policing and to deliver on my commitment to drive down knife and violent crime in the capital, on 10<sup>th</sup> December I announced my decision to provide half of this year's shortfall - £22.5m of funding - from GLA reserves.

We still face huge financial challenges because the Government is implementing a new era of austerity on public services in London. Ministers are refusing to fully refund City Hall and the Met for the money we've spent tackling the pandemic and the income we've lost as a result. It is absolutely vital that the Government provides more funding for public services hit by the cost of the pandemic.

### **Day of Hope**

I would have attended the Damilola Taylor memorial service at Southwark Cathedral on 27 November alongside Richard Taylor, civil society organisations, and a selection of young people who have been contributing positively to their communities. Unfortunately, a change in government restrictions meant the service has been postponed to 2021. The service would have commemorated 20 years since Damilola's murder.

However, Monday 7 December marked the first 'Day of Hope'. Coinciding with Damilola's birthday, it is being instituted as a day to spread positive messages of hope about and amongst our country's young people.

With the Violence Reduction Unit, I hope to welcome members of the Hope Collective and young Ambassadors of Hope to City Hall as soon as it is safe and possible to do so in the new year to recognise their efforts to elevate young people during what has been a challenging year both for them and the organisations that work hard to support them.

## **Thanking our police**

I want to give a special note of thanks to the men and women of the Metropolitan Police Service for their service to London throughout the most difficult time last year. As ever, the MPS has been operating 24/7 across the holidays, working to prevent crime, pursue criminals and protect the most vulnerable. Londoners are truly grateful for their service and sacrifice.

## **Transport**

### **TfL and The London Marathon Charitable Trust award funding to make walking and cycling more accessible for all**

Transport for London in partnership with The London Marathon Charitable Trust, has announced the recipients of the 2020 Walking & Cycling Grants London (WCGL) programme, which aims to encourage more people to walk and cycle.

Grants of up to £10,000 over three years have been made available to community projects across London to deliver programmes that address barriers to active travel among traditionally underrepresented groups. Enabling more people to walk and cycle is more important than ever as capacity is reduced on public transport due to social distancing and in order to avoid a car-led recovery from the pandemic.

TfL received 128 applications this year - the highest number in the scheme's five-year history. A record 68 community and not-for-profit groups have been selected for the 2020 programme and will receive £593,369 of joint funding over three years.

The funded projects will enable greater physical, social and economic mobility, reduce social exclusion and strengthen communities.

The Trust, which distributes the surplus generated from all events organised by its trading company London Marathon Events Ltd, has awarded the scheme £2 million over the five-year period as part of its Strategic Partnerships Grants programme, created in 2018 to support big regional projects that inspire activity.

### **New TfL data shows significant increase in walking and cycling since the pandemic started**

On 14 December, Transport for London published new data that shows that walking and cycling in the capital has significantly increased since the coronavirus pandemic began, as Londoners' travel habits rapidly changed in the months following the start of the first national lockdown in March 2020.

Following the Government's advice in March for people to stay at home and stop non-essential social contact, Londoners were advised by the Government not to use public transport unless making an essential journey and to walk or cycle wherever possible. To support this, TfL has been working to deliver the Streetspace programme of temporary changes to roads across London, rapidly creating a network of strategic cycle routes, extra space for walking in town centres as well as quieter roads in local neighbourhoods.

Changes to habits saw the proportion of journeys made by walking and cycling increase significantly, from 29 per cent between January and March 2020 to an estimated 46 per cent between April and June 2020. Walking and cycling has remained well above previous levels even when restrictions eased in 2020 and people began to return to public transport, with it accounting for an estimated 37 per cent of all journeys between July and September. Walking accounts for a sizeable part of this, which is good as it is the cheapest and most accessible way for people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.

The huge increase in mode share for walking and cycling is outlined in TfL's latest Travel in London report. Normally, the annual report outlines changes in travel habits for the full previous calendar year, in this case 2019. This year, as a result of the dramatic changes to travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, a new section has been added to the report outlining the changes that have taken place since March 2020.

### **Thameslink services set to be temporarily added to latest Tube map to help support customers during the coronavirus pandemic**

Transport for London has announced it is temporarily adding Thameslink services to the world-famous Tube map from next month to help customers move around the city during the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

The temporary addition to the map, which will appear in stations in the coming weeks, will see Thameslink services within Zones 1 to 6 (as well as Dartford and Swanley), shown on maps displayed in stations, as well as the pocket Tube map, online at [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk) and on the TfL Go app.

Thameslink has been added as it operates a through London service and highlighting this gives Londoners more options during the pandemic. This will help further encourage use of public transport to safely travel across the city, aiding social distancing and reducing the risk of a car-led recovery. Step-free information for all Thameslink stations shown will also be added, further aiding those with accessibility needs who need to travel around London.

Forthcoming closures to the Bank branch of the Northern line later in 2021, to allow for the completion of the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade work, also mean that customers will benefit from using Thameslink services as an alternative route option.

### **Plans to deliver new rental homes near Kennington station given the green light**

On 16 December, a new mixed-use development of 139 new rental homes and more than 2,700 sqm of light industrial workspace in north Lambeth was given the go-ahead, helping to provide quality rental housing for the area along with commercial opportunities to help support the local economy.

The proposals by Connected Living London (CLL) – the formal partnership between Grainger plc and Transport for London (TfL) – were designed by award-winning architects, Hawkins\Brown and will occupy a site currently being used to facilitate the delivery of the Northern Line Extension.

The new rental homes, which include 40 per cent affordable housing, will be delivered across two buildings with a central mews street between them. They will be a mixture of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom properties, providing options for all types of households. The affordable homes will be provided at a discount to open market rates for rent.

Situated within ten minutes' walking distance of Vauxhall, Kennington and Oval stations, the development's location means residents will have a number of different ways to travel sustainably using the public transport network, including the Tube, rail network and buses. For those looking to enjoy one of London's most famous natural landmarks, the River Thames is less than fifteen minutes' walk away.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **Covid-19 Assembly Member Leaders updates**

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to hold regular virtual meetings to update Leaders of the London Assembly political groups on London's response to COVID-19.

### **London Covid-19 Leaders Committee**

I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross and my Chief of Staff David Bellamy, continued to attend regular virtual meetings with London Councils Leaders and representatives of London's Strategic Coordinating Outbreak Control Group to consider London's response to Covid-19 throughout the month.

### **London MPs call**

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to chair regular virtual meetings to update and consult London MPs on London's response to Covid-19.

### **London Strategic Coordinating Group**

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend regular virtual meetings of the London Strategic Coordinating Group to discuss London's response to Covid-19.

### **Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss progress on the London Fire Brigade (LFB) Transformation Plan and the recommendations from the Grenfell Phase 1 Report and HMICFRS inspection, and the continued impact of Covid-19 on LFB, its Budget and wider resilience and recovery.



## **CTPN, Europol and Interpol Conference**

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke at a conference hosted in partnership with the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network, Europol and Interpol. The virtual event focused on counter terrorism preparedness for major events.

## **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

### **Skills for Londoners recovery task and finish group**

My Skills for Londoners Board, supported by the Skills for Londoners Business Partnership, has established the 'Skills for Londoners Recovery Task and Finish Group' to support the delivery of the London Recovery Board's programme. The Group will act to help steer, challenge and oversee the strategy and programme of activities of the Helping Londoners into Good Work recovery mission and parts of the Digital Access for All recovery mission. Members will be active partners in the process, providing advice and challenge as well as shaping activities, informing decision-making and promoting engagement with the Missions through their networks. The Skills for Londoners Recovery Task and Finish Group is co-chaired by Anna Devlet (Member of my Skills for Londoners Business Partnership) and Jamie Mitchell (Member of my LEAP Board).

The Skills for Londoners Recovery Task and Finish Group met for the first time on 9 December and during the meeting were provided with an overview of the Recovery Programme and an outline of the Sector Academies. Members also received a presentation on the strategic collaboration between NHS employers, colleges and local authorities in North West London. Two more meetings are planned to take place before the pre-election period so that members have further opportunities to feed in their views on the relevant parts of the London Recovery Programme before the Mayoral and Assembly Elections.

### **AEB impact evaluation launch**

On 16 December I launched the procurement process for an impact evaluation of the first four years of London's devolved Adult Education Budget, covering the academic years 2019/20 to 2022/23. The evaluation will provide a robust assessment of the impact of City Hall funded adult education.

## **Housing**

### **North Middlesex University Hospital**

On 4 December, I launched the first stage of the procurement to find a development partner to deliver more than 220 homes on land owned by the GLA Land and Property at North Middlesex University Hospital in Enfield. The development partner will be selected from the London Development Panel 2 which is a framework of 29 well established developers, builders, contractors and Housing Associations.

50 per cent of the 220 proposed homes will be genuinely affordable, split between London Affordable Rent/Social Rent, Shared Ownership and London Living Rent. At least 10 of the London Living Rent homes will be available to provide new homes for key workers at the hospital for a minimum of 10 years. Through this scheme, I aim to demonstrate how modern methods of construction can be used to deliver high quality, net zero-carbon homes on NHS sites.

### **Launch of the Winter Rough Sleeping Fundraising Campaign and the need for 'Everyone In' this winter**

On 16 December, I launched my 2020/21 Winter Rough Sleeping Fundraising Campaign. This year the money raised will directly benefit young people experiencing homelessness, with funds split between four youth homelessness charities - New Horizon Youth Centre, Centrepoint, Albert Kennedy Trust and Depaul. In launching the campaign, I highlighted a £24m gap in funding for Covid-secure accommodation and support for London's rough sleepers – meaning that as things stand there simply won't be enough safe spaces for everyone who needs them this winter.

## **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

### **London Covid Business Forum**

On 16 December I hosted the second London Covid Business Forum, bringing together London's key business groups and leaders to support the recovery of London's economy.

We discussed progress on delivering key actions from the roadmap for the safe and full reopening of London's economy, and emerging priorities. This included looking at how London's move to Tier 3 restrictions on 16 December has affected many businesses during the crucial festive season.

### **Letter to the Prime Minister on support for London's businesses and community**

Chair of London Councils, Cllr Georgia Gould and I wrote to the Prime Minister on 13 December, calling on him to take further measures, on the back of public health advice, to prevent a continued increase in cases and meet the additional support London would need. These calls were reinforced by a group of London's business leaders, who highlighted urgent interventions to address the difficulties businesses were experiencing under increasing restrictions.

On 5 January, I welcomed the Chancellor's announcement of a package of much-needed additional support. While it won't replace the revenue lost over the vital Christmas period, it should help many struggling retail, hospitality and leisure businesses stay afloat until spring.

### **Enterprise and business support**

On 10 December the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) Board endorsed £5.5 million to support London's economic recovery. This funding will be directed at activities that deliver the nine recovery missions, helping London remain the best place in the world

to live and work. This includes expanding our business support offer, supporting London's Central Activities Zone and establishing a freelancer taskforce.

## Environment

### **PHV fleet electrification meeting**

On 9 December, as part of my ongoing work to accelerate the roll out of electric vehicles in London, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, hosted a meeting with TfL, Addison Lee, Bolt, City Fleet, Free Now, Gett, Ola and Uber to discuss Private Hire Vehicle operators' plans towards fleet electrification and infrastructure roll out. The group discussed opportunities to work together to ensure delivery of sufficient electric vehicle infrastructure to meet London's demand, including calling for more support from the UK government.

### **UK100 Launch Event (COP26)**

On 10 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment Shirley Rodrigues, took part in UK100's launch event to galvanize local commitments to net zero ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP 26. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues outlined London's international work on climate change with partners such as C40, and our plans for COP 26. She also outlined the recent launch of my Green New Deal Fund that will focus on tackling the climate emergency and creating green jobs in response to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The discussion at the event focussed on how local authorities in the UK can lead on climate action in 2021, and I look forward to working with fellow leaders on this as we approach COP 26.

### **Paris Agreement Anniversary**

To mark the fifth Anniversary of the Paris Agreement, on 11 December I attended an event hosted by Mayor Hidalgo of Paris to commemorate the agreement. The event included remarks from Mayors of L.A, Barcelona, Tokyo and Lisbon and focussed on the role cities have been playing in leading the way on ambitious action in the five years since the Paris Agreement was signed. The event also focussed on the role cities can play in the approach to COP 26 in 2021 and ensuring that a recovery from Covid-19 also addresses the climate emergency. Through my remarks I shared the work we have done in London since being one of the first global cities to develop a climate action plan compatible with the Paris Agreement, and laid out our plans to accelerate climate action through my Green New Deal for London and goal to make London zero carbon by 2030.

### **Launch of Green Finance**

On 11 December, to mark five years of the Paris Agreement I announced my renewed efforts to mobilise the green investment needed to get London to zero carbon by 2030. It has been clear that public sector finances alone will not be enough to make London zero carbon and support a green recovery. The new programme of work includes commissioning the Green Finance Institute to help maximise private sector investment to achieve London's

zero carbon ambitions by 2030. It also includes commitment of a further £8.2m of European funding to the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) which will be used to leverage more private finance for climate solutions, following the model of the first phase of MEEF .

In its first two years MEEF, managed by Amber Fund Management, has mobilised over £250 million of public and private capital enabling projects including heat networks and electric vehicle charging infrastructure, reducing London's CO2 emissions by more than 12,500 tonnes per year. New investment will help build on this success. The Green Finance Institute will publish their recommendations in early 2021.

## Education and Youth

### Curbing the spread of Covid-19 in schools

It has been an extremely difficult few weeks for schools and other educational settings.

On 13 December, Councillor Georgia Gould, Chair of London Councils, and I sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister, urging him to take further urgent measures to prevent a continued increase in cases of Covid-19 in the capital. We called on the government to offer priority testing to all schools, sixth form and FE colleges in London - not just in the boroughs with higher levels of cases. We also urged the Government to give urgent consideration to closing secondary schools and colleges to most pupils a few days before the Christmas holidays and keeping them closed for longer than planned after Christmas to allow for further testing.

Following the Government's subsequent announcement that the re-opening of primary schools in some London boroughs would be delayed at the start of term, I wrote again to the Prime Minister on 31 December to call for the delayed re-opening of all London primaries until at least mid-January. The Government's decision to have two rules in London for the re-opening of primary schools was causing considerable confusion and, in some quarters, understandable fear and anger. Many councils, headteachers and staff found the decision illogical and impossible to explain to parents and families. I supported the concerns of many teachers about the apparent lack of consistency, and the lack of clarity and transparency about how this decision was made.

After constructive conversations with the Schools Minister, the Government's U-turn to include all London boroughs brought much relief to very concerned students, parents and schools.

Of course, on 4 January, the Prime Minister announced that all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges must move to remote learning as part a new national lockdown for England and that this summer's exams will not go ahead.

The best place for our children is in schools and I don't want to see schools closed or children's education disrupted. However, the rate of infection is now dangerously high in

London and we know that before Christmas secondary school aged students had the highest rates of the virus and were passing it onto their families.

The closing of schools in London for in-person learning, with the exception of vulnerable children and the children of key workers, will allow time for the virus to be suppressed and for schools to put in place plans for mass testing to minimise the risks for staff and students when they return to school. It's vital that the Government ensures that schools have the resources they need to help all students are able to access remote learning and that sufficient catch-up support is provided when children return to school.

### **Reducing school exclusions in London**

Despite the extraordinary position we find ourselves in with the closure of schools due to the national lockdown, I am determined that we do not lose focus on tackling the longer-term issues that many of our schools still face.

I have, therefore, commissioned the RSA (the Royal Society of Arts, manufactures and commerce) to conduct a new research and practice-sharing project on reducing school exclusions in London. The year-long project will focus on what additional early intervention and multi-agency action can be taken to support schools to be more inclusive and nurturing. Through a combination of evidence gathering and practice-sharing, this work aims to provide practical resources for use by schools and boroughs.

The RSA has significant experience in this area having authored the recent 'Pinball Kids' report which showed how the damage of school exclusions falls disproportionately on society's most vulnerable groups. They will be working closely with officers in my Education and Youth team and Violence Reduction Unit to build on the work both have been doing to help London schools be more inclusive.

### **Anti-racism event**

On 8 December, I held an online Anti-racism event, exploring how City Hall is tackling racism and inequality as London recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting how other cities in the UK and around the world are doing the same.

I was introduced by Precious Azubuike from my Peer Outreach Team and was extremely proud to hear her speak so eloquently about the issues facing young people of colour or from the BAME community. Precious spoke with passion about the challenges she, her family, friends and those around her had faced and what she herself was doing to challenge racism in all its forms. Precious then went on to chair a question and answer session, where Londoners were able to put their questions to me on this topic. She did so with the upmost professionalism and respect for those engaging with the event

The event also included a pre-recorded panel discussion, bringing together the Deputy Mayors from Toronto, Chicago, Rotterdam and Bristol, and chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement here in London, Debbie Weekes-Bernard. The panel discussion explored practical interventions to combat racism by city-level governments.

## **Annual Children's Rights Inquiry**

On 10 December, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, was invited to open our annual Children's Rights Inquiry, which was hosted virtually this year by my Peer Outreach Team. The event took place on Human Rights Day and was planned and facilitated by children and young people.

We know that children and young people have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, so this was an important opportunity for them to shape an event, discussing issues that have impacted them during this period. The three topics that were chosen for discussion were education, race and discrimination, and refugees and migrants. Expert panellists delivered illuminating evidence on these topics and my Lynk Up Crew (who are aged between 7 and 15) and children from schools across the capital had the chance to question the panel. These young Londoners also contributed to the day with fantastic short films and speeches.

I would like to thank all the children and young people who participated, as well as the expert panellists and those who attended online to observe each section of the day. A video report on the event has been commissioned, which my Peer Outreach Team will circulate soon.

## **Roundtable with education leaders**

On 14 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, held a roundtable with senior education stakeholders in London. They discussed how we can work together to support London's children and young people as the city recovers from Covid-19. Helping young people to flourish, with access to support and opportunities, is a key outcome of the London Recovery Programme.

Attendees discussed short, medium and long term action to improve outcomes for those young people who have been most affected by the pandemic. Speaking before the national closure of schools by the Government on 4 January, school leaders described the key challenges in London schools, including ongoing lost learning days due to self-isolation, the widening of the attainment gap and the on-going pressure on schools and teachers.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **Civil Society Roots Incubator programme**

On 8 December, my Communities and Social Policy team launched the Civil Society Roots Incubator programme, which aims to develop collaborations and/or partnerships led by and for groups who have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and the structural drivers of this disproportionate impact. This includes those collaborations which mobilised in response to Covid-19 and are looking to grow, and organisations who have identified gaps in community response that can be addressed by collaboration and/or partnerships.

The Civil Society Roots Incubator programme will offer a capacity building incubator alongside Micro Awards of up to £5,000 and Growth Awards of up to £15,000 for

collaborations and/or partnerships of two or more organisations that meet one of the below objectives of the Building Stronger Communities Mission, which are:

Raising unheard Londoners voices to ensure they can participate more fully in all aspects of community life, lead London's renewal and bring about change

Increasing feelings of belonging and/or address social isolation and loneliness

Increasing access to support, services and mutual aid.

### **Community listening event in partnership with Queer Britain**

On 9 December, officers from my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm team held a community listening event in partnership with Queer Britain as part of a wider series of community roadshows. This event attracted over 60 participants and focused on LGBTQ+ history and representation in London's public realm and heritage sites.

### **Public Health Communities briefing**

On 15 December my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, co-hosted a Public Health Communities briefing with London Regional Director of Public Health England, Professor Kevin Fenton, and Joint Chief-Nurse for NHS London, Martin Machray.

The briefing included updates on the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccines and the impact of Tier 3 restrictions in London. Over 160 faith and community groups from across London attended and had the opportunity to ask questions.

## **Health**

### **Pandemic Response**

I have continued to meet weekly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the Covid-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with Covid-19 and other health needs. During this period key topics discussed have also included the introduction of a third national lockdown, pressures on NHS capacity, roll-out of the Covid vaccine, school closures and testing for pupils along with issues relating to health inequalities and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Londoners.

### **Regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service**

On Wednesday 16 December I had my regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service leadership; Chief Executive Garrett Emmerson and Chair Heather Lawrence. We discussed the recent Tier change in London and how the London Ambulance are responding to the challenges of both the increase in cases COVID-19 and the winter season. I was pleased to be able to offer my thanks for the ongoing hard work of all their staff, and we continue to work closely together as part of London's response to the pandemic.

## Team London, Sports and Volunteering

### Mayor of London's Volunteering Awards 2020

On 5 December, the Mayor of London's Volunteering Awards 2020 acknowledged the dedication and commitment of volunteers across London during a year of unprecedented challenges. The three award categories included Crisis Response, Delivering Services Differently, and Community Champions – an award celebrating organisations that work together to deliver a joint approach and increase impact within the community. A total of 18 winners were chosen from hundreds of nominations.

The Crisis Response category awarded organisations that responded directly to needs arising from the crisis. The winners of this category were: The Crisis Response Volunteers (Imperial Health Charity), Janet Irwin (St Nicholas Church), Jaz Potter (Selsdon Covid-19 Response Team) and the Roconnect Volunteers (Roconnect).

The Delivering Differently category awarded organisations for volunteering support services being delivered differently because of the crisis. The winners of this category were: The Free2B volunteers (Free2B Alliance), Integrated Community Service Volunteers (Islington MIND), Peer Led Check-in Volunteers (Outside Edge Theatre Company), and Divanio Crooks (Southside Young Leaders Academy).

The Community Champions category awarded organisations for collaborations that ensured a joint approach and increased impact. The winners of this category were: the Gospel Temple Apostolic Church, Tottenham Food Club and the Felix Project collaboration, the Archbishop's Park Community Trust and Roots and Shoots SEN Project collaboration, the East African Association and Streatham Academy Football Club collaboration, and the Evelyn Community Store Lewisham and Fareshare collaboration.

There was also a special award recognising younger volunteers who responded to the needs of their communities. This year's award went to Havering Volunteer Centre.

Each winner secured a small amount of funding for the organisations they support. The funding of £5,000 will help organisations to build extra capacity so that they can continue to provide vital services in their boroughs. Each winner will also receive a personal thank you letter from the Mayor.

### London Enterprise Adviser Network Awards 2020

On 11 December, the winners of my London Enterprise Adviser Network Awards 2020 were announced. The awards celebrated the achievements of volunteer Enterprise Advisers, Careers Leaders and businesses who have worked hard this year to support schools and colleges. Their work is ensuring that young Londoners have the skills, experience and information they need to make informed choices about their futures. My team also launched a series of "Careers Booster Grants" to help schools and college deliver impactful virtual careers interventions for students this year.



## **Team London Young Ambassadors School Grants**

Throughout December Team London Young Ambassadors, my school volunteering programme which connects young Londoners with their communities through social action, awarded schools small grant funding of up to £750. This funding will support high-quality youth social action projects for young people to support local communities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding has been awarded to primary schools, secondary schools, alternative provisions and special schools. These grants will support youth social action projects focused on issues such as mental health and wellbeing, food poverty and inequality, anti-racism and inclusion, isolation and social connections, and environment and sustainability.

## **Culture, Events and External Relations**

### **Community Spaces at Risk Support Fund**

On 26 November, I announced a new £750,000 fund to help grassroots community organisations hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The Community Spaces at Risk fund is helping protect grassroots cultural centres, social clubs, youth, education and other spaces that are locally-rooted and critical for supporting vulnerable groups during the pandemic. The fund is being delivered through a new partnership between my Culture at Risk Office, my Communities and Social Policy and Regeneration teams and Locality, a national charity specialising in supporting community organisations. Applications for the second round will open in the new year and eligible organisations can apply for the fund through the London Community Response portal.

### **Royal visit to celebrate London's night time economy and culture**

On 3 December, I accompanied The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall on a visit to Soho Theatre to celebrate London's night time economy, which has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Their Royal Highnesses met with members of theatre staff, including technical and front of house staff, to understand the impact Covid-19 has had. Following a short performance by Natasha Marshall, they also met with representatives from night time and culture sector bodies, including my Deputy Mayor for Culture, Justine Simons OBE.

My Night Czar, Amy Lamé, also accompanied Their Royal Highnesses on a visit the 100 Club. One of London's oldest grassroots music venues, which has been in the same family for four generations, the venue has been a landmark case of my Culture at Risk Office. Members from the live music and entertainment sectors spoke, before a short performance from Londoner Emily Capell.

### **Chanukah**

Celebrating Chanukah in Trafalgar Square is always one of the highlights of my year. Whilst it was disappointing that we could not gather in person as we usually would, I was pleased that we were still able to continue the tradition through hosting a 30ft Menorah on the

Square between 10-18 December. I was also honoured to be part of the community-led digital programme that ran each day of Chanukah, which was delivered by the Jewish Leadership Council and JW3, a Jewish community and cultural centre.

The pandemic has shown the need to recognise the role we all play in supporting and keeping each other safe, and I would like to thank the Jewish communities for all they have done and the sacrifices they've made over 2020.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

As with many events and commemorations this year, we have not been able to come together as we usually would, but I'm pleased that we still found a way to share in the joy of Christmas from the beautiful surroundings of Southwark Cathedral, albeit virtually. On Tuesday 15 December we screened our annual Carol Service from Southwark Cathedral, which was led by the Very Revd. Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark Cathedral. Recognising the enormous efforts of our NHS staff this year, I was delighted that a reading was given by Alice Denga, Head of Nursing for Women's Services at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, with the carols being sung by the Cathedral's Children's Choir.

### **Rough sleeping**

On December 16 I launched my winter Rough Sleeping campaign. I'm pleased to once again be partnering with TAP London on this campaign, to raise vital funds to help some of the most vulnerable Londoners in the coldest months of the year. This will be my fourth year running a winter fundraising campaign for and since 2017, Londoners have raised over £500,000 to help homelessness charities across the city. The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come, not least for many young people who have been hit particularly hard. This is why the money we raise this year will go to four charities doing extraordinary work to protect young homeless people and help them rebuild their lives. Funds raised from this year's campaign will be split equally between Centrepoin, Depaul UK, akt and New Horizon Youth Centre.

## **International**

### **Brexit and EU Relations**

On 9 December, I delivered a statement on Brexit and the importance of future engagement between London and the EU to the 141st Plenary of the EU's Committee of the Regions. This session included interventions from representatives from local and regional governments across the EU, including the President of the Committee of the Regions, the Minister President of Wallonia in Belgium and the Mayor of Warsaw.

### **Partnership with Berlin**

On 11 December, I joined the Governing Mayor of Berlin at a virtual business conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the partnership agreement between London and Berlin. We addressed an audience of business leaders and entrepreneurs from both cities

and called for continued collaboration between the two cities on post-Brexit trade, climate change and the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic. At this event, our trade and investment agencies, London & Partners and Berlin Partner, also re-affirmed their official partnership to work together to facilitate business opportunities for companies across both cities.

## **London Legacy Development Corporation**

### **Venues**

London Stadium hosted Manchester United on 6 December (the first Premier League match to welcome back spectators), before matches returned to being held behind closed doors, including against Crystal Palace on 16 December and Brighton on 27 December.

The ArcelorMittal Orbit, London Aquatics Centre and Copper Box Arena are currently closed in line with national restrictions.

### **People's Choice Award**

Following Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's seventh consecutive Green Flag Award, I was delighted to see the Park named among the People's Choice top ten most popular parks in the UK. This is a welcome recognition of all those who work hard to manage and maintain the Park to the highest possible standards.

### **Draft Night-Time Economy SPD Review**

On 7 December, the London Legacy Development Corporation launched a consultation on its Draft Night-Time Economy Spatial Planning Document. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legacy Corporation is keen to hear from local residents and businesses to understand the extent of the impact on the night-time economy, town centres and local businesses. The consultation will run until 1 February.

### **Budget & Performance Committee**

LLDC Chief Executive Lyn Garner and Executive Director of Financial, Commercial and Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive Gerry Murphy gave evidence at a virtual Budget & Performance Committee session on 8 December. The session involved in-depth scrutiny of the Legacy Corporation's 2021/22 budget, discussing areas including East Bank, London Stadium and the impact of Covid-19.

### **East Autumn School**

East Autumn School came to a close on 19 December. Following the success of East Summer School, the Legacy Corporation was able to offer a smaller East Autumn School programme for the first time with East Bank partner UCL Institute of Making. Despite the challenges of moving the learning experience online, courses were carefully chosen to be as interactive – and accessible – as possible. This included a workshop on 3D digital design and craft sessions focusing on repurposing materials found around the house.

## **Stratford Waterfront Engagement and Learning Programme Commission**

LLDC and Foundation for Future London launched an open call for a local creative organisation to collaborate on a new public programme across Spring and Summer 2021. The commission aims to provide a platform for local voices and connect East London communities to the development of a new artwork across the Stratford Waterfront public realm at East Bank. The open call ran from 11 December to 4 January 2021.

## **Hackney Bridge**

After welcoming its first members in September, Hackney Bridge has continued to welcome an eclectic mix of local independent enterprises to their workspaces - including Ruff Squad Arts Foundation and The Outrunners Charity.

They are currently seeking more local Hackney-based independent enterprises and entrepreneurs to join their community, as well as a local events provider to schedule a diverse and inclusive events programme within their impressive vaulted ceiling event space when it launches in Spring 2021, and when restrictions permit.

## **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**

### **Green Deal Funds for Solar Power in Park Royal**

I was pleased to award OPDC £100,000 from my Green Deal Fund to kick start the delivery of an exciting solar power project for businesses in Park Royal. The funding will go towards plans - launching in the new year - to install solar panels across businesses in the industrial estate, providing enough energy for 10,000 new homes and saving 200,000 tonnes of carbon.

The Green Deal Fund amounts to £10 million towards green projects to create 1,000 green jobs to boost London's economic recovery and tackle air pollution and the climate emergency.

### **Employment & Skills Hub launch**

On Thursday 10 December, OPDC launched its Employment & Skills Hub at a roundtable webinar hosted jointly with HS2, to bring key stakeholders, elected representatives and business owners together to discuss ways to collaborate that better enable effective economic recovery in West London.

Mark Thurston, HS2's Chief Executive opened the session, which was attended by senior representatives from the Hub's partner organisations: Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham Councils, the Department for Work and Pensions and West London College, as well as other local councillors and stakeholders.

OPDC will be holding a public online event in the new year to raise awareness locally and showcase some early success stories.

### **Budget & Performance Committee**

OPDC Chief Executive David Lunts, Chair Liz Peace and Director of Finance Fiona Marsh gave evidence at a virtual Budget & Performance Committee session on 8 December. The session

involved in-depth scrutiny of the Corporation's 2021/22 budget, discussing infrastructure funding, our Local Plan and Western Lands approach and the impact of Covid-19.

## Planning

### London Plan

The Mayor sent a **letter to the Secretary of State** on 9 December advising that he intends to approve a new draft London Plan on 21st December and send to the Secretary of State shortly after.

You can view that letter here:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/letter\\_from\\_the\\_mayor\\_of\\_london\\_9\\_december\\_2020.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/letter_from_the_mayor_of_london_9_december_2020.pdf)

The Secretary of State sent a response to the Mayor on 10 December confirming amendments to the original 11 directions issued in March 2020 and issuing 2 further directions. He also invited to the Mayor to re-submit the London Plan to him.

To view the correspondence, including the new directions, please follow the link here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/secretary-states-response>

On 21 December, I formally approved a new London Plan, the 'Publication London Plan'. I also submitted this to the Secretary of State.

This is a new, stand-alone publication version of the Plan. It has been prepared to address the Secretary of State's ("SoS") directions of 13 March and 10 December 2020 to the Intend to Publish London Plan.

This is the final stage for publication of the London Plan. The SoS has 6 weeks from receiving the Publication London Plan in which to respond (or can request a further extension of time). The Mayor can only publish the Plan after the SoS has given his approval.

Once the SoS has given his approval, the Mayor can publish his London Plan by placing statutory notices in newspapers and notifying the relevant interested and statutory parties. On publication it will become the Spatial Development Plan for London and part of the statutory Development Plan for Greater London.

You can view the new Publication London Plan and other related documents here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/publication-london-plan>

## **Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)**

### *Land South of 80-92 High Street, 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.

### *Chancel House, LB Brent*

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

### *Victoria Quarter, LB Barnet*

I have written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that contrary to my officers recommendation, I do not consider that there are sound planning reasons for me to issue a direction under Article 7 of the Order and that I am content for the Council to determine the application itself.

### *Score Centre, LB Waltham Forest*

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

### *313-349 Ilderton Road, LB Southwark*

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

### *1 Boord Street, 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.

### *20-24 Pope's Road, LB Lambeth*

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

### *Riverside Business Centre and Flip Out Trampoline Centre, LB Wandsworth*

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

### *Wembley Park Station Car Park and Train Crew Centre, LB Brent*

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Brent stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

### *Land at Bulls Bridge Industrial Centre, LB Hillingdon*

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

*555 White Hart Lane, LB Haringey*

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

*Land under the DLR, bounded by Scouler Street, Aspen Way and Prestage Way, 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.

*Vinegar Yard, LB Southwark – Stage II update report*

I accepted the submitted amendments and, following full re-consultation, will determine the application on the amended basis. I will therefore continue to act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the application (as amended).

*51-56 Manor Road, West Ealing, LB Ealing*

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

*St Hugh's Playing Fields, Bickley Road, 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.

*55-56 Chamber Street, 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.

*9 Osiers Way, LB Waltham Forest*

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

*Land to the rear of Tesco Hoover Building, 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.

*227-255 Ilderton Road, LB Southwark*

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

*Leon House, LB Croydon*

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

## Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Sun Wharf, Lewisham
- Alperton Manufacturing Estate, Brent
- Tesco Superstore, Hounslow
- 12 Thames Road, Barking and Dagenham
- 2 Sovereign Park, Ealing
- North Quay, Aspen Way, Tower Hamlets
- Poland House, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Grand Union, Brent
- Brunel University, Kingston Lane, Hillingdon
- The Mall, Walthamstow, Waltham Forest
- Cuba Street Site, Tower Hamlets
- 1 &1A Bath Road Heathrow, Hillingdon
- Northwick Park Hospital, Brent
- Surrey House, 34 Eden Street NCP Car Park, Kingston (1 of 2 applications)
- Surrey House, 34 Eden Street NCP Car Park, Kingston (2 of 2 applications)
- Town Quay, Abbey Road, Barking and Dagenham
- Geoffrey Close Estate, Lambeth
- Charlie Ratchford Centre, Belmont Street, Camden
- Land off Harefield Road, Uxbridge, Hillingdon

## Key Engagements

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

- I attended the opening of the new Darjeeling Express restaurant in Covent Garden on 4 December
- I visited Regent Street on 5 December to attend a walkabout on the first of three traffic-free Saturdays in December following the second lockdown, to help reinstate consumer confidence in the lead up to Christmas
- I visited Greenwich indoor market and the Cutty Sark in the Royal Borough of Greenwich with Cllr Danny Thorpe, Leader of Greenwich, on 7 December to highlight the importance of Greenwich as both a cultural and retail destination for Londoners and international visitors
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 7 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 7 December
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 7 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I addressed community, business and government leaders on 8 December outlining my commitment to tackling racism and inequality as London recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. This was followed by questions from the public and an international panel discussion bringing together Deputy Mayors and senior leaders



from Toronto, Chicago, Rotterdam and Bristol to explore practical interventions to combat racism by city-level governments

- I attended a meeting of London Councils Full Leaders Committee on 8 December
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health, on 8 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I visited the vaccine clinic at Croydon University Hospital on 8 December to meet staff leading on the vaccine rollout and the COVID-19 response
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 9 December
- I addressed the 141st Plenary Session of the European Union Committee of the Regions (CoR) under an agenda item titled 'Debate on the EU-UK Agreement and Territorial Consequences of Brexit' on 9 December
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 9 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I visited The Cut in Lambeth on 10 December to see how the Streetspace scheme has helped transform The Cut for people walking and cycling and to announce the latest round of Walking and Cycling Grants London winners
- I chaired the LEAP Board meeting on 10 December
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, with the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 10 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 10 December ahead of the Policing Plenary
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 10 December
- I addressed a video conference hosted by the Governing Mayor Müller of Berlin on 11 December to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the official 'partnership agreement' between London and Berlin
- I attended the London Assembly Policing Plenary meeting on 11 December to answer questions alongside Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on policing in London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 12 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 13 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I visited the COVID-19 testing centre at Waltham Forest College in Walthamstow on 14 December
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 14 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 14 December
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 14 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired a meeting of the London COVID Business Forum on 16 December
- I hosted my regular conference call with the London Ambulance Service on 16 December
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 17 December
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health, on 19 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London

- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 21 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 24 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 24 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 29 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 29 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Nick Gibbs MP, Minister of State for School Standards, Department for Education, on 31 December to discuss the decision to close primary schools in some boroughs in London
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Nick Gibbs MP, Minister of State for School Standards, Department for Education, on 1 January to discuss the decision to close primary schools in some boroughs in London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 4 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I made a virtual visit to the Vaccine Hub at St Thomas' hospital in Westminster on 4 January to meet staff administering the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine at the hub
- I joined a conference call hosted by Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, with the M9 (Metro Mayors) on 4 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I attended the Budget & Performance Committee on 5 January
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 6 January
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 7 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I had an introductory meeting with Cllr Kieron Williams, the new Leader of Southwark Council, on 7 January
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 7 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.

**Ends**