

29th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time (Final Budget) – 25th February 2019

This is my twenty-ninth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 4th January – 11th February 2019.

Executive summary

Knife crime offenders to be 'tagged'

On 11 February, I announced that knife crime offenders will be subject to GPS tagging upon release from prison. This is part of an innovative pilot scheme to reduce reoffending.

The one-year pilot will operate in four London boroughs among those most affected by knife crime - Lewisham, Lambeth, Croydon and Southwark - and will use GPS tracking on up to 100 offenders to:

- Reduce the likelihood of reoffending;
- Help with rehabilitation of offenders; and,
- Improve crime detection rates through data-sharing.

This innovative pilot will build on the good work of the City Hall funded Violent Crime Taskforce by helping offenders integrate back into society and reducing the risk of reoffending, as well as giving the police the information they need to thoroughly investigate reported crimes.

£20,000 to support the Windrush Justice Fund

On 8 February, I announced that City Hall will provide £20,000 match funding in response to the money raised by the Windrush Justice Fund – a grassroots initiative created to provide legal advice, immigration support and outreach services for the Windrush generation, other Commonwealth citizens and their descendants.

£15m for new and improved service for victims and witnesses

On 8 February, City Hall invested £15 million in a new and improved service for victims and witnesses of crime, which will offer a range of practical and emotional support services under one roof.

This increased investment will create the UK's largest dedicated service centred on the needs of victims and witnesses of crime. I committed to joining up the support available to witnesses and victims of crime in the criminal justice system, as well as continuing to invest in Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, which were both key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan.

Giving blood to boost appeal

On 7 February, I gave blood for the first time to encourage more Londoners to become donors. Giving blood saves lives. But sadly, there's an urgent need for new donors especially from BAME backgrounds. One simple act can make a huge difference to a fellow Londoner's life.

Creative Land Trust Launch

On 6 February, I launched the Creative Land Trust. This is an innovative new independent trust I helped to set up with partners Arts Council England, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Outset Contemporary Art Fund. The Trust will bring together investment to support the provision of affordable workspaces in the city in perpetuity.

I've been clear that London is open for business and creativity and protecting our creative sector will help the capital remain a creative and forward-looking city for the future.

Crowdfund London Launch

On 4 February, I launched the £1 million 2019 Crowdfund London programme with a visit to one of our beneficiary projects, Tottenham Café Connect. Crowdfund London helps communities to propose, fund and deliver local projects that matter to them.

We want to harness the entrepreneurial spirit our city is famous for and apply it to the challenges and opportunities faced by communities across the capital. So, I urge anyone with a creative project to apply to this year's crowdfunding programme.

Green fund helps schools fight toxic air

On 1 February, I awarded more than £1.27 million in funding to improve and create green spaces in London to help tackle the capital's toxic air. Projects include green 'pollution barriers' for schools that will help protect against toxic air, plus new green spaces for housing estates, community gardens to help improve mental health and wildlife habitats in parks.

This will complement our efforts to reduce vehicle emissions across the capital, including the introduction of the 24-hour Central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in April, and cleaning up our bus and taxi fleet.

London's night-time economy can help save the high street

On 31 January, The Commission outlined opportunities to make the most of shops and public buildings, which are often empty at night, to tackle the decline in the high street.

London's night-time economy employs 1.6million people and contributes billions to the economy, but the Commission has made it clear that even more can be done to build on this success.

I am determined that London is a city that works for all, 24-hours a day. That's why I have been working hard to champion the night-time economy and asked the Night Time Commission to help realise our ambitions.

Improved efforts to tackle violent extremism

On 29 January, I welcomed representatives from London's communities to City Hall to discuss the initial findings of research conducted by my Countering Violent Extremism programme.

There is a role for all of Londoners in tackling the spread of violent extremism, but this research shows that unfortunately, the Prevent programme is failing some of the communities that most desperately need it.

I welcome the Government's announcement of an independent review of Prevent to ensure a better programme that has greater community confidence.

Plans to tackle violence and burglary

On 24 January, I set out plans to spend £85 million of new City Hall funding to tackle violent crime and burglary in the capital.

I am doing everything within my power to tackle crime and the causes of crime. These proposals will allow the Met to crack down on violence in communities, building on the Violent Crime Taskforce which has made nearly 2,500 arrests and removed more than 1,000 dangerous weapons from London's streets. This is alongside new investment in the Violence Reduction Unit that will help tackle the root causes of violent crime.

New blueprint for 'rent control'

On 23 January, I announced that I will be developing a new blueprint for stabilising or controlling private rents in the capital, as part of my ongoing work to help London's 2.4 million renters.

The arguments for rent control are overwhelming, and Londoners want it to happen. I am delighted Karen Buck MP has agreed to work with my Deputy Mayor for Housing on proposals for Government to help make private rents more affordable.

Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony

On 21 January, I was honoured to welcome victims and survivors of the Holocaust to City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Alongside event Chair Tony Arbour, we were joined by members of the London Assembly, MPs, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, the Israeli Ambassador, faith leaders and community stakeholders.

Together we remembered the six million Jewish lives, as well as the millions killed in genocides around the world. We, as Londoners, must reinforce our commitment to opposing hatred and intolerance in all their forms, wherever they appear.

New fund to deliver community-led housing

On 16 January, I launched a new £38 million fund for community-led housing. This will enable Londoners to play a leading role in building new social rented and other genuinely affordable homes for local people.

We have listened to what community-led housing groups say they need, and in response this new fund will offer practical support and help with development costs that have often held community-led projects back. I urge Londoners interested in developing their own homes to read our new guidance and bid for funding.

Bidding is currently open and will support 500 new homes by April 2023. Those interested in applying can contact the London Community-Led Housing Hub for guidance on assessing their project's funding needs, and support in submitting applications to the fund.

World's largest air quality monitoring network launched

On 15 January, I launched 'Breathe London', the world's most advanced and comprehensive network of air quality monitors, to help investigate and improve London's toxic air.

One hundred state-of-the-art fixed sensor pods will be mounted on lampposts and buildings close to known air quality hotspots and sensitive locations such as schools and nurseries. The project is funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 – opening weekend

On 11 January, I attended 'Welcome to the Forest', the opening show of Waltham Forest's year as London Borough of Culture 2019, with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and members of my Cultural Leadership Board.

Hosted by Councillor Clare Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest Council, we met artists and residents who had been involved in making the programme and visited three ambitious new artistic commissions; a sound and light installation in Lloyd Park called *Nest*, and two large scale video projections which enveloped the Town Hall, called *Into the Forest* and *Welcome to the Forest*. 70,000 visits were made over the weekend, with 22 per cent of visitors coming from outside of the borough.

Progress on ethnicity pay gap

On 11 January, I published City Hall's second ethnicity pay gap report. While the pay gap has fallen at City Hall and some of the organisations in the Greater London Authority (GLA) group, the figures also highlight there is still much more work to do in eradicating this disparity.

Those organisations in which the ethnicity pay gaps has increased must redouble their efforts to tackle this issue head-on.

I'm also clear that government should do more - I'm urging ministers to lower the proposed reporting threshold to reveal a much clearer picture of the problem across London and the UK.

Policing, Crime and Security

£85m investment to drive down violence and burglary

I have announced proposals to increase the share of council tax that goes directly to the police by the maximum amount that does not require a referendum. This is the equivalent of 46p a week – an 11 per cent increase in the policing precept.

This will generate an additional £84.8 million to invest in the MPS, and with the Commissioner, I have set out plans for how this new investment will be spent. It comes as new figures from the Office for National Statistics show that violence and knife crime has begun to slow down in London and is increasing more starkly across the rest of the country. However, it's clear they remain much too high and both the Commissioner and I are determined to do everything in our power to crack down on violence and knife crime. The Violent Crime Taskforce, set up last year with £15 million investment from City Hall, is to be further boosted by giving local policing teams access to additional officers to tackle violence in their areas. The increase in personnel

will enable the Taskforce to be even more proactive in tackling violent crime and the drugs markets that fuel street violence.

More resources will also be invested in the police response to burglary, which is rising in London and across the country. There will be a major boost for Met Trace, the Met's flagship burglary prevention programme which involves visits to homes to provide Londoners with crime prevention advice and delivering property-marking kits, which will significantly widen coverage and protect homes across the capital. The additional funding will also support increased proactivity to both prevent and detect burglary.

I will also direct £6.8 million from council tax and business rates into the Violence Reduction Unit, on top of the initial £500,000 invested towards initial set-up costs. These funds will be used to commission services to directly help communities tackle violence and to work with partners across London. A further £3.5 million will be spent on other anti-violence initiatives, for example making permanent the successful 'Information Sharing to Tackle Violence' pilot that develops more effective data sharing between Community Safety Partnerships, health services and other violence reduction partners. It uses a new approach to collect and analyse data from hospital emergency departments to help develop strategies to tackling violence.

Lib Peck appointed to lead London's Violence Reduction Unit

On 14 January, I was delighted to announce that Lib Peck, the London Councils Executive Member for Crime and Public and current leader of Lambeth Council has been appointed to lead London's new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

Violence reduction has been a core part of Lib's career to date across Lambeth and in the third sector. Lib has been the leader of Lambeth Council since 2012 where she focussed on addressing domestic violence and supported the adoption of a public health approach to violence reduction in the borough in March 2018. As Lambeth leader, she is also the Deputy Chair of London Councils and Executive Member for Crime and Public Protection, leading London boroughs' cross-party work with the Mayor, Metropolitan Police and partner agencies to keep Londoners safe.

Lib was appointed following an open and transparent competition run by recruitment consultants Hays, including partner organisations and a community panel who met shortlisted candidates. She will be based at City Hall, reporting to me, and will continue to work with the VRU Partnership Reference Group as the Unit develops and comes into operation.

New survey reveals most young Londoners feel safe in their city

On 25 January, I published the findings from MOPAC's Youth Voice Survey, conducted as part of my commitment to engage with communities to help tackle violent crime. The survey received almost 8,000 responses from young Londoners aged 11 -16 about their experiences of policing and crime in the capital and found that:

- Most young people feel safe where they live (74%) and at school (84%).
- Around a quarter of young people know someone who has carried a knife (26%) or who is in a gang (23%), with smaller proportions saying they have personally carried a knife or are in a gang (both three per cent).
- Just over 1 in 10 (12%) young people have been the victim of a crime in the last year.
- Young victims are more likely to have a range of other vulnerabilities, including exposure to serious youth violence and wider wellbeing issues.

Keeping children and young people safe is a key Police and Crime Plan priority, and I am driving forward this work through programmes such as the £45 million Young Londoners Fund, London Needs You Alive and the Violence Reduction Unit, together with increasing the number of specialist Safer Schools Officers in London to work collaboratively with schools and education establishments to help young people realise their potential and keep safe from crime.

Countering Violent Extremism in London

On 29 January, I welcomed representatives from London's communities to City Hall to discuss the initial findings of research conducted by my Countering Violent Extremism programme. The research found that:

- 61 per cent of respondents thought that the threat from extremism is increasing.
- 25 per cent of respondents had witnessed or experienced extremist views in the past 12 months.
- 17 per cent of respondents had witnessed or experienced views promoting or supporting acts of terrorism in the past 12 months.
- 65 per cent of respondents see strong, cohesive and integrated communities as the most effective way of reducing the risk of people carrying out extremist acts, hate crime and terrorism.
- 64 per cent of respondents would not know how to seek help from the authorities if they were worried about an individual being vulnerable to manipulation or exploitation towards extremism or terrorism.
- 24 per cent of respondents would feel confident about being able to spot the signs that someone might be vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation towards extremism and terrorism.

Violent extremism is one of the biggest threats facing London and our country. We simply must do better at safeguarding the vulnerable and stopping people from promoting these vile ideologies with such horrific consequences. There is a role for all of Londoners in tackling the spread of violent extremism, but this research shows that unfortunately, the Prevent programme is failing some of the communities that most desperately need it. I welcome the government's recent announcement of an independent review of Prevent to ensure a better programme that has greater community confidence.

Transport

Consultation opens on final proposals for TfL's world-first Direct Vision Standard

On 8 January, Transport for London (TfL) launched the final public consultation on its world-first Direct Vision Standard proposals. This Standard will tackle road danger at its source by eliminating Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) blind spots that are the cause of so many tragic deaths and life-changing injuries.

The Direct Vision Standard, and associated Safety Permit for HGVs that have retrofitted a Safe System, will reduce road danger for people across the capital. In 2017 around 4,000 people were killed or seriously injured in collisions on London's streets, which is unacceptable.

Between 2015 and 2017 HGVs were disproportionately involved in fatal collisions, with 63 per cent of those involving people cycling and 25 per cent of those involving people walking. This is despite HGVs only making up four per cent of the overall miles driven in the capital.

Taking action against dangerous lorries will help a lot more Londoners feel safe cycling as part of their everyday routine, improving their health, and helping tackle air pollution across our city, the consultation ends on 18 February 2019.

The UK's first automatic braking system for trams to be installed this year

London's tram network will be the first in the UK to have an automatic braking system following TfL's award of a contract to Engineering Support Group Limited to build and install the new safety system by the end of this year. The contract was awarded on 14 December.

The new system will automatically apply the brakes and bring a moving tram to a controlled stop if exceeding the speed limit at designated locations.

TfL has also shared this work with other tram owners and operators around the country to help them develop programmes for installing similar suitable systems to their networks as soon as possible

Work began on the feasibility of introducing this new safety measure, shortly after the tragic overturning at Sandilands, Croydon, in November 2016. It is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2019, including a period of training and familiarisation with tram drivers, and will operate alongside the driver protection device that has been in operation since September 2017, alerting to any signs of driver distraction and fatigue.

Automatic braking was one of the recommendations set out by the Rail Accidents Investigation Branch following the tragic tram overturning. It will initially be configured to priority high-risk locations as suggested by the RAIB but will have the flexibility to be introduced elsewhere on the tram network.

The RAIB listed 15 recommendations aimed at the UK tram industry following the overturning. Work has progressed on all recommendations specific to TfL with some of the most vital already complete.

Improving safety in the Rotherhithe Tunnel

TfL has announced that new cameras are being introduced in the Rotherhithe Tunnel to increase safety and deter vehicles which don't meet the safety restrictions from using the route. Vehicles more than two metres wide or two metres high, or goods vehicles weighing more than two tonnes, are not safe to travel through the tunnel

From early February, enforcement will be carried out by the new cameras and drivers whose vehicles do not comply should use Tower Bridge or the Blackwall Tunnel (the congestion charge does not apply to either) or they could be fined up to £130.

By not complying with restrictions at the tunnel, drivers are putting themselves and others at risk.

Enforcement officers have been present at both approaches to the tunnel since new restrictions were introduced last September, to assist drivers and prevent vehicles entering the tunnel that do not comply. Officers have turned away an average of 600 vehicles a day since September. Safety remains our top priority and these restrictions are absolutely essential to make sure people can continue to use the tunnel safely.

Innovative advertising platforms increase TfL's advertising revenue

Transport for London's latest Annual Advertising Report revealed the growing success of its advertising estate, with more than £150 million in revenue generated during the year for investment back into improving the transport network.

Covering 2017/18, the report highlights how its estate is being improved with the introduction of innovative advertising platforms and illustrates the increasing collaboration with advertisers.

Over the reporting period, more than 16,000 advertisements ran on the network, generating approximately £152 million - £10 million more than the £142 million raised in 2016/2017. TfL's advertising estate accounts for 20 per cent of the UK's, and 40 per cent of London's, outdoor advertising by value.

To improve opportunities for advertising, TfL has introduced 260 new full-motion screens across the London Underground network and 60 full-motion 'cross platform' screens, which customers can watch when standing on station platforms.

Outside of the Tube and rail network, TfL has installed 12 large digital landscape advertising screens at six key locations along London's main arterial roads.

Diversity in advertising competition winner announced

On 28 January, City Hall and Transport for London (TfL) announced that Holland & Barrett's 'Me.No.Pause' campaign won an innovative competition which was designed to make advertising more representative of the capital.

The campaign, which challenges perceptions around the menopause, was chosen as the winner of the 'Women We See' competition due to its positive presentation of women going through the menopause and commitment to reflecting the diversity of women in London.

Finsbury Park Tube station becomes step-free.

On 28 January, TfL announced the opening of lifts at Finsbury Park Tube station, the first milestone in a major upgrade of the station. The new lifts will provide step-free access to the Piccadilly and Victoria lines as well as to platforms in the Network Rail station, making it easier for customers with mobility needs, buggies or heavy luggage to use the Tube.

The project to upgrade Finsbury Park will also deliver a new, larger entrance on the western part of the station which will create a new, alternative step-free route when completed. New ticket gates and a larger staircase have already been installed, making journeys quicker and more comfortable for customers using the station.

The investment in improving public transport will help reduce reliance on the car and contribute to my target of 80 per cent of journeys made by public transport, cycling or walking by 2041.

District line celebrates 150 years of serving London

On 25 January, TfL announced a series of events to celebrate the District line's 150th anniversary. The line, which initially consisted of five stations, opened on 24 December 1868. In 1869, the service was extended westward to West Brompton, and in 1870, eastward to Blackfriars. The District line now has 60 stations, more than any other line on the Underground, and more than 220 million journeys take place on the line annually.

A series of events celebrating the anniversary started on 25 January 2019 with heritage displays and leaflets telling the story of the line's history handed out at stations, while Cultural Tube maps, highlighting a range of fun places to visit along the line, have been placed at stations along the route.

The District line has linked people from east and west London through the heart of the capital for 150 years, and has seen big changes over the years, most recently with the introduction of modern, walk-through, air-conditioned trains, and the new signalling system will transform it even further. I look forward to the District line continuing to serve Londoners and visitors to the city for the next century and beyond.

30 community groups awarded funding to get more Londoners on their bikes

On 22 January, TfL announced the latest Cycling Grants London winners as part of its ongoing commitment to encourage Londoners of all backgrounds to take up cycling. These grants directly support local groups to run brilliant projects in their communities encouraging many more people on to two wheels.

Thirty local community projects across the capital have been awarded new funding to help make cycling more accessible for everyone.

Latest figures show that just one in four (25%) people from non-white or mixed backgrounds cycled at least once in 2017/18, compared to 37 per cent of people from white backgrounds. And just 15 per cent of people from non-white or mixed backgrounds commuted by bike at least once in 2017/18, compared to 40 per cent of people from white backgrounds.

TfL is committed to increasing the number of women and diverse groups that cycle, including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds and people with disabilities. TfL offers free Cycle Skills training to give people of all abilities the chance to improve their confidence on the capital's roads.

By giving Londoners of all abilities, ages and backgrounds the confidence to cycle, we can improve their health and quality of life, as well as reducing toxic air pollution, which improves our city for everyone

TfL moves forward with plans for major new cycle route in west London

TfL has announced plans to start construction of a major new 7km cycle route later this year, which will transform roads between Kensington Olympia, Hammersmith and Brentford Town Centre - making walking and cycling safer and easier and making the local environment more attractive for residents and visitors.

A consultation on Cycle Superhighway 9 (CS9) in 2017 received more than 5,000 responses, with nearly 60 per cent of respondents either supporting or strongly supporting the proposals

and many saying the scheme would have a positive impact on cycling and walking in the area, as well as, improving provision for buses.

In response to this feedback, TfL has developed new designs along sections of the route, which address comments raised during the consultation. TfL is inviting people to have their say on new designs in two sections between:

- Kew Bridge/ Kew Bridge Road (High Street Brentford to Wellesley Road)
- Duke Road and Duke's Avenue on Chiswick High Road

The consultation on the revised designs for two sections of the route is now open and will run until 26 February 2019.

Construction on new routes route is planned to start later in the year, subject to formal approvals by Hounslow and Hammersmith and Fulham councils, with the route expected to be complete in 2021. Construction work on another cycle route, between Tower Bridge and Greenwich, is set to begin this summer whilst construction work on routes between Camden and Tottenham Hale, and Hackney and the Isle of Dogs could also begin later in the year, subject to consultation.

This new route between Olympia, Hammersmith and Brentford is a hugely important addition to London's growing cycle network as part of the Mayor's Healthy Streets programme. The route will encourage even more people in west London to cycle and walk and help achieve my Vision Zero goal of no deaths or serious injuries on the capital's streets. We will continue to work towards starting construction later this year to build on both boroughs' efforts to create healthy streets in this part of London.

Fire and Resilience

Brexit Contingency Planning Group Meeting

On 7 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Group.

London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 31 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM appeared before the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Committee to put a range of questions to the Deputy Mayor and the London Fire Commissioner on a range of issues.

Future Cities Forum

On 30 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM attended and spoke at the 12th Future Cities Forum, on Healthy Cities. The Forum looked at planning and place-making for wellbeing and resilience, the development and the development and design of science research hubs, the urban integration of sport and exercise for a healthy population, the evolution of well-designed city public transport and the new 'NHS towns' in the UK, as well as how the current housing crisis is affecting health.

Ripple Effects of Terrorist Attacks Conference

On 22 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, attended the Ripple Effects of Terrorist Attacks Conference hosted by Counter Terrorism Policing. The event was for Local Resilience Forum Chairs from across the county and allowed participants to review the events of 2017/2018 and share experiences learnings along with the impact had on a wide range of areas.

Deputy Mayor meets customers affected by the Shurgard Fire

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM met with customers affected by the Shurgard Fire in Croydon, on New Year's Eve.

Food and Brexit Sub-group

On 15 January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross AM, attended the Food and Brexit Sub-group. The Group has been set up to inform the work of the Brexit Contingency Planning Group.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Crowdfund London Launch

On 4 February, I launched the £1 million 2019 Crowdfund London programme with a visit to one of our beneficiary projects, Tottenham Café Connect. Crowdfund London helps communities to propose, fund and deliver local projects that matter to them.

In Tottenham, Leyla Laksari and community charity 'Living Under One Sun' have transformed a dilapidated park bowling club into a thriving community hub, thanks to £37,000 from my Crowdfund London programme and £31,320 from 311 backers, including local residents, businesses and national foundations. The café is now a place for a diverse community to meet, cook and share food grown in the garden, with activities that provide residents, including young people, with opportunities to build skills and confidence.

Working with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), my Crowdfund London programme has now provided £1.8 million to support 100 projects, which have attracted pledges worth £2.2 million from a crowd of more than 14,000 backers. Community-led projects need to pitch to our fund on partner website Spacehive by 1 May 2019 to be considered for a pledge of up to £50,000 to help them reach their fundraising target. I'm calling on London's businesses, foundations and philanthropists to rally behind projects and help local communities to achieve more.

Barnet and Southgate College completes a £28.5m refurbishment

This month Barnet and Southgate College completed the refurbishment of over 4,200m² of their facilities thanks to a £5.9 million contribution from my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund.

The £28.5 million Southgate Centre modernisation project created a new Centre of Excellence for Technology Enhanced Care (CETEC), modernised the College's dentistry facilities, classrooms and Business Innovation hub, and created new adaptable spaces to improve training and career progression in sectors such as health, STEM and automotive.

Combined with an earlier phase of the project, this will support more than 10,000 students, 1,500 new apprenticeships and 900 learners with disabilities, while enabling over £1.9 million in savings over the next 5 years.

Mayor's Construction Academy Hubs

On 25 January, Jules Pipe, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural meeting of the seven leads of the Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) Hubs. The event, held in London's Living Room at City Hall, brought together over 100 stakeholders and partner organisations from across the construction sector to kickstart their work backing my vision for more skilled workers to help increase London's housing supply.

I launched the MCA last summer in tandem with the Skills for Londoners Strategy and it will see better co-ordination of construction training to fill job vacancies across the homebuilding sector. The £12 million MCA programme includes a network of hubs operating across London, a targeted careers campaign and more than £7 million of investment in buildings and state-of-the-art equipment for skills providers that hold the MCA quality mark.

Start Up, Step Up London procurement

On 25 January, I launched the procurement for my Start Up, Step Up London Programme. This £500k entrepreneurship programme has been developed as part of my continued commitment to promote a fair and inclusive economy, helping Londoners to develop an entrepreneurial mindset or grow their business. It will focus on supporting underrepresented groups, particularly women, disabled people and ethnic minorities, to help reduce the employment gap amongst those who face labour market disadvantages. Start up, Step Up London is co-financed by the European Social Fund and the London Growth Hub. Applications will be open until 8 March and I will announce the successful delivery organisation in late spring.

Housing

Deputy Mayor speaks at event hosted by the Fondation Abbé-Pierre in Paris

On 1 February, Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray, spoke at an event hosted by the Fondation Abbé-Pierre in Paris about the future of social housing in Europe. They discussed the challenge of providing homes for those who need them in competitive, international cities and the role of city Mayors in driving forward the agenda.

New council homes in Tower Hamlets

On 30 January, my Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray, and the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, attended a ground breaking ceremony at Jubilee Street in Stepney, where the council are building 24 homes on a disused car park. All of these homes will be affordable - half for social rent, half for living rent.

This is Tower Hamlets' first development as part of my Building Council Homes for Londoners programme, through which Tower Hamlets will start building 675 genuinely affordable homes by 2022. Alongside councils across London, Tower Hamlets is helping to show what's possible - despite national government limiting how far we can go - when they and City Hall work together to build a new generation of council housing for Londoners.

New council housing in Ealing

On 23 January, I was very pleased to visit Copley Close in Ealing, where the council are building new homes through my 'Building Council Homes for Londoners' programme. I met residents of the new homes, and I spoke with representatives of the Tenant and Residents Association who have been involved in the design and development process. Ealing Council has ambitious plans to build more in the borough over the coming years - through Building Council Homes for Londoners, we have awarded them nearly £100 million to build almost 1,000 new council homes for social rent.

Developing proposals for rent control

On 23 January, I announced that I have invited Karen Buck, Labour MP for Westminster North, to work with my Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray, to develop a blueprint for how rent stabilisation or control could be introduced in London to help make private renting genuinely affordable to more Londoners. Although I have no powers to change the law, I believe change is long overdue, and once this work is complete I will urge Ministers to implement its proposals.

Karen is a respected and experienced champion of renters' rights with significant legislative experience in this area, and the work I have asked her and James to do on rent control will complement our work at City Hall on proposals for how Ministers should also overhaul the law to improve security of tenure for private renters. This work focuses on scrapping 'no fault' section 21 evictions, introducing renters' rights to open-ended tenancies, and ensuring landlords can still regain possession of their properties when they have a legitimate reason. Alongside the proposals for rent control, these proposals to strengthen renters' rights will show how the private rented sector should be radically reformed to make it fit for purpose.

London & Quadrant (L&Q) – quality of management

On 18 January, Deputy Mayor James Murray visited a supported housing scheme in south London managed by housing association L&Q to speak to the residents about their experience of recent works to improve the quality of their homes. As well as getting more social rented and genuinely affordable housing built, James and I are committed to ensuring that social housing providers maintain high-quality homes and management services for their tenants.

Launch of London Community-Led Housing Fund

On 16 January, I launched our new London Community-Led Housing Fund, using £38 million we have secured for London from national Government. The funding will support Londoners who want to be more actively involved in building new homes in the city. It comprises £30m of capital investment and £8 million of revenue, with up to £10 million of the total available as a revolving loan fund. Bidding is currently open, and will support 500 new homes by April 2023. Those interested in applying can contact the London Community-Led Housing Hub for guidance on assessing their project's funding needs, and support in submitting applications to the fund.

Deputy Mayor for Housing James Murray visit to Ealing winter night shelter

On 15 January, my Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray, visited the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter – a network of churches across Ealing that provide warm food and a safe place to sleep for up to 14 guests during the winter every night for four months.

The churches receive funding from my Equipping Shelters Programme, and work alongside our network of emergency shelters that are open every night that it is forecast to be zero degrees anywhere in the capital.

My winter homelessness campaign is also currently running, which encourages Londoners to donate to the London Homeless Charities Coalition – a group of 22 charities with decades of combined experience in tackling homelessness – and to let StreetLink know about any rough sleepers they are concerned about so our outreach teams can help. Find out more at www.london.gov.uk/helplondonshomeless

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Business Advisory Board

On 16 January I held my quarterly Business Advisory Board (BAB) meeting at the office of Framestore, the Bafta and Oscar-awarding winning film production company. Sir Steve House – Deputy Met Commissioner and Patrick Holdaway – Head of Operations at the National Business Crime Centre attended the BAB meeting to discuss the challenges and priorities of crime and policing in London and the work of the National Business Crime Centre. I also discussed the latest developments on Brexit with the BAB members. Prior to the meeting, Framestore’s CEO, and BAB member Sir William Sargent introduced me to members of his team and apprentices who demonstrated some of their work.

Engagement with Business Leaders

On 15 January, Rajesh Agrawal, my Deputy Mayor for Business and Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with the London business groups, including, London First, CBI, London Chamber, FSB and the IoD. Rajesh and Shirley updated the business groups on key issues, including Brexit, Immigration, the London Industrial Strategy and the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ). The business groups agreed that they would help to raise awareness of the ULEZ scheme, to ensure that London firms are prepared in time for the launch in April.

Brexit

On Tuesday 15 January, the Government was defeated in one of the most decisive parliamentary votes in our history on its EU Withdrawal Act. Following the Prime Minister’s statement to the House of Commons on 21 January, I have written to her requesting a meeting, similar to those she offered to the Leaders of the devolved nations, to discuss the impact of Brexit on the capital.

I welcome the Prime Minister’s acknowledgment that the Government’s approach to Brexit must change following the defeat on the meaningful vote. However, Parliament has contradicted itself in a series of votes on amendments on 29 January. MPs were right to vote to reject a no-deal Brexit, but they also voted to send Theresa May back to renegotiate her deal, which the EU has already said they will not do. It shows that Parliament and politicians simply cannot solve Brexit. In reality it makes the possibility of a no-deal Brexit more likely which would have disastrous consequences for London.

During January the British Retail Consortium has warned that a no-deal Brexit threatens food security and will lead to higher prices and empty shelves in the short-term. And the CBI has said that a no-deal Brexit would result in disruption for businesses and families, and would leave London and the UK poorer and less competitive in the long-term.

My London Resilience Forum continue to step up planning and preparations with local agencies for a no deal Brexit, but the Government has failed to set out clear plans in key areas – such as food, fuel, border disruption and essential medicine supplies. The Secretary of State for MHCLG has since issued a written ministerial statement on 28 January confirming the allocation of £56.5 million funding to support English local authorities in preparing for Brexit. Of this the GLA will receive a flat rate £182,000 of which half is payable in 2018-19 and half in 2019-20. Each local authority in London will also be allocated funding from the Government to support their preparations.

The public must be allowed to decide what happens next. It is absolutely vital that the Prime Minister acts extremely quickly to take the prospect – the very notion - of a catastrophic no-deal Brexit off the table by withdrawing Article 50.

Immigration White Paper

The Government's Immigration White Paper, published on 19th December, risks doing profound damage to growth, jobs and communities across London and the UK – a view that is shared with the Government's own economic appraisal which found that the new immigration plans will make our country poorer and anticipates that employers will struggle to recruit for skilled and lower-skilled occupations. The proposals set out in the Immigration White Paper fly in the face of what London businesses, and we at City Hall, have repeatedly told Ministers we need.

I wrote to the Home Secretary on 11th January, urging him to publish impact assessments on how the Government's proposed new immigration policy will affect its ability to meet its target to build 300,000 new homes a year if we do not have enough construction workers to build these; or to provide health and social care for the elderly given the Department of Health projects a significant shortage in the nursing and social care workforce by 2025.

I will continue to engage with the Home office and bring together the views of London stakeholders to ensure they have a voice so that the future immigration system meets the needs of London's economy.

Environment

Clean Air Parent's Network

On 6 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues was part of a panel at a Clean Air Parents Network event. Shirley set out our plans to clean up London's dangerously polluted air, including through the new central London Ultra Low Emission Zone, and heard parents' ideas about what more activity they wanted in London, especially from national government.

New green infrastructure mapping and data update

On 1 February, I published new information and mapping that provides a much more accurate picture of the extent of London's green infrastructure - the city's parks, gardens, trees, green spaces, rivers and wetlands, and features such as green roofs.

This is the most accurate assessment of London's green cover to date and uses high-resolution aerial imagery and land use mapping. This map shows more detailed areas of green space such as small gardens, road verges, green roofs and individual trees that had not previously been accurately mapped, in addition to larger parks and open spaces. This analysis can be repeated every five years to monitor changes in London's green cover so that I can be sure that I am on track to meeting my target to make more than half of London green.

The green cover map has been combined with maps of other social and environmental data (including flooding, air quality and health, for example) to create a Green Infrastructure Focus Map. This tool can help the GLA, boroughs, developers and others to identify where to improve or increase green infrastructure to get the most benefits. I have made this tool and the underlying data publicly available on the London Datastore so anyone can download and use it.

You can view the maps here: <https://maps.london.gov.uk/green-cover/> and <https://maps.london.gov.uk/green-infrastructure/>

£1.27m awarded to community green space projects and schools air quality measures

On 1 February, I awarded over £1.27 million from my Community Green Space Grants to help improve and create green spaces in the capital.

29 primary schools located next to some of London's most polluted roads will receive a combined total of £400,000 for 'pollution barriers' and other green infrastructure in playgrounds to reduce children's exposure to toxic traffic emissions. These are just one part of a package of measures that I'm delivering to help schools - including, through the air quality audits programme, upgrading boilers, tackling engine idling, and promoting walking and cycling.

As well as air quality schemes, my funding is helping a range of environmental projects including creating community gardens, new green spaces for housing estates, improving parks, and cleaning up waterways. All 78 winning projects were awarded between £5k and £50k each across 26 boroughs and will create and improve 650,000 square metres of green and blue (waterway) spaces, involving over 5,000 adult volunteers and over 40,000 children. The Community Green Space Grants are part of my Greener City Fund, which has funded over 200 projects since 2017. You can view all the projects funded so far at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/greener-city-fund/greener-city-map>

Three months to the launch of the central London ULEZ

The week commencing 7 January marked 'three months to go' until the start of the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). ULEZ is central to my plans to clean up London's dangerously polluted air. ULEZ will replace the current T-Charge and will operate in the same area as the current congestion charge zone. Vehicles driving in this zone must meet new tighter emission standards or pay a daily charge to travel. Launching on 8 April, it will be in effect 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

As part of this countdown, I carried out a week of communications and media activities drawing attention to the ULEZ launch. This began with reminding motorists to check whether their vehicles comply with new, stricter emissions standards designed to tackle London's poor air quality.

This week of ULEZ communications activities was part of a major TfL awareness campaign that is already well underway to ensure drivers are ready for the ULEZ, and which includes:

- Emailing more than 2.5 million registered Congestion Charge users whose vehicles do not meet the ULEZ standards
- Sending 250,000 letters to owners of non-compliant vehicles seen in the zone through the DVLA
- Installing more than 300 ULEZ warning signs across central London
- Posters and digital banners across the whole TfL network
- A social media campaign and adverts across print, radio and online video
- Speaking to 3,000 businesses to date

World's largest air quality monitoring network launched

On 15 January, I launched 'Breathe London', the world's most advanced and comprehensive network of air quality monitors, to help investigate and improve London's toxic air.

Breathe London will use a range of cutting-edge fixed and mobile sensors to build up a real-time, hyperlocal image of London's air quality. The data generated by this new network is expected to be available for the public to view on an interactive online map at www.breathelondon.org from the end of February.

To deliver this world-leading project, I'm working with C40 Cities, the Environmental Defense Fund Europe and Google Earth Outreach, who have equipped two of their Street View cars with air quality sensors. These will take pollution readings approximately every 30 metres at tens of thousands of locations whilst they travel through London's streets. This will build up a picture of London's air quality over the course of a year and identify areas of toxic air that the existing network of fixed monitors might miss.

Meanwhile, 100 state-of-the-art fixed sensor pods will be mounted on lampposts and buildings close to known air quality hotspots and sensitive locations such as schools and nurseries. The project is funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

New research demonstrating the benefit of air quality policies on Londoners

On 10 January, I published new research that demonstrates how my bold measures to tackle London's poor air quality, including launching the ULEZ, will benefit all Londoners, but particularly those living in the capital's deprived areas.

The report gave the following insights:

- People living in London's most deprived areas are exposed to more toxic nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution than in less deprived areas; this inequality will reduce by as much as 70 per cent mainly as a result of my air quality policies
- The number of primary and secondary schools exceeding legal (NO₂) limits will drop from 453 in 2013 to zero by 2025 as a result of my action
- London is not expected to be within World Health Organization guidelines for harmful particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) limits by 2030. Achieving this, will require further government action and additional powers for me to act on different sources of pollution.

The full *Air Pollution Exposure in London: Impact of the Environment Strategy* report was developed by environmental consultants Aether and is available to view on the GLA website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/environment-publications/air-pollution-london-impact-environment-strategy>

Sharing London's 1.5 degree compliant climate action plan with international cities

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a webinar to representatives of C40 cities on London's leading climate action plan. The Deputy Mayor highlighted the work that London is doing to clean up London's polluted air, and make the city zero-carbon, as well as the results of the Climate Action Plan. This Plan not only set out the action I will take, but also identified the actions we need national government to initiate now, as well as the powers and resources that need to be devolved to allow me to rapidly bring down London's carbon emissions and tackle our climate emergency.

Education and Youth

Young Londoners Fund

On 7 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, attended the launch of 'Haringey Pirates' an exciting project that aims to transform the literacy skills, confidence and perseverance of young people who are falling behind at school. Haringey Pirates is one of 105 projects funded through round one of my Young Londoners Fund. It will provide an after-school learning programme for 350 children aged between 10 and 13 using one-to-one support to re-engage them with education and reduce their risk of exclusion.

On 8 and 11 February, City Hall hosted Project Development Workshops aimed at organisations that were unsuccessful in applying to round one of my Young Londoners Fund. These workshops help support the development of high quality youth projects and applications to round two of the fund which will open in May this year. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear about other funding opportunities across the GLA and from other funders.

Hearing Young Voices

On 30 January, Joanne McCartney AM spoke at the 'Hearing Young Voices' event at City Hall, a morning all about helping children and young people affected by parental mental illness. The event was organised by the charity Our Time, supported by City's Hall's Peer Outreach Team and the Community and Engagement Team. It was attended by local leaders responsible for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, along with young people and families with lived experience of parental mental illness. Practitioners listened to the children and parent's experiences and discussed how, as a system, we can support these families to build resilience and break the intergenerational cycle of mental illness within our communities.

Curriculum commentary events with Ofsted

On 18 January, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed guests to a workshop at City Hall on the new curriculum inspection framework.

Ofsted have been reviewing the school curriculum. They found that while there's some excellent thinking and practice in the system, there's still room for improvement. Leaders in London schools were invited to attend and hear more about Ofsted's research into the

curriculum and the messages shared by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector. After a welcome by Joanne, guests heard from Mike Sheridan HMI, Ofsted's Regional Director for London, before a three-hour workshop where they got a deeper understanding of what goes into developing a rich curriculum. They also heard about my London Curriculum programme and how our free Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 teaching resources inspire learning inside and outside the classroom, helping teachers to deliver a broad curriculum.

Over 150 teachers attended the day. This was the second event we held, following a successful event in December 2018 for over 50 teachers.

Communities and Social Policy

EU Londoners Portal Outreach grant scheme: Round 2

On 25 January, I launched the second round of my micro-grant scheme which will award up to £5,000 to community groups and small civil society organisations. The grants will be used to deliver outreach activity on the settled status scheme, providing information and advice to vulnerable European Londoners in the wake of Brexit.

Women's Interfaith Network Event

On 22 January, I delivered an opening address on reducing religious and cultural intolerance in London at the Women's Interfaith Network's 'Bringing All of Us Together' event at City Hall. The evening included a discussion on how schools and families build bridges between communities.

Social Integration Design Lab: Open day

On 22 January, my social Integration team hosted an open day for the Social Integration Design Lab. Over 65 people attended from 20 local authorities. Applications for the lab close on 4 February. The Lab will enable local authority officers from across London to work with social design experts, public sector innovators and citizens to embed social integration and design principles into public service delivery, projects and policies.

Refugee and Migrant Data Project

On 22 January, I awarded funding for a pilot project to support refugee and migrant sector organisations to develop ethical principles for data collection and use. This pilot reflects my commitment to capacity building within civil society and the importance of civil society in supporting communities, delivering services, and making London the thriving place that it is.

Chinese Arts Now 2019 Festival

On 18 January, my Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard launched the Chinese Arts Now 2019 Festival. This is a new festival which seeks to raise the profile of contemporary British Chinese artists and performers. It will showcase a diverse range of art forms (music, drama, live art, dance, films, digital arts) with over 60 events across London.

Violence Reduction Unit Community Involvement Meeting

On 14 January, my Deputy Mayors Sophie Lindon and Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke at a meeting of over 150 members of community and voluntary groups about my new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This meeting was a crucial part of my work to ensure that communities are at the heart of the VRU - shaping its development and the work it will deliver.

Health

Healthy Schools London

On 16 January, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, visited Park Walk Primary School in RB of Kensington and Chelsea to congratulate them on their fantastic work as part of my Healthy Schools London programme. They have achieved bronze, silver and gold awards for their work on improving pupil voice across the school, developing playtime skills to improve resilience, increasing participation in playground activities and school clubs and involving pupils in decision making and building their self-esteem.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London Young Ambassadors

On 1 February, over 200 Team London Young Ambassadors aged 10-13 came together for a Safer Communities Youth Summit at City Hall. During the event, pupils from 24 schools took part in workshops exploring personal responsibility and connecting communities, before planning a social action project which they will run in their local area. The summit was delivered by WE Charity and For Jimmy as part of our Team London Young Ambassadors programme.

Fizz Free February

This month I'm cutting out fizzy drinks for Fizz Free February to highlight the impacts of sugar on levels of obesity and tooth decay in London. Fizz Free February is Southwark Council's public health campaign that encourages children, teenagers and adults to give up soft drinks during the month of February. The campaign raises awareness that fizzy drinks are the largest single source of sugar for children aged 11-18, meaning that going Fizz Free for the entire month can bring significant benefits.

Tackling child obesity through my Child Obesity Taskforce is one of the key priorities in my Health Inequalities Strategy. Child obesity is a ticking timebomb in London: 40 per cent of children are overweight and obese, this is among the highest rate in Europe and the issue is even more prevalent in the poorer parts of our city. We also know that one in four children have decayed or missing teeth by the time they start school which means we need to take action now.

AIDSfree appeal

I was delighted to support the Evening Standard and Elton John AIDS Foundation's AIDSfree appeal. In the Evening Standard on 28 January, I set out the progress we are making in London and the further steps required if we are to eliminate new HIV infections by 2030. I was pleased to announce that in September London will host the first international gathering of Fast Track

Cities. I also sent a video message to the Global Forum on 30 January, an event which marked the end of the AIDSfree appeal, and brought experts, mayors and leaders together to reflect on the actions needed to create an Aids-free future.

HeadStart Action Showcase

On 24 January, my Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard attended a showcase of Team London's HeadStart Action project. During the event, 33 young people from Harris Academy Peckham presented their social action projects. These included 'Peckham Platform' which explored racism in the media and 'There's More to Me Than What You See', exploring how young people are judged by society.

Pupils from St Thomas the Apostle School, who took part in HeadStart Action in 2018 also attended and explained how the programme has helped to increase their confidence, improve their school attendance and enabled them to secure work experience for the summer at Lendlease. HeadStart Action is also being supported by the Young Londoner's Fund and delivery has started in Hackney, Haringey, Newham and Westminster.

New Active Londoners funding programme launched

On 24 January, I launched Active Londoners, a key part of my Sport Unites programme. The fund tackles inactivity by supporting individuals and organisations to create more opportunities for people in London to participate in a wide range of sport and physical activities, improving Londoners physical and mental well-being. Active Londoners has a focus on helping inactive people, who make up 38 per cent of the London population, to get active, and be active more often. Small grants of up to £5,000 are on offer for local project up to 12 weeks and medium grants of £25,000 - £75,000 are on offer for projects of up to 12 months.

Voluntary sector leaders meeting on reward and recognition of volunteering

On 15 January, Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard hosted over 50 social sector leaders who came to City Hall to discuss what we can do to support a stronger culture of volunteering in London. Volunteering levels in London are second lowest in the country. I wish to address this as I see social action and volunteering as a key part of community life in London. During the event my officers presented new research on the motivations of volunteers and barriers to volunteering. Attendees discussed in depth their thoughts on what the GLA's role is in promoting reward and recognition of volunteering.

Second round of London Together funding launched

I have now launched the second round of funding of London Together in partnership with Comic Relief. London Together is a £3 million fund which is being delivered through three annual funding rounds. This investment goes into sport for change projects that aim to improve social integration across London. These projects will increase opportunities to regularly bring people together through sport as part of my ambition to make London the most active and socially integrated city in the world.

Culture and Events

Chinese New Year Celebrations – The Year of the Pig

On Sunday 10 February, I once again attended and spoke at the annual Chinese New Year Celebrations, a real highlight of our cultural calendar. From the breath-taking lion's parade that delights the crowds lining the streets from Chinatown, to the colourful sights and sounds that bring Trafalgar Square to life, it was fantastic to see over 350,000 gather to enjoy the very best of Chinese music, dance, entertainment and food.

The event, supported by the GLA and organised by the London Chinatown Chinese Association, is a wonderful showcase of Chinese culture and a fitting celebration of the huge contribution that the community makes to our capital.

This year, as we marked the start of the Year of the Pig, we were celebrating the friendship between the UK and China and showing that London is open to all people and all communities. That's why I'm so proud of the Chinese New Year festivities here in the capital, which are the largest of their kind outside of China and entertain hundreds of thousands of people from London and visitors from the UK and around the world.

Creative Land Trust

On 6 February, I launched the Creative Land Trust, an innovative new independent trust I have helped to set up with partners Arts Council England, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Outset Contemporary Art Fund. The Trust will bring together investment to support the provision of affordable workspaces in the city in perpetuity. I announced my commitment of £4 million, along with £2 million from Arts Council England and funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Creative Land Trust is part of my commitment to ensure the future of artists and creative businesses in London and to make up for the significant loss of these spaces over the past decade.

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony

On Monday 21 January, I was honoured to welcome victims and survivors of the Holocaust to City Hall for a moving ceremony to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Alongside event Chair Tony Arbour, we were joined by members of the London Assembly, MPs, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, the Israeli Ambassador, faith leaders and community stakeholders.

Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust develops a theme to help inspire commemorations. This year, in which we also marked both the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Genocide in Cambodia, the theme was 'Torn from Home'.

We were privileged to hear moving accounts of personal experiences from Susan Pollack and Sokphal Din, survivors of the Holocaust and Genocide in Cambodia respectively. Young Ambassadors reflected on their experiences of the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project and students from London read a 'Statement of Commitment' – a declaration to remember and to reject Genocide, antisemitism, racism, xenophobia and discrimination in all its guises. Reflecting this year's theme, I also read the Poem Homesick by Anonymous, 9/3/1943.

The London Night Time Commission Report

On 18 January, I met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the London Night Time Commission to discuss their final report and recommendations on making London a thriving 24-hour city. Their report, alongside the London At Night research that they commissioned in 2018, helps to mark London out as a global leader in the way we plan for our city at night. The report was published by the Commission on 31 January which my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and my Night Czar, Amy Lamé attended. Amy and I will respond to the Commission's recommendations this Spring.

Launch of Da Vinci 500

On 18 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a speech and formally welcomed Filippo del Corno, Deputy Mayor for Culture from Milan as part of the opening of the 500th Anniversary celebrations of Leonardo da Vinci at the National Gallery. The evening included remarks from the Italian Ambassador to the UK. This was the first of an international year long programme of events to celebrate Leonardo da Vinci.

Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 - successful Fellowship Funding projects

On 17 January, Waltham Forest – my first ever London Borough of Culture – announced the first 12 successful recipients of their Fellowship Funding programme. This is a £550,000 grant scheme for artists and residents to create locally relevant, ambitious cultural activity across the borough during 2019. From 165 applications in the first round, 12 projects were announced, which showcase the diversity and creativity of the local community. The projects range from African storytelling to a celebration of radical female boxers.

Brent, London Borough of Culture 2020 – launch of 2020 Culture Fund

On 17 January, Brent – my London Borough of Culture for 2020 – announced the opening of a £500,000 grant scheme for local people, creative groups and organisations across the borough to lead their own cultural activities during 2020. Grants will range from £3,000 - £10,000 and the Brent 2020 team are offering one-to-one sessions and workshops to help local groups develop their proposals.

Linbury Theatre Opening – Royal Opera House

On 17 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the first performance at the newly refurbished Linbury Theatre at the Royal Opera House. This was part of the Royal Opera House's Open Up project, which focuses on making opera and ballet accessible for everyone. This new state of the art venue in the West End adds to the list of world-class facilities in London has to offer, showcasing some of the finest ballet and opera from the UK and across the world.

14-18 NOW Event

On 15 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the 14-18 NOW celebration event. The event was for partners who had contributed to this five-year cultural programme across the UK to mark the centenary of the First World War. The programme reached 35 million people, including 8 million young people, through a range of extraordinary events and featured 125 projects by 420 artists in 220

locations. London contributed many highlights to the programme including the unveiling of Millicent Fawcett, the first statue of a woman in Parliament Square, by artist Gillian Wearing CBE, which my teams delivered in April.

Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 – opening weekend

On 11 January, I attended ‘Welcome to the Forest’, the opening show of Waltham Forest’s year as London Borough of Culture 2019, with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and members of my Cultural Leadership Board. Hosted by Councillor Clare Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest Council, we met artists and residents who had been involved in making the programme and visited three ambitious new artistic commissions; a sound and light installation in Lloyd Park called *Nest*, and two large scale video projections which enveloped the Town Hall, called *Into the Forest* and *Welcome to the Forest*. 70,000 visits were made to the events over the weekend, with 22 per cent of visitors coming from outside of the borough.

London Men’s Collection

On 5 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the opening of London Fashion Week Men’s. Menswear now accounts for 26 per cent of the total UK clothing market, with new data published ahead of the festival showing that the UK menswear market grew by 5 per cent in 2018 to reach £15.9 billion. This season featured over 40 designer businesses showcasing their latest collections. Mayoral funding also supports emerging designers and provides opportunities for business to trade and exhibit their designs.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Improving community links

On 26 January, a new pedestrian and cycle bridge was rolled into place across the Lee Navigation Canal on the western edge of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The bridge is the first of two new bridges to be installed to improve connections between the Park and neighbouring Hackney Wick and Fish Island.

London Stadium operator

On 21 January, LLDC announced that the London Stadium operator, LS185, was being brought in-house. E20, the stadium owner and VINCI Stadium came to the agreement so both businesses could move forward in the direction that matches their priorities. The operational focus remains on safety and security for all events, but the agreement is also an important step in the progress which has been made in getting the London Stadium on a firm financial footing.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 18 December 2018 to 29 January 2019

Planning Decisions (Stage III representation hearings)

VIP Trading Estate, Charlton Riverside, RB Greenwich

Having decided to become the local planning authority for the above case, I decided to refuse planning permission.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Former Nufarm UK Ltd, Burts Wharf, Belvedere, LB Bexley

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

Coombe Road Playing Fields, South Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Phases 3 and 4, Woolwich Central, 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.

Fulham Gasworks, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

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

Burgess Business Park, Camberwell, 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.

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:

Blackhorse Road Car Park, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

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

- Neptune Skip Limited, 2 Creek Road, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Crown House and Linton Road Car Park, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Barking Wharf Phase 2, Highbridge Road, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- The Workshop, Dudden Hill Lane, Willesden, LB Brent
- Land adjacent to 20 Bury Street, Aldgate, City of London
- Olympia Exhibition Centre and Olympia Way, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Chailey Industrial Estate, Pump Lane, Hayes, LB Hillingdon

- 141-163 Freston Road, North Kensington, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Stratford Centre and Morgan House Development Site, Stratford, LB Newham
- Malt Street, Latona Road and Bianca Road, Bermondsey, LB Southwark
- 73-77 Commercial Road, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets
- Site north west of Leamouth Road, Poplar, LB Tower Hamlets
- Travelodge Docklands, Coriander Avenue, Poplar, LB Tower Hamlets
- Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, City of Westminster
- Welbeck Street Car Park, Welbeck Street, Bond Street, City of Westminster

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

The Deputy for Mayor Planning, Regeneration and Skills has asked officers to send a letter giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- Waste and Recycling Centre, Northgate Road, Barking Riverside, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Kidbrooke Station Square, Henley Cross, Kidbrooke, RB Greenwich
- Central Depot, Forward Drive, Harrow, LB Harrow
- Ye Old Plough and Lower Park Farm, Church Road, Cranford, LB Hounslow
- Recorder House and One Station Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- Cantium Retail Park, 520 Old Kent Road, Bermondsey, LB Southwark

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stopping Up Order)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills has sent a letter giving comments about the following stopping up order referral:

- South Side of Brentford High Street and Waterside, Brentford, LB Hounslow

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Segro Park Heathrow, LB Hounslow
- All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, LB Merton
- Leamouth Peninsula North, LB Tower Hamlets
- 113 Upper Richmond Road, LB Wandsworth
- Turner House, City of Westminster
- Brent Preferred Options Local Plan – Regulation 18, LB Brent
- Southbank and Waterloo Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16, LB Lambeth
- Draft City Plan 2019-2040, Westminster City Council

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the Budget and Performance Committee on 8 January to answer questions on my draft GLA group budget for 2019/20
- I met with the Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Opposition, on 8 January to discuss constituency issues
- I met with Sir Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office, on 8 January to discuss Crossrail
- I had an introductory meeting with Tony Meggs, the new Chair of Crossrail, on 9 January
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 9 January
- I had my regular meeting with the Transport Unions on 9 January
- I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce hosted by the Home Secretary on 9 January
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 10 January
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget Mayoral Board meeting on 10 January
- I had my regular meeting with Ken Marsh, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation, on 10 January
- I met with Peter Walker, Guardian journalist & cycling advocate, on 10 January to discuss cycling in London
- I addressed the London Government Dinner at Mansion House on 10 January
- I had my regular meeting with my statutory health advisor, Yvonne Doyle, Director for London, Public Health England, on 11 January
- I addressed the Wider South East Annual Summit taking place at City Hall on 11 January
- I attended the opening night of the Waltham Forest Borough of Culture on 11 January
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 14 January
- I had my regular meeting with AC Neil Basu on 14 January to discuss policing and security
- I visited Charlotte Sharman Primary School, Southwark, on 15 January to launch London's new hyperlocal sensor network, known as "Breathe London"
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Peter John, London Councils, on 15 January
- I had my regular meeting with Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 15 January
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board taking place at Framstore's Offices on 16 January
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 16 January
- I met with Lib Peck on 16 January to discuss her new role leading London's Violence Reduction Unit
- I had an introductory meeting with José Luís Carneiro, Portugal's Secretary of State for the Portuguese Communities Abroad, on 16 January discuss concerns around and preparations for Brexit
- I attended Mayors Question Time on 17 January
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 17 January
- I met with Kate Nicholls, Chair of the London Night Time Commission, and Rommel Moseley, Vice Chair, on 18 January to discuss the key findings of the Night Time Commission's report

- I attended the annual GLA Holocaust Memorial Day Remembrance Service at City Hall on 21 January
- I attended the Grenfell Tower Commendation Ceremony taking place at The Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks on 21 January
- I had an introductory meeting with the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London, on 21 January
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 22 January
- I attended the Women's Interfaith Network Event "Bringing All of Us Together" taking place at City Hall on 22 January
- I visited Copley Close, a London Borough of Ealing estate regeneration project supported by funding through the Building Council Homes for Londoners, on 23 January
- I attended the Draft Budget Assembly Plenary on 24 January
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 24 January
- I attended the 'Grenfell Together' Dinner, organised by the Grenfell Muslim Response Unit at Porchester Hall on 24 January
- I visited the VIP Trading Estate, Charlton, development site on 25 January
- I attended the National Holocaust Memorial Day Remembrance Service at the QEII Conference Centre on 27 February
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 28 January ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 28 January
- I hosted a meeting of taxi representatives on 28 January to discuss air quality issues
- I attended the Countering Violent Extremism Event taking place at City Hall on 29 January and met with the CVE programme specialist advisers
- I met with The Most Revd. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, at Lambeth Palace on 29 January to discuss key leadership priorities for London and strengthen collaboration between City Hall and the Church of England in tackling these issues
- I chaired the VIP Trading Estate, Charlton, Representation Hearing at City Hall on 29 January
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 30 January
- I had my regular meeting with representatives of the TUC LESE (TUC London East and South East, formerly SERTUC) on 30 January
- I met with Vinu Bhattesa, Trustee of Neasden Temple, on 30 January to discuss the local community in & around Neasden
- I visited the Unite The Union head office on 30 January to see the St Mungo's SWEP overflow facility hosted in that office
- I met with Clive Efford MP on 31 January to discuss constituency issues
- I met with Karen Buck MP on 31 January to discuss housing policy
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 31 January
- I met with victims of road trauma at a Vision Zero event taking place at City Hall on 31 January
- I met with Paul Lindley, Chair of the Obesity Taskforce, & Corinna Hawkes, Deputy Chair of the Obesity Taskforce, on 1 February to discuss the work of the Taskforce
- I attended the launch of the Crowdfund London 2019 Programme at the Tottenham Cafe Connect on 4 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 4 February

- I attended the Premier League football match between West Ham FC and Liverpool FC at the London Stadium on 4 February
- I attended the Congress of Leaders on 5 February
- I attended the launch of the Creative Land Trust at Bloomberg Headquarters on 6 February
- I had my regular meeting with Laura Citron, Chief Executive, London & Partners, on 6 February
- I met with Mike Brown, Transport Commissioner, on 6 February ahead of the London Assembly TfL Plenary meeting
- I attended the London Assembly TfL Plenary meeting on 7 February to answer questions as the Chair of TfL
- I attend the GLA Staff Blood donation event at City Hall on 7 February
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 7 February
- I had an introductory meeting with Femke Halsema, the Mayor of Amsterdam on 7 February
- I met with Clare Pritchard, the Chair of the London Food Board, on 8 February to discuss the work of the Board
- I attended the Chinese New Year Celebration on Trafalgar Square on 10 February
- I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce hosted by the Home Secretary on 11 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 11 February

Ends