

8th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 20th January 2022

This is my eight report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 3 December 2021 – 6 January 2022.

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

Executive Summary

Covid-19 and Recovery update

On 14 December, I spoke at the London Anchor Institutions Summit, which brought together leadership from some of London's biggest organisations committed to supporting London's recovery. Over 140 attended the online event. Participants heard keynote speeches from inspirational leaders, such as Geoffrey Canada, President of Harlem Children's Zone as well as case studies and stories of success from London and other cities. There was a powerful rallying call for action from members of the London Youth Recovery Board. Signatories of the charter also presented some of their commitments for the year ahead and discussed strategies for supporting recovery, in working groups.

On 8 December, my Deputy Chief of Staff, Richard Watts, joined with Cllr Elizabeth Campbell and Cllr Georgia Gould to meet with Minister for London, Paul Scully, and Minister for Employment, Mims Davis, to discuss action to support young people into work as London recovers from the pandemic. They discussed a range of interventions to help ensure those seeking work get the support they need to access employment and training opportunities. This meeting was part of a series of meetings looking at how London can work with Government to take forward the Economic Recovery Framework.

On 18 December, I declared a 'major incident' in London due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant across the capital. I took the decision as the Chair of the London Resilience Forum following discussions with leaders from NHS London, local authorities and emergency and other essential services in the capital.

A major incident is defined as an event or situation with a range of serious consequences which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agency. It is "beyond the scope of business-as-usual operations, and is likely to involve serious harm, damage, disruption or risk to human life or welfare, essential services, the environment or national security". In addition, "the severity of the consequences associated with a major incident are likely to constrain or complicate the ability of responders to resource and manage the incident".

The decision meant that coordination arrangements between key public services were further stepped-up with the re-establishment of the Strategic Coordinating Group co-chaired by: John Barradell, Town Clerk of the City of London and Deputy Chair of the London Resilience Forum; Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive of Brent; Kim Wright, Chief Executive of Lewisham, and my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross.

Urgent support for business in light of the omicron variant

On 14 December, I called on the Government to do more to support businesses who are seeing a significant drop in takings due to fears around the omicron variant.

With previous peaks of infection, when restrictions were imposed, the government put in support schemes to help businesses that needed it most. Now they need to step up and provide additional help for businesses and cultural organisations who faced cancelled bookings at their most important time of the year.

Following the 15 December meeting of the Covid Business Forum, I wrote with members of the Forum to the Prime Minister setting out further details of the measures required.

- Full business relief for the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors to be reintroduced until March 2022 and an extension of the VAT relief (currently 12.5 per cent) for hospitality, accommodation and certain attractions beyond March 2022;
- Additional funds for Local Authorities to enable them to provide grants to businesses affected by new guidance; existing allocations of the Additional Restrictions Grant have largely already been spent or are committed via contractual agreements;
- To urgently address the limitations of the current Live Events Reinsurance Scheme to produce a scheme that is fit for purpose;
- An extension or further stage of the Culture Recovery Fund, available as soon as possible to support cultural businesses affected;
- Ensure all freelance and self-employed workers are fully included in any future support, as many were excluded from the original Self-Employed Income Support Scheme;
- To reintroduce the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate scheme;
- To commit to keep the support under review and bring in new measures if further restrictions are required; or if the existing working from home guidance continues beyond the immediate period; and
- To ensure any further guidance or restrictions that may be required to protect the public and NHS are proportionate and supported by evidence.

A copy of the letter can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-calls-on-pm-for-support-for-business>

On 16 December the second phase of the Mayor's Back to Business Fund (£300,000) launched in collaboration with the London Boroughs of Croydon, Hammersmith & Fulham and Southwark, with match funding provided by each borough. The Fund, on the Pay It Forward London platform, offers up to £10,000 in match-funding to small businesses within those boroughs and can be used to upskill employees, digitise, diversify business models, or innovate and adapt to new ways of trading through the recovery period. The Fund is now open for applications.

For more information visit: <https://payitforward.london.gov.uk/>

Funding to support high street recovery in 15 boroughs

On 3 December my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe visited [Mountview](#) in Peckham which we supported via my Good Growth Fund, and announced the 15 successful projects receiving more than £2m in funding through the next stage of my [High Streets for All Challenge](#), as part of the [Recovery programme](#).

The Challenge is supporting projects across London aimed at ensuring our high streets can flourish and thrive. Successful projects include the transformation of a vacant retail space into a youth hub on Church Road in Brent and targeted support for the business community on Rye Lane in Peckham.

Funding will also support the first two Community Improvement District pilots in England: Wood Green High Road and Kilburn High Road, delivered in partnership with Power to Change. These new governance structures will explore how local people, including residents and businesses, can have a greater say in the future of their high streets and ensure that recovery balances both business and community needs.

Read the full announcement by following this link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-2m-to-support-london-high-streets>

London is building more new council homes than at any time since the 1970s

On 15 December, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development, Tom Copley, and I visited a council housing development in Southwark to mark new analysis showing that last year, work started on more new council homes in London than in any year since the 1970s.

A total of 4,689 new council homes were started in London in the year 2020-21, thanks to the hard work of London boroughs alongside City Hall initiatives such as my landmark Building Council Homes for Londoners programme.

The number of council homes started annually has increased six-fold since 2016, with only 774 started in the final year of the previous Mayoralty.

I announced the latest figures on a visit to Welsford Street in South Bermondsey, where City Hall has invested £1m to help build 10 superb new family-sized council homes. The high standard of these homes underlines my commitment that London's renaissance in municipal housing should mean homes that are not just more affordable than the private sector but of better quality too.

To read more visit [Mayor hails highest number of new council homes built since the 1970s | London City Hall](#)

Night Overground returns

On 17 December, the Night Overground returned between Highbury & Islington and New Cross Gate, making night-time journeys faster and easier and providing another safe travel option for thousands of Londoners to get around.

Having been suspended in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Night Overground now runs every 15 minutes throughout the night on Fridays and Saturdays providing an easy interchange with Night Tube services on the Victoria line at Highbury & Islington Station and helping link key areas in the city's night-time economy such as Shoreditch, Hoxton and Islington's Upper Street.

Restoring this service is helping the 1.6 million Londoners who work at night in to travel to and from work and will provide another safe transport option for all. Returning just in time for the key festive period, this is another milestone in London's recovery, linking up diverse and vibrant areas of the city and offering a quick, easy and safe way to get around.

Comprehensive investment package of almost £50m to tackle crime and the complex causes of crime

On 29 December I was delighted to announce an investment package of nearly £50m through the London Crime Prevention Fund to support grassroots crime prevention projects across the city and promote positive opportunities for Londoners in every borough in the capital over the next three years. Through the Fund, more than £39m will be distributed between all 32 London boroughs, with a further £9.8m awarded to projects already funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to tackle criminal activity.

We know the challenges of the pandemic have exacerbated the causes of crime and that's why this investment is so important right now. This new funding package will provide dedicated funding for local authorities now and allow them to work together to tackle complex problems which span borough boundaries and support their local communities to tackle and prevent crime in their areas.

New Deal for Young People funding opportunity

Young people have been hit hard by COVID-19, revealing and exasperating deep rooted inequalities faced by too many young Londoners. My New Deal for Young People mission has committed that by 2024, all young people most in need of support will be entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners will have access to quality youth activities.

On 6 December, I launched funding opportunities for three programmes with a focus on mentoring. 'Leaders' grants will expand quality mentoring for young people and provide support to other organisations delivering mentoring; HeadStart Action grants will support local organisations to deliver mentoring and youth social action, and provide employability training and work experience opportunities for young people across London; and STEAM Mentoring (*science, technology, engineering, maths, and the arts and creative industries*) grants will expand quality STEAM mentoring for young people and support STEAM employers who want to expand or introduce mentoring programmes.

These programmes will build on the amazing work already happening across our city, providing personalised support to those young people that need it the most. Our aim is the champion this great work, embed the best quality mentoring possible and increase their reach to more young people.

To find out more visit www.london.gov.uk/new-deal-young-people

Let's Do London

On 1 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, attended the press launch to open the 'Ever After Garden' at Grosvenor Square. The Garden is a highlight of my Let's Do London campaign, Winter Lights season, where over 25,000 illuminated roses will glow and help raise funds to support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

On 7 December, I was joined by Rankin, Society of London Theatre, and leading stars of the West End to launch the New Year 'Tickets from £10' offer as part of the #BackToStage campaign. The powerful images from the exhibition 'Performance' by Rankin, as part of my Let's Do London campaign, were showcased across the iconic Piccadilly Lights to celebrate the return to theatreland and to pay homage to our world-leading theatre workforce.

On 8 December, I hosted a pop-up Christmas event on Trafalgar Square to highlight and raise money for my Winter Rough Sleeping Campaign. Jamie Cullum performed with the Battersea Power Station Community Choir to help fundraise for four London charities supporting homeless young people: DePaul, Albert Kennedy Trust, Centrepoin and New Horizon Youth Centre. The event was attended by young people from my Violence Reduction Unit Young People's Action Group, to thank them for their crucial work supporting Londoners at this time of year. The event was part of my Let's Do London campaign. My Winter Rough Sleeping Campaign has raised more than £600,000 since it launched in 2017.

On 14 December, I co-hosted an outdoor Let's Do London reception with the City of London to celebrate the success of the campaign, which has now contributed an estimated £70m back into the economy. I thanked my culture, tourism and hospitality stakeholders for their work and contribution to London's economic and social recovery, and invited guests to see the 'Borealis' Northern Lights light installation, the centrepiece of my Winter Lights season.

Christmas Carol Service 2021: Monday 13 December

On Monday 13 December, I hosted our annual Christmas Carol Service, where over 200 people came together at Southwark Cathedral in a socially distanced setting. The Service was also livestreamed so all Londoners could enjoy carols, readings and the spirit of Christmas from this stunning location.

This event occupies a special place in my heart and at the Londoners from all backgrounds came together regardless of their age, gender, race, faith or sexuality to share an evening in one another's company and celebrate the meaning of Christmas. Events like this really do speak to who we are as Londoners and the values we stand for.

This year the service focused on Climate Change and the continuing NHS vaccination programme. I was joined by Sarah Oyegoke, Member of London's Violence Reduction Unit's Young People's Action Group, Dr Penny Osborne, Anjali Raman-Middleton and, Destiny

Boka-Batesa two of the co-founders of the campaign group Choked Up and Rosamund Adoo-Kissi Debrah, Executive Director of the Ella Roberta Family Foundation.

The service enjoyed performances from The Spirituals choir and a wonderful solo performance from a Launderer Chanter of Southwark Cathedral Girls' Choir.

New Year's Eve 2021

This New Year's Eve, I was thrilled to welcome in 2022 with a dynamic broadcast spectacular, featuring fireworks, lasers, drones and, for the first time ever, live performances celebrating London's culture industry, which has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The West End Musical Choir performed from Shakespeare's Globe, while on Millennium Bridge, Hamilton actor and Londoner Giles Terera performed a poem written specially for the moment by London-based writer Tomfoolery. With the grandeur of the Old Royal Naval College as the setting for a spectacular drones and fireworks display, alongside words from Sir Ian McKellen and England Manager Gareth Southgate in the soundtrack, it was truly a star-studded performance.

London has once again been showcased as an inclusive world-leading city, with messages celebrating the communities of the UK, a warm welcome to people from right across the globe, and a message reiterating London's strong stance against all forms of racism.

Rough sleeping severe weather plans

On 5 January, I activated the pan-London Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP) for the first time this year to protect people sleeping rough as temperatures were forecast to fall well below 0°C.

The activation of SWEP compels councils and homelessness charities across London to open emergency accommodation for people who are sleeping rough during weather conditions that could pose a threat to life. To prevent the spread of Coronavirus infections, I have asked boroughs that only single-occupancy accommodation such as hotel rooms be used for SWEP provision.

This winter I have invested £800,000 in new homeless accommodation at a hotel in east London. Whilst London's boroughs will be providing over 500 SWEP beds this winter, the new hotel will act as overflow accommodation, offering a further 66 rooms for rough sleepers across London. A further boost to pan-London capacity is expected in the next month to take the total number of SWEP places to more than 600 for the first time.

I will spend a record £1.25m on SWEP services alone this winter as well as working with the charity Housing Justice to provide grants to COVID safe winter shelters to assist them with long term solutions to those who access these crucial services.

All London councils have also committed to implementing the Mayor's 'In for Good' principle, meaning that once someone has accessed SWEP accommodation, they are

accommodated until a support plan is in place to end their rough sleeping - regardless of whether the temperature has risen above freezing.

A budget for a fairer, more equal London

On 22 December, I published a consultation document on my budget proposals for the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group, focusing on the issues that matter most to Londoners, working to build a safer, greener, fairer city. My budget will invest more in the police and tackling crime, deliver more genuinely affordable homes for Londoners, help tackle toxic air pollution and the climate emergency, and support businesses through the pandemic, help skill up Londoners for well-paid jobs and provide more opportunities for young Londoners to reach their potential.

However, the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the lack of funding from the Government to support key public services is causing serious financial challenges for London, particularly Transport for London (TfL), the Met police and the London Fire Brigade. The Government is leaving us with no other choice than to raise council tax by £2.66 per month, to help prevent the collapse of TfL and ensure our police officers and firefighters have the resources they need.

Despite the difficult financial situation, we face in London I'm excited about the incredible programmes this budget will help us to fund next year, targeting our resources where they can make the biggest difference to Londoners, as we recover from the pandemic.

Policing, Crime and Security

Stronger Futures after-school provision fund launch

On 3 December, I visited Park View School in Tottenham to launch the Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) programme to provide 3,000 young people with positive opportunities after school - which evidence suggests is a high-risk period of becoming involved or being a victim of violence.

It was a privilege to see first-hand the work being delivered by The Safety Box, which provides one-to-one mentoring and therapy for young people aged 11-18. The programme delivers workshops, in after-school hours, to address conflict resolution and teach practical skills to help safeguard young women and boys from exploitation and violence.

The VRU has invested £1.3 million in 17 targeted projects for young people, after school and at weekends, to improve educational outcomes and employability prospects, reduce school exclusions and improve mental health and wellbeing.

The VRU's Stronger Futures programme is delivering prevention and early intervention work with young people who may be at risk of violence, exploitation or grooming.

Speech on causes of crime

I'm determined to do everything I can to support young people and provide positive opportunities. On 9 December, I gave a major speech at the Black Prince Trust Hub in Southwark, in which I laid bare the extent of the link between violence and poverty, deprivation and unemployment.

Our new research shows that all 10 of the boroughs with the highest rates of victims of serious violence have higher rates of child poverty than the London average. The analysis also shines a light on how violence is having a disproportionate impact on young Black Londoners who are significantly overrepresented, both as victims and offenders. For instance, Black teenage boys are six times more likely to be killed by violence than white boys in London.

As London recovers from the pandemic, making our streets safer, especially for our young people, is one of my top priorities. I'm investing in positive opportunities for young Londoners to give them hope for their futures. I announced that over the course of the next 12 months, City Hall and the VRU will be delivering a combined package of measures that will support almost 100,000 more young Londoners.

London's Independent Victims' Commissioner publishes new Rape Review

On 7 December, London's Independent Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, published a new review of rape cases in London, with new data from MOPAC revealing that two thirds of rape victims in the capital withdrew their complaints and just one per cent reached trial. Claire has repeated her call for increased independent support for rape victims and drastic improvements in how victims' mobile phones are requested and searched during an investigation.

Claire's review underlines deeply concerning issues with the continued and disproportionate focus on discrediting the victim and their case, rather than focusing on the suspect and the crime. We must restore the faith and trust of victims in the justice process, and MOPAC has led the way in pushing for improvements in the police response to rape and sexual offences. MOPAC has developed a new approach, working with academics, that has been piloted in Avon and Somerset Police. The Programme, called Operation Soteria, funded by the Home Office, seeks to improve convictions for rape cases and to ensure victims are better supported through the investigation process. This has resulted in bearing down on prolific offenders and the introduction of measures aiming to reduce the number of victims withdrawing from pursuing cases. This work is now continuing in the Metropolitan Police, before going to other Forces. But I am clear that policing is just one element of the process, and the whole criminal justice system must follow suit in looking again at the way it works if victims' confidence is to be restored.

Inquest into the deaths of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor

On 11 December, the inquest into the murders of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor concluded. My thoughts remain with their families and friends, who have endured so much. The evidence given to the inquest was deeply upsetting, and the quality of the investigation carried out by the Metropolitan Police Service at the time of the murders has raised a number of serious concerns. The impact this has had on the victims' families and friends – on top of the devastating trauma of the murder of their loved ones – is profoundly distressing and has damaged the confidence of the LGBTQ+ community in the police.

While the Met has apologised for its failings and made changes since these horrific murders were committed, I have asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services [HMICFRS] to conduct an independent inspection into the standards of investigations carried out by the Met Police and ensure there is a clear plan of action. It is vital that London's LGBTQ+ community has confidence in our police, and Baroness Casey's independent review into the Met's culture and standards, will address the issues of misogyny, sexism, racism and homophobia, and scrutinise police processes and standards of behaviour amongst officers and staff.

These young men and their families deserved so much better and I will do everything in my power to make sure that the failings that contributed to the deaths of these innocent young men can never be repeated.

New police teams keeping town centres safe

Community policing remains at the heart of my agenda for keeping London safe, and on 17 December I was delighted to join Deputy Commissioner Sir Steve House and officers from the new Wood Green Town Centre Team on patrol. This is one of 12 new Teams that will increase the police presence in London, provide high visibility patrols of local areas, strengthening partnerships with local councils and communities to reduce violence, and

enable the Met to continue to focus on tackling violent crime and anti-social behaviour – helping to make the capital safer.

Additional Teams will be launched in February, completing the deployment of 500 officers in 19 Town Centre Teams across London. A further 150 will join London's dedicated ward officers, who are already working in communities to drive down crime and problem-solve local issues.

Thanks to relentless effort by the Met Police and record funding from City Hall, violent crime is now falling – but there is still much more to do. I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure the police have the resources they need to tackle violence and provide vital public reassurance.

Have your say on the next Police and Crime Plan for London

Consultation continues on my draft Police and Crime Plan for London with a busy programme of events, meetings, polls and surveys, and on 15 December Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, appeared before the Police and Crime Committee to discuss the draft Plan and hear Members' views. We look forward to receiving the Assembly's formal written submission on the draft Plan in due course, and welcome Members' continued support in encouraging your constituents to get involved.

The Police and Crime Plan consultation programme includes workshops with young Londoners, deaf and disabled people, front line police officers, victims of crime, people in the criminal justice system, BAME Londoners, London Boroughs, VAWG organisations, businesses and community and voluntary groups. In addition, we have conducted polling of Londoners, and continue to welcome participation through a dedicated Talk London consultation page. The consultation is open until 21 January, and all Londoners are welcome to have your say. To see the draft Plan and find out how you can share your views, please visit www.london.gov.uk/policecrimeplan.

Transport

TfL announces safety ban of e-scooters on transport network

On 9 December, TfL announced that all privately-owned e-scooters and e-unicycles, including those that can be folded or carried, would be banned on London's transport network from Monday 13 December. This decision followed safety concerns raised about these items following recent fires on TfL premises and services.

Customers in possession of such devices are not permitted to enter any premises on TfL's network or travel on any of its services, including on the Tube, buses, Overground, TfL Rail, Trams and DLR. The ban includes all e-scooters and e-unicycles but does not include mobility scooters that are permitted on the network or foldable e-bikes.

TfL's primary concern is always for the safety of its customers and staff. TfL has been extremely worried by the recent incidents on its public transport services, which involved intense fires and considerable smoke and damage.

TfL worked with London Fire Brigade to determine how to should deal with these devices and, following that review, decided to ban them.

New TfL data shows huge increase in the proportion of journeys made on foot and by cycle during the pandemic

On 15 December, TfL published its latest Travel in London report outlining the vital role played by walking and cycling during the coronavirus pandemic. The report uses data gathered from travel surveys to calculate the number of trips made on each mode of transport in London.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on people's travel habits during 2020, as people worked from home or followed Government advice to stay at home or minimise use of public transport.

While the total number of trips made in 2020 decreased dramatically as a result of the pandemic, the number of journeys cycled increased by 6.4%, a remarkable change in the context of lower general activity and major reductions to workplace commuting.

This meant that over the year, the proportion of journeys cycled accounted for 3.4% of all journeys, up from 2.3% in 2019 - a 48% increase in the proportion of journeys made by bike.

Walking and cycling have played a vital role in allowing people to travel and it's very encouraging to see this new data, which shows such significant increases in the proportion of journeys cycled or on foot.

I'm determined to ensure that the way people travel in London is as healthy and sustainable as possible and will be doing all I can to support people to walk, cycle and use public transport as the capital recovers from the pandemic and customers continue to return to TfL's network.

Changes to the Congestion Charge to support long term traffic reduction and a sustainable recovery

On 16 December, following a 10-week consultation that saw nearly 10,000 responses, TfL confirmed the permanent changes to the Congestion Charge that will help prevent car use from rising above pre-pandemic levels.

TfL introduced temporary changes to the Congestion Charge in 2020 as an emergency measure in the pandemic to ensure traffic was reduced so that essential journeys could continue to take place. This was in accordance with a condition in the May 2020 funding settlement, and included raising the charge from £11.50 to £15, and increasing the operating hours to include evenings and weekends.

The main measures mean that from 21 February 2022, there will be no charges in the evenings after 18:00, and operating hours on weekends and bank holidays will reduce to 12:00-18:00. The current charge level of £15 will be retained.

These changes will directly address the traffic challenges in central London. They will also support London's culture, hospitality and night-time businesses, which have been some of the hardest hit during the pandemic, and also ensure gains made in reducing car dependency over more than 15 years are not lost.

24-hour bus lanes trial set to become permanent as bus journey times improve

On 22 December, TfL announced that its trial of 24-hour bus lanes would be made permanent, after a trial found that extending bus lane hours on London's busiest roads cut journey times and helped reliability.

Improvements in bus journey times were particularly noticeable in central and inner London, especially in both the mornings and evenings and throughout Sundays. 24-hour bus lanes are also expected to improve service reliability in the longer term, which - combined with the reduced journey times - will make bus use more attractive and help encourage more Londoners onto buses.

Before the pandemic 1.15 billion journeys were made each year on the bus routes that have benefited from the changes, out of a total of around 2.2 billion journeys. These improvements are also expected to benefit cyclists as they can ride in bus lanes without traffic. The changes will be made permanent in the New Year subject to a final statutory consultation with emergency services, local authorities and other statutory consultees.

Buses are the backbone of London's transport network so it is vital that we respond to changes brought about by the pandemic and keep buses providing their efficient, reliable and attractive service.

TfL to make walking improvements to Earls Court Road permanent

On 22 December TfL announced that it will be making the extension of the pavement on Earls Court Road permanent following a public consultation that showed support for the proposals.

In May 2020, TfL made changes to Earls Court Road to provide more space for people walking and to allow them to properly social distance while travelling.

Walking and cycling are a vital part of London's recovery from the pandemic and will help to ensure that people can travel in a healthy and sustainable way.

Greater space on footways makes it easier to walk, especially for disabled people. TfL research shows that, on average, people who regularly walk to the high street spend up to 29 per cent more than people who drive

Making these changes permanent will create a pleasant and safe environment for people walking. Subject to the relevant funding, TfL will start work on building these improvements to Earls Court Road in the coming months. Ensuring that London's streets are attractive and people-friendly is vital to ensuring a sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

Sudbury Hill becomes London's 90th step-free Tube station

On 30 December, Sudbury Hill Underground station on the Piccadilly line became the 90th to be declared step-free, making it easier for customers with reduced mobility to access the station and the wider transport network.

The Grade-II listed station now has two new lifts and improved signage giving customers step-free access from the street to the station platforms. Alongside these upgrades, boarding ramps will continue to be available to assist customers to board or alight the train, along with tactile paving along the full length of both platforms. TfL staff will be on hand to assist any customers with their journeys, as part of the Turn-up-and-go service.

The improvements at Sudbury Hill station will make a huge difference for all those using it, from the modernised ticket hall and improved signage to step-free access for those who need it. It marks 90 Tube stations now being step-free, which is an inspiring milestone – and we continue to work to make the capital's public transport network accessible to all.

Fire and Resilience

London System: Cumulative Pressures Roundtable

On 3, 10 and 17 December, the London Resilience Forum held virtual roundtables to look at the system pressures facing London over the coming months.

London Fire Commissioner meeting

On 9 December, I met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of the London Fire Brigade.

London Fire Brigade Carol Service

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and I attended the London Fire Brigade's Carol Service.

London Partners: Omicron and System Pressures roundtable

On 14 December, my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, chaired a meeting that discussed the system pressures faced by London as a result of the Omicron variant.

London Strategic Coordinating Group

From 20 December, regular meetings of the London Strategic Coordinating Group were held to discuss London's response to COVID-19.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Open access creative place to work, make and learn for everyone in Newham

D-lab East, is a creative hub and makerspace located in the Olympic Park East Village, which I supported via my crowdfunding regeneration programme. With support from Get Living, it has so far reached over 900 people through free community workshops and outreach events and enrolled 12 local delegates onto the first year of its Architectural Apprenticeship Accelerator Programme. Operated by a Community Interest Company, with a social mission at its heart, the hub provides open access for local businesses, freelancers, creatives and young people in Newham to cutting edge equipment, alongside encouraging children to explore creative and digital STEM careers through workshops and mentoring opportunities. The project was delivered following a successful community crowdfunding campaign to raise almost £72,000 from more than 60 backers.

Support for London's street markets

In December my Regeneration Team invited market operators to register their interest to join my Tomorrow's Market 2.0 programme. Building on the pilot launched in 2018 and reflecting the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on street and covered markets, Tomorrow's Market 2.0 will support operators to test new ideas and develop localised strategies and business incubation models. From support for an existing market to advice on setting up a new one, the tomorrow's market 2.0 cohort will be able to access workshops, seminars and 1-2-1 support to help them.

To register visit [here](#) before the deadline Wednesday 12 January

London Markets Board recruitment

On 17 December I announced that I'm recruiting up to 9 street and covered market experts to join my next London Markets Board. Board Members will bring a breadth of expertise and skills across market disciplines to support us to further develop London's Markets Strategy and deliver my Street and Covered Markets programme. Whilst the pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to London's markets, the sector has shown extraordinary resilience in adapting and responding to the new challenges. The London Markets Board will ensure that London's street and covered markets flourish, remain vibrant places of work and leisure, and support the recovery of London's high streets and town centres.

The deadline to apply is Monday 17 January 2022. The application can be found at the following link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/jobs-and-working-city-hall/current-vacancies/markets01-london-markets-board-members-9>

Housing

Hounslow uses Right to Buy-back scheme to bring more than 500 homes into council ownership

On 21 December, I announced a landmark deal to help Hounslow Council bring 555 homes into council ownership. Under the deal, 20 of the homes will be made available for Afghan refugees and 25 for vulnerable care leavers in the borough.

The borough will receive £38.7m from my Right to Buy-back fund – the largest allocation under the scheme since it launched in July. The fund gives boroughs and council-owned housing companies the ability to purchase homes from the open market, including former council homes that have been sold through the Government's Right to Buy programme. These homes can then either be let at social rent levels or used as accommodation for homeless families.

New Service Charges Charter

On 3 December, I published the new [Service Charges Charter](#). This is part of my commitment to ensuring a better deal for leaseholders, particularly those in Shared Ownership. The document was developed through close collaboration between City Hall, leaseholders and housing providers.

Like its predecessor, the new Charter aims to improve satisfaction among leaseholders, particularly those in Shared Ownership, by providing a set of best-practice principles for housing providers to adopt when managing service charges. The key updates include additional detail on the principles of transparency on service charges, and a new section outlining expectations on challenge and redress.

All partners in the Affordable Homes Programme 2021-26 are expected to sign up to the new Charter. I am also encouraging all Registered Providers involved in the development and management of Shared Ownership in London as well as private developers of leasehold homes to sign up.

The revised Capital Funding Guide also makes the provision of key information documents a requirement for all shared ownership homes that are not yet reserved. Within the key information documents partners now need to disclose to potential shared owners whether they are signed up to the Service Charges Charter.

Allocating intermediate homes to London's key workers

On 20 December, I published the practice note '[Allocating intermediate homes to London's key workers](#)'. This is part of my commitment to policy interventions that ensure intermediate housing in London is well-placed to support recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and meet the housing needs of those Londoners who may not access homes at social rent levels, including key workers. The document sets out a core list of key worker occupations that boroughs should refer to. It also explains the role of local authorities, housing providers and the GLA in supporting key workers through housing allocation.

Local authorities and housing providers are encouraged to reference and incorporate the GLA's key worker definition. In all cases, the GLA expects local authorities and housing providers to adopt an equitable and targeted allocation process for all intermediate housing, having regard to regional and local eligibility criteria, and the established definitions of housing need.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Business engagement

On 24 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Robin Woodbridge, Director, Capital Deployment & Leasing, Prologis to hear about the logistics sector in London and its challenges and priorities.

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Simon Kenyon, Lloyds new Ambassador for London, to hear about their priorities for recovery and discuss opportunities for future collaboration, including the Anchor Institution Charter.

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, gave the inaugural address for the 2nd edition of SMARTecIndia 2021 hosted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India. Rajesh highlighted India and London's long-standing trade links, London's strength in the tech sector, and the opportunities and benefits the capital offers for international companies wishing to invest and scale up.

On 14 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Centre for London's Partner Forum. As part of this virtual event Rajesh presented and took part in a discussion on the topic of "How can London's business community best support entrepreneurship and create opportunities for young Londoners in a post covid world?"

On 15 December, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal chaired a meeting of the London Covid Business Forum, through which we have been working with business to progress the 'Roadmap to the Safe and Full Reopening of London's Economy'.

On 21 December, I met with John Dickie, Chief Executive of London First and Paul Drechsler, Chairman to discuss London's recovery, TfL funding and how we can effectively work together.

On 21 December, I met with London Business Board which consists Confederation of British Industry, Federation of Small Business, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, London First and Institute of Directors to discuss TfL funding, levelling up and international promotion.

Environment

Zero emission freight zone webinar for Beijing

On 3 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, presented to city officials and local think tanks in Beijing on the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Low Emission Zone (LEZ) as part of a webinar organised by the WRI Ross Centre for Sustainable Cities on low emission zones across Europe. The panel also included representatives from the Netherlands and Denmark. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues presented on

the design and delivery considerations of the schemes and the impacts they have had on removing polluting vehicles from London's streets and improving air quality across the city.

Warmer Homes

On 3 December I announced a record £51m Warmer Homes package. Fuel poverty levels in London are already the third-highest of any English region and fuel price are on the increase, This funding will help protect low income Londoners and cut carbon emissions. The amount includes recent funding of £40.2m from Government through the Sustainable Warmth competition in addition to the £8.5m we had previously secured. I am also investing £2.6m from the GLA. My [Warmer Homes programme](#) is open now for new applications and offers grants to low income Londoners of up to £10,000 for heating, insulation and ventilation. From the spring the third phase of Warmer Homes will provide grants of up to £20,000 per qualifying home.

Water Advisory Group meeting

On 9 December, the Water Advisory Group met to discuss flooding and water issues in London. The meeting sought updates on how London's water stakeholders are supporting delivery of the Green New Deal recovery mission. The summer flooding was discussed and the work underway through my roundtable meetings to improve London's resilience to flooding. A recently announced, regulator-led investigation into sewage pollution and an upcoming consultation on London's long term water infrastructure resilience were also noted.

World Urban Park Congress

On 10 December, My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues gave a keynote speech on the importance of London's parks and green spaces including the issues we are addressing and the action being taken to ensure our parks and green spaces deliver benefits for all Londoners. At the event, following in London's footsteps, the City of Adelaide was announced as the world's second National Park City.

ULEZ One Month Report

On 10 December, I published a report evaluating the impact of the expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in its first month of operation. The ULEZ was expanded to tackle London's air pollution crisis. The data showed that the scheme had already been highly effective in reducing the number of polluting vehicles on London's roads, with 92 per cent of vehicles driving within the zone now meeting the ULEZ standards, up from 87 per cent in the weeks before the scheme launched and up from 39 per cent in February 2017 when changes associated with the ULEZ began. On an average weekday there were around 47,000 fewer older, more polluting vehicles in the zone compared to the two weeks before the scheme was introduced and 11,000 vehicles driving in the zone at all.

Compliance outside of the zone was also high, with 82 per cent of vehicles meeting the standards, demonstrating the wider benefits of the scheme. The ULEZ expansion, alongside tighter Londonwide Low Emission Zone standards for heavy vehicles introduced in March, is expected to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from road transport by 30 per cent across London in 2021. This is vitally important because toxic air is an invisible killer, responsible for one of the biggest public health crises of our generation. The high compliance rate means that millions of Londoners are already benefitting from cleaner air.

The ULEZ First Month Report is available here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/expanded-ultra-low-emission-zone-first-month-report>

Grow Back Greener Funding Awarded

On 13 December, I announced the award of £1.4 million to 45 community projects through my Grow Back Greener Fund, co-funded with Thames Water. These projects will create and improve green spaces, and boost climate resilience across 21 London boroughs. Funding is targeted to areas of London where it is most needed, with almost 90 per cent of projects in areas of high climate risk and deprivation. Projects supported include new community gardens, depaving to reduce flooding, greening school playgrounds and transforming open spaces on housing estates. The full list of funded projects is available at www.london.gov.uk/grow-back-greener

Launch of Rewild London Fund and Rewilding Roundtable

On 13 December, I announced new plans to help rewild London by restoring and creating more natural spaces for wildlife to thrive. This includes a £600,000 Rewild London Fund, which will support boroughs and other land managers to restore, connect and expand London's most valuable places for nature, recognised as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. I also announced that I will be holding a Rewilding Roundtable to explore opportunities for ambitious, innovative projects, to make London a leader in urban rewilding.

C40 Cities Board Meeting

On 16 December, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the quarterly C40 Board meeting. At this meeting the board discussed the C40 budget and the outcomes for C40 from COP26. As the new Chair of C40 the mayor has committed to ensuring that two thirds of C40's budget is directed towards the Global South, and this meeting discussed how the C40 budget would accommodate this, as well as ensuring that the Mayor's priorities for ensuring city action now and supporting a green new deal are supported via the C40 budget.

Meeting with Beccy Speight, RSPB Chief Executive

On 15 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Beccy Speight, the RSPB's Chief Executive to discuss opportunities to enhance nature in the capital including opportunities for 'rewilding'.

Meeting with Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader - Enfield Borough Council

On 16 December, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Cllr Ian Barnes, the Deputy Leader at Enfield Borough Council. They discussed a range of environmental issues including the £748,000 grant I awarded to support their ongoing work to repurpose and rewild the Greenbelt in Enfield Chase, including the creation of 60 hectares of new publicly accessible woodland.

Publication of the London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

On 16 December, I published the 2019 London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI). This data contains emissions inventories and pollution concentration maps for the whole of London and is an invaluable resource for the boroughs and the GLA in tackling air pollution. The new data shows that more than 90 per cent reduction in number of Londoners living in areas exceeding legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) between 2016 and 2019 and in 2019, 1.1 million Londoners lived in areas that met the WHO interim PM2.5 target of 10µgm⁻³, up from 0 in 2016 (the previous LAEI data). Whilst, this is a big step forwards with more Londoners living in areas of cleaner air which will lead to health benefits across the city, there is still a long way to go until Londoners breathe clean air as tens of thousands still live in areas with illegally polluted air and all of London is still exceeding the new WHO recommended guidelines adopted earlier this year. The 2019 LAEI is available here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory--laei--2019>

Meeting with Adam Freed, Sustainability Practice Lead at Bloomberg Associates

On 21 December, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Adam Freed, the Sustainability Practice Lead at Bloomberg Associates, who offer their time to advise mayors and their staff to help cities become stronger, safer, and healthier places to live. They discussed active projects that Bloomberg Associates are currently working on with London including accelerating commercial energy efficiency and climate change adaptation as well as opportunities for potential projects in the future.

Education and Youth

Support for London's early years sector

On 14 December, I launched the digital strand of my new London Early Years Campaign, funded through the Robust Safety Net recovery mission. It aims to improve awareness about the range of early education and childcare support offers available to parents of under 5s. We're targeting these parents via Facebook and Instagram, signposting them to the Government's [Childcare Choices](#) website.

I also launched my Early Years Hubs Toolkit which has learning and resources from my Early Years Hubs programme. There are tips on improving the take-up and quality of early education locally, which I hope will help others to replicate the hubs' work.

The toolkit includes a new resource for supporting the social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) of children under 5. The [Nurturing Future Minds](#) website was created by my Wandle Early Years Hub and brings together a range of existing SEMH resources, plus some great new infant wellbeing webinars, to support parents and practitioners alike.

More information about all of these resources can be found at www.london.gov.uk/early-years

Recovery Youth Board

We recently established a Recovery Youth Board as part of the wider London Recovery Board which I co-chair. The Youth Board is made up of 9 young people who engage regularly with the GLA. Over the last 8 weeks, they have been meeting to discuss the needs of young Londoners and what they feel our priorities should be – particularly thinking about those most at risk or in need.

On 1 December, three members of the Youth Board fed back on these conversations in a presentation to me and the wider London Recovery Board. They outlined their key areas of concern: mental and physical health, support through mentoring for those most at risk of exclusion, and access to good jobs, or support in setting up your own business or enterprise.

This was a fantastic opportunity for us to ask questions and understand these challenges better. The Youth Board will carry on with its excellent work through 2022, continuing to engage with and inform the wider London Recovery Board.

Communities and Social Policy

Providing information on the Covid-19 pandemic to London's diverse communities

My Community Engagement team has continued to work alongside health agencies to share timely, accessible and credible information on COVID-19 to London's diverse communities. This includes monthly public health briefings and a series of Big Conversation events with community organisations.

Roundtable discussion with East and Southeast Asian community organisations

On 8 December, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired a roundtable discussion with East and Southeast Asian community organisations. More than 30 representatives from groups working across London joined the

Health

Pandemic response

I have continued to meet regularly with and receive detailed updates on the current situation from senior leaders from the NHS in London, from the UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Promotion and Disparities (OHID). Discussions have increasingly focused on concerns about the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, on expediting the NHS's Covid-19 vaccine programme, including the excellent work our NHS colleagues have been doing to roll out the booster programme, as well as continuing to increase uptake of first-ever Covid vaccination (the 'evergreen' offer). I have continued to look with them at what more I can do to support the services and to amplify health messages, particularly about Londoners protecting themselves against Covid-19 and winter illnesses such as flu.

I have been briefed by UKHSA's national Incident Director for Covid-19, who updated me on the international, national and regional picture, and by Department of Health and Social Care officials on availability of testing in the context of the holiday period and New Year's Eve celebrations, and for schools ahead of the return of pupils. Before Christmas it was clear that Omicron community transmission was already widespread, accounting for the majority of cases in London, which was about a week ahead of the rest of the country. Hospitalisations were already on the increase, and have continued to grow significantly, putting severe pressure on our already over-stretched health service and those who work in it. NHS colleagues confirmed that staff absences in the NHS and other frontline services – due to Covid-19 infection, the need to care for dependents or other illnesses – were a major cause of challenges and looked set to worsen rapidly and become a significant issue, not only for the NHS but for other public services. Public health colleagues assured me that they were working closely with the NHS to understand the implications of the epidemiology for the health system.

The situation remains fast-moving and my officers remain closely involved in discussions at all times.

London Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan Launch

On 10 December, I launched my Health Inequalities Strategy Implementation Plan 2021-24. Over 200 attendees heard from my Statutory Health Adviser, Prof Kevin Fenton and my Mayoral Health Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey.

Other contributors from across London's health and care partners included Dr Vin Diwakar, NHS London Medical Director, Cllr Danny Thorpe, Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Will Tuckley Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets and representatives from London's Voluntary and Community Sector and public health sector. Participants heard from three inspiring case studies to illustrate work on tackling HIV, homeless health and School Superzones. The event was closed by a video message from world-leading academic Professor Sir Michael Marmot. I am pleased that my Health and Wellbeing Team will be collaborating with Prof Marmot's team in 2022.

The Implementation Plan provides a framework for action on health inequalities across London at all levels from neighbourhood to citywide. It sets out my six key commitments for delivery with partners across the themes in my original strategy. Published alongside the plan are three supporting documents providing - detailed commitments for action across the GLA Group, a data pack and case study examples of local action to address health inequality.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Building Strong Communities Grants

On 13 December, I launched my Building Strong Communities Grants. This £1 million fund will support community-led activities and projects for Londoners hit hardest by the pandemic. A total of £900,000 will be distributed across three waves of funding between December 2021 and June 2022. Community and equity-led organisations will be able to apply for grants of £1000, £5000 or £10000 to deliver activities that: support Londoners to shape their communities post-covid; increase sense of belonging; support social connections and raise unheard voices. We expect to fund around 160 groups through these grants. The deadline for the first wave of applications is 14 February 2022.

10,000 Thank Yous

On International Volunteer Day, 5 December, I released a [video](#) thanking volunteers across the city for their vital contributions to our communities. To enable organisations to offer thanks to their most committed volunteers, I produced 10,000 thank you cards, which were distributed to London based organisations as a free resource, allowing them to give special recognition to their most dedicated volunteers.

Culture and Events

World Cities Cultural Forum Culture Count Reports Launch and Webinar

On 9 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, and chair of the World Cities Culture Forum, Justine Simons OBE, hosted the final instalment of the nine-month Cultural Mapping Leadership Exchange Programme. It brought together Austin, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Chengdu, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Montreal, Moscow and Stockholm. In tandem it also saw the launch of 'Culture Counts' a major report showcasing how collecting better culture data collection can improve policy development and delivery across many aspects of city government, making cities more inclusive and sustainable.

London Legacy Development Corporation

London Stadium

The London Stadium hosted West Ham United FC vs Chelsea on 4 December in the Premier League and Dinamo Zagreb on 9 December in the Europa League. Following the postponement of the WHU FC vs Norwich City match on 18 December I am pleased to report that London Stadium and catering contractor Delaware North donated all perishable food that would have been sold at the game to food charity The Felix Project. On Boxing Day WHU FC hosted Southampton in the Premier League.

V&A East

On 13 December, the new V&A East building at East Bank 'topped out', this is a major milestone for the project. The building, designed by O'Donnell + Toumey, being delivered by LLDC and Mace, will open in 2025 and is part of East Bank – London's new powerhouse for innovation, creativity and learning on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Pudding Mill Lane

The planning application for a new neighbourhood at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was submitted for planning on 17 December. Pudding Mill Lane, located to the south of the Park, includes 948 homes (40 per cent affordable) with 36,000sqm of employment space.

Safety of Women and Girls Consultation

On 13 December the consultation closed on the safety of women and girls on and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the wider Mayoral Development Corporation area. The consultation sought views on where people felt safe and unsafe and how public spaces can be safer for everyone. The responses are now being considered with a report back with actions due in the new year.

London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee

On 9 December, LLDC Chief Executive Lyn Garner and Deputy Chief Executive Gerry Murphy participated in a London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee meeting as part of the GLA Budget setting process. Areas of work discussed included the London Stadium, East Bank and housing delivery.

Nana Badu

I would also like to congratulate Nana Badu for receiving the inaugural Cyrille Regis Award from the Football Black List on 9 December. The award was for recognition of Nana's grassroots work to help empower and educate children and young people through sports across north and east London. Badu Sports is a central part of delivering an ongoing sporting and community legacy at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Planning

I have published two new draft London Plan Guidance documents on:

- Air Quality Positive; and
- Air Quality Neutral

The guidance is subject to a public consultation until 27 February 2022. More information on the guidance and how to take part can be found online: <https://consult.london.gov.uk/air-quality-neutral>.

I am consulting on a new framework for Monitoring the London Plan 2021. The consultation runs until 31 January 2022. More information can be found online: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/monitoring-london-plan-2021>.

My London Plan, adopted in March 2021, provides a robust and ambitious framework for London's development and recovery but National Planning Policy requires plans to be reviewed every five years. Given that it takes many years to review or develop a new London Plan, including early engagement and background evidence, we need to start preparing now. The [Planning for London Programme](#) will begin this process, gathering evidence and the views of Londoners, identifying issues that a future London Plan review could consider. I am calling for evidence from Londoners and other stakeholders as the first step in the Planning for London Programme until 31 January 2022.

Local Plans

London Borough of Newham response to Regulation 18 Local Plan refresh consultation On 16 December the GLA responded on my behalf to this consultation providing guidance to ensure the borough's emerging Local Plan is consistent with the London Plan 2021

London Borough of Greenwich response to Regulation 19 Site Allocations Local Plan Consultation On 20 December the GLA responded on my behalf stating that the local plan is not in general conformity with London Plan Policy D9, and making suggestions on a range of issues for the borough's consideration.

London Borough of Camden response to consultation on a draft Planning Statement on the Intermediate Housing Strategy and First Homes. On 17 December the GLA responded on my behalf to this consultation.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Land off Harefield Road, 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.

Geoffrey Close Estate, Off Flaxman 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.

Development site at Millbank Complex, City of Westminster

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

4-6 Achilles Street, LB Lewisham

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

241 Green Street, LB Enfield

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

Site at Stroudley Walk, 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.

Land to the East of Shakespeare 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.

Development at Car Park North of Roding Court, Mill Road, LB Redbridge

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

Former GSR Storage site, Chequers Lane, LB Barking and Dagenham

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

The Magistrates, 1 Farnan Avenue, 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.

81-103 King's Road, RB Kensington & Chelsea

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

Good's Yard White Hart Lane and Depot site, 867-879 High Road, 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.

Battersea Power Station masterplan, 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.

The Arches, Merrick Road, 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.

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, has sent a letter in response to the following statutory referral:

Nine Elms OSD, LB Lambeth

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lambeth stating that he is 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:

- Richmond upon Thames College, RB Richmond
- Thames Road Industrial College, LB Newham
- Jubilee House, LLDC
- Pocket Living Ossory Road, LB Southwark
- Gallions 3B, LB Newham
- Mulberry Place Town Hall, LB Tower Hamlets
- Credon House, LB Southwark
- St Pancras Commercial Centre, LB Camden
- 217-221 Harrow Road, City of Westminster
- 13-15 The Green Southall, LB Ealing
- Courland Grove, LB Lambeth
- 1 Park Place, LB Tower Hamlets
- Former Holloway Prison site, LB Islington

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the London Assembly Policing Plenary on 2 December
- I held my regular call with the NHS and OHID on 2 December
- I met with the Mayor of Stockholm on 2 December
- I met with the Governor of Santiago on 2 December
- I attended the Trafalgar Square tree lighting on 2 December
- I visited Park View School in Haringey to see a Violence Reduction Unit programme on 3 December
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 6 December
- I attended the Damilola Taylor 20th Anniversary Memorial Service on 7 December
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 7 December
- I joined artist RANKIN to launch Society of London Theatre's #BackToStage campaign on 8 December
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 8 December
- I marked the anniversary of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, meeting some of the first recipients at Southwark Cathedral on 8 December
- I attended a Christmas concert supporting my rough sleeping campaign on 8 December
- I outlined my crime prevention policies in a speech at the Black Prince Trust on 9 December
- I held my regular meeting with the London Fire Commissioner on 9 December
- I attended the London Fire Brigade's Christmas Carol Concert on 9 December
- I chaired my regular planning meeting on 13 December
- I met with the Chinese Ambassador to the UK on 13 December
- I attended the GLA Christmas Carol Service on 13 December
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board on 14 December
- I gave the keynote speech at the Anchors Institutions Conference on 14 December
- I gave my annual Christmas address to GLA staff on 14 December
- I attended the Borealis display and hosted a Let's Do London reception on 14 December
- I visited new-build council homes in Southwark on 15 December
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 December
- I announced a neighbourhood policing uplift at Wood Green Police Station on 17 December
- I visited a mass vaccination pop up centre at Chelsea Football Club on 18 December
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 December
- I met with the CEO and Chairman of London First on 21 December
- I held my regular meeting with TfL on 21 December
- I chaired the London Business Board on 21 December
- I met with London Leaders to discuss the ongoing COVID pandemic on 21 December
- I met with the Secretary of State for Health on 23 December
- I had a phone call with outgoing Mayor of New York, Bill de Blasio on 24 December
- I joined a virtual climate press conference hosted by the City of New York on 27 December

- I held my regular update meeting with NHS and OHID on 30 December
- I attended the GLA Budget & Performance Committee on 5 January