

40th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 19th March 2020

This is my fortieth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 11th February – 5th March 2020.

Executive Summary

Coronavirus preparedness

As Mayor, it is my role to ensure the city is fully prepared for the impacts of Coronavirus. I'm in regular contact with Public Health England to ensure we have the latest advice and to monitor the impact on our city. It's really important we are working together so if things were to get worse, we have everything in place to act.

We already have robust response structures in place for this kind of scenario, and they have been kicking in over the past few weeks. A group led by my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and Chair of the London Resilience Forum, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, meets regularly to monitor the impact on London.

On Thursday 5 March at the Transport Plenary, I updated the London Assembly and reassured them and Londoners that we currently do not have any plans to shut down the Tube or the transport network. However, Transport for London and I continue to monitor the situation closely and should the advice from Public Health England change, we'll be prepared to take the necessary action to protect Londoners' health.

My officers have been in daily contact with Public Health England (PHE) for some weeks now, and, in addition, on 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, and my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, met with representatives from PHE and local government to discuss best practice and response activity. This helped my team to determine next steps and how we would continue to work together as the situation develops.

On 2 March, I convened a Mayor's Advisory Group on London's response. This brought together senior officials from Public Health England, the NHS, the Met Police, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, Transport for London and representatives from London's local authorities to make sure London is prepared for an increase of cases in our city.

The relevant lead members of the London Resilience Forum determined to call a Strategic Coordination Group, which met for the first time on 3 March. This body will oversee the London-wide response to the issue, meeting regularly for as long as required to ensure that we respond effectively.

My team and I will continue to act upon advice from the experts, and it is important that all Londoners do the same. At present the assessment by public health experts is to go about your daily lives, but that the single most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is wash their hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Anybody who suspects they have symptoms, or is worried, should **NOT** go to GPs' surgeries or to A&E; they should log onto the NHS website for the latest information here: <https://www.nhs.uk/>

Latest update on Grenfell Tower recommendations published

On 5 March, I published the second monthly report which showed progress was being made on all points of action for the London Fire Brigade on the recommendations from Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The Inquiry's report made 46 recommendations directed at the LFB, other fire and rescue services, the emergency services, Government and owners and managers of residential buildings.

While I do not have powers over the Government or high-rise building owners, I will continue to be relentless in holding them to account on building safety and making sure all the recommendations of the inquiry are acted on. We simply cannot wait for the Inquiry's next report to take action now on such an important issue.

Good Work Standard reaches 200,000 Londoners

On 5 March, I was delighted to announce that over 200,000 London workers now have high employment standards guaranteed by my Good Work Standard, with over 60 London employers now accredited. Sectors represented are as diverse as retail, energy, local government, design, research and care, and I was pleased in February to accredit our first professional football club, West Ham United FC. On average, a new Good Work Standard employer is accredited every 4 days.

Record breaking housing stats

Delivering genuinely affordable homes that Londoners so desperately need has been one of my top priorities over the last four years. On 13 February, I was delighted that to see record-breaking stats that show we're firmly on track to deliver our ambitious target of starting 17,000 genuinely affordable homes this year.

We can't solve the housing crisis overnight, but this shows what we can do when Londoners work together. Now it is time for the Government to recognise what we have achieved, step up and give us the support and funds to keep building the homes London urgently needs.

'Water-only' schools to help reduce childhood obesity

On 2 March, I urged all London's primary schools to become 'water only' in a bid to tackle childhood obesity across the capital. Making water freely available and introducing measures like 'water-only' schools are just some of the simple things we can do to not only tackle childhood obesity, but also improve pupil behaviour and learning. I'm urging all schools in London to follow Southwark's example and adopt the policy to help improve the life chances of all young Londoners.

Air Quality Health Report

On 26 February, I published a new report with Health Lumen (formerly UK Health Forum) which estimates impacts of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) on the health of Londoners. The report focused on air pollution-related diseases including coronary heart disease, asthma, stroke, lung cancer, COPD, diabetes, low birth weight and dementia.

The headline insight from the report shows that the ULEZ policies (including the central ULEZ, LEZ and the ULEZ expansion) are predicted to result in the avoidance of 1.09 million new air pollution related hospital admissions London-wide by 2050. This is approximately a reduction

of 1 in every 3 air pollution related diseases and could result in a cost saving to the NHS and social care system of £4.17 billion.

The full report is published online at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications>

Car Free Day to return to London

On 25 February, I announced that a central London Car Free Day event will return on Sunday 20 September as part of my bold plans to tackle London's toxic air.

Last year's Car Free Day was London's biggest yet, enabling thousands of Londoners to explore the capital by bike or on foot and encouraging them to reduce their car use. I'm determined to make this year's event even bigger and better and I look forward to revealing more plans in the summer.

New data showing positive impact on London's air quality

On 21 February, I published a press release and report showing a comparison in the number of hours where London's air exceeded the safe threshold limit for NO₂. A headline statistic from the report showed that in 2016 monitoring sites in London recorded over 4,000 hours above the safe threshold for NO₂.

In 2019 this reduced to just over 100, a reduction of 97 per cent. Significant NO₂ reductions have occurred where I have introduced Low Emission Bus Zones – areas where only buses that meet the cleanest emission standards can operate.

The report is published online at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications>

Protected cycle space in London triples

In 2016, I pledged to triple the amount of protected space for cycling by May 2020. I'm really proud to have achieved that with the amount of protected space for cycling tripling to a total of 162km – making it safer and more convenient for Londoners across our city to cycle as part of their everyday routine.

Update on the Gangs Matrix Review

On 16 February, I announced the results from a comprehensive overhaul of the Metropolitan Police's Gangs Violence Matrix, which reveals it is more up-to-date and evidence-based, focused on those more likely to commit violence.

The perceived cloak of secrecy around the Gangs Matrix led to genuine community concerns, which is why I promised in my manifesto to carry out a thorough review to help restore trust and confidence in the way it is used. We are now seeing real progress with the Met acting on all recommendations. Keeping Londoners safe is my top priority.

I'm committed to doing everything within my power to tackle the issue of violent crime, including investing more than £100 million in this year's City Hall budget to tackle violent crime and its complex causes, as well as investing £6 million to help young people at risk of harm or exploitation from criminal gangs to turn their lives around.

Greenwich Park to host UEFA EURO 2020 Fan Zone

On 13 February, I was excited to announce Greenwich Park as the host for the UEFA EURO 2020 Fan Zone. The Fan Zone will show all England matches, both semi-finals and the final. It will also show games featuring Home Nations if they qualify for the last 16 of the competition and beyond. The Fan Zone will also host some community events and family-friendly activities throughout the tournament.

£55.5 million investment to tackle complex causes of violent crime

As part of my budget, on 12 February I set out a comprehensive, £55.5 million package of new funding for 2020/2021 on hard-hitting programmes to help young Londoners turn their backs on crime, and preventative measures to provide positive opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

Youth services have been on the frontline of a near-decade of damaging Government cuts, with figures showing that there has been a 46 per cent reduction in national funding for youth services in the capital since 2011. I'm using every financial lever at my disposal to invest in youth and preventative services and will be working in partnerships with others to support youth centres, schools and sports activities.

London leads the way in making homes fit for the future

On 12 February, I launched a new £3.6 million programme to help the public sector cut carbon emissions and reduce energy bills by updating and improving homes.

The Retrofit Accelerator for Homes programme – the first initiative of its kind in the UK – will provide much-needed support for the under-resourced public sector to retrofit homes with urgent upgrades and improvements such as better insulation, low-carbon heat and alternative power sources.

I've pledged for London to be carbon-neutral by 2030 if re-elected. It is an ambition which requires forward-thinking local authorities and housing associations to commit to this dynamic new movement to transform social housing and take a significant step towards London meeting its zero-carbon targets and help tackle fuel poverty.

Lewisham and Croydon named as London Boroughs of Culture

On 11 February, I announced that Lewisham has been awarded the title of London Borough of Culture for 2021 with Croydon winning for 2023. Both boroughs will be awarded £1.35 million funding to deliver a year-long programme of activities that will place culture at the centre of their communities and celebrate the unique character of local people and places. In addition, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey and Sutton were all awarded Cultural Impact Awards and will receive up to £200,000 each to deliver projects in their boroughs.

Culture has the power to bring communities together and transform young people's lives, and I'm very proud of the impact that our programme has already had in Waltham Forest and Brent. Lewisham and Croydon have set out bold and exciting plans that will use culture to deliver real change in their boroughs, and I'm already looking forward to seeing their plans come to life.

Retention scheme for London's bus drivers

On 11 February, I announced plans for around 20,000 London bus drivers to receive a retention payment of up to £1,600. I'm really proud to launch this new reward and retention initiative which, along with my minimum professional London bus driver's wage and 'Licence for London' schemes, will help us to retain more experienced bus drivers and deliver a better service for passengers and drivers alike.

Policing, Crime and Security

£55.5 million investment to tackle complex causes of violent crime

As part of my budget, on 12 February, I set out a comprehensive £55.5 million package of new funding for 2020/2021 on programmes to help young Londoners turn their backs on crime, and preventative measures to provide positive opportunities for disadvantaged young people. As part of this new package of measures I am:

- Investing £25 million of new money to build on the Young Londoners Fund – providing new funding for projects and programmes that provide positive opportunities for disadvantaged young people and help steer them away from crime;
- significantly increasing funding for Violence Reduction Unit initiatives, with new moves including peer-mentoring programmes for young people in Pupil Referral Units to help tackle the consequences of school exclusions, and funding for community groups as part of a hyper-localised approach to violence reduction; and,
- increasing investment in programmes to tackle ‘county lines’ and to disrupt the drugs market in the capital, as well as funding to target persistent offenders and domestic abuse perpetrators as part of a joined-up approach to reducing offending.

Update on the Gangs Matrix Review

On 16 February, I announced results from a comprehensive overhaul of the Metropolitan Police’s Gangs Violence Matrix, which reveals it is more up-to-date and evidence-based, focused on those more likely to commit violence.

As a result of the review, over the last year:

- The overall population of the Matrix has decreased by 31 per cent to 2,676 people.
- As recommended in the report, nearly 490 individuals with a ‘green harm’ banding, including those deemed as having a zero-harm score – reflecting the lowest risk of an individual committing or being a victim of violence – have been removed from the Matrix because there was no longer evidence that they were affiliated with a criminal gang.
- There has been an improvement in the proportionality of those added to the Matrix. Those added to the Matrix from a BAME background has decreased from 89 per cent in 2018 to 79 per cent in 2019. The number of people of a Black African Caribbean background added to the database dropped from 82.8 per cent in 2018 to 66 per cent the following year.
- The proportion of under-18s is at the lowest-ever point in the Matrix’s history, with a decrease from 14 per cent in 2018 to 6 per cent in 2019. There has also been a reduction in the proportion of under-25s from 72 per cent in 2018 to 64 per cent in 2019.
- Clearer agreements are being put in place to limit organisations that have access to Matrix data, in order to help address concerns that inclusion on the Matrix could unfairly impact on engagement with local authorities, social services or probation services, impacting on issues like access to housing allowance from their local authority.

Our review showed that the Matrix is a necessary enforcement tool for reducing violent crime in London, but it's also vitally important that the police continue to evaluate and communicate how it is used.

Launching the next phase of our work with the Premier League to support at-risk young Londoners.

On 19 February, I visited Selhurst Park, the home of Crystal Palace FC, to meet young people benefitting from positive mentoring activities run during the school holidays with investment from the Young Londoners Fund.

Mentoring is the latest phase of the Kicks programme available to young people needing support to reach their full potential and to prevent them getting caught up in violent crime. This is one element of the three-year partnership between City Hall, the Premier League, professional football clubs, and the Metropolitan Police, supporting young Londoners through the Premier League Kicks social inclusion programme which gives participants access to free football sessions and activities, as well as workshops that support and educate.

Across the next year, the mentoring programme at Selhurst Park will see 30 young Londoners each receive 12 weeks of dedicated mentoring support from the Palace for Life Foundation.

The young people are referred to the programme by schools, youth offending teams or pupil referral units and receive a range of support to get them back into education and employment with local companies. They receive one-to-one support from mentors from the local area on a weekly basis in a classroom, club, home or informal setting depending on their specific needs. Many of the mentors have themselves come from similar backgrounds so can relate to the experiences and challenges faced and can work in partnership with the young people to help build their confidence and direction.

I am supporting the work of the Palace for Life Foundation via a £1.2 million grant to Croydon Council from round two of the Young Londoners' Fund.

Transport

First all-electric double-deck bus route in west London to improve air quality

On 18 February, the 94 bus, operating between Acton Green and Piccadilly Circus, became west London's first all-electric double-deck bus route.

The electrification of the 94 route follows the 43 and 134 routes in 2019 and brings the current total of electric buses in the capital to 280. In addition to the route 94, another 12 routes are expected to become fully electric over the course of this year. The C3, operating between West Cromwell Road and Clapham Junction, and the 23, operating between Westbourne Park and Hammersmith, are among the next bus routes to be electrified.

In addition to improved air quality and lower carbon emissions, customers travelling on the 94, operated by RATP Dev, will benefit from quieter, smoother journeys due to fewer vibrations, and free-to-use USB charging points.

Buses on the route also feature innovative new safety features in line with TfL's world-leading Bus Safety Standard guidelines and will be involved in the trial of an acoustic vehicle alerting system (AVAS) that alerts road users to the presence of quieter running electric vehicles.

First Tube roundels installed at new Northern Line Extension station

On 20 February, Transport for London released images of the latest version of its historic design icon, the roundel, after the first ones were installed on the platform at the new Underground station in Battersea. In total, 113 roundels are being manufactured for installation at the two new Northern Line Extension stations, which are scheduled to open in autumn 2021 – 62 for Battersea Power Station and 51 for Nine Elms.

Although not yet visible to the public, the arrival of the new roundels signifies an important milestone in the construction of the Northern Line Extension, the first major Tube line extension since the Jubilee line in the late 1990s. The extension will connect Kennington to Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms, bringing Battersea and surrounding areas to within 15 minutes of the City and the West End.

The new roundels, among the most recognised and imitated logos in the world, are being manufactured at family-owned AJ Wells & Sons Ltd on the Isle of Wight where London transport signage has been produced for generations. They are the first roundels to be manufactured for a new Northern line station since the opening of the extension to Morden in 1926.

Work to extend the line is currently focused on the fit-out of the new stations including the installation of escalators, installing the power supply, and extending the signalling used on the Northern line into the extension. The extension is enabling the regeneration of the Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea areas, spurring economic growth by supporting around 25,000 new jobs and more than 20,000 new homes.

Step-free access complete at Mill Hill East Tube station

Customers using Mill Hill East Tube station can now enter and exit step-free as Transport for London announced the completion of modernisation work on 21 February.

Mill Hill East serves the Northern line, London's busiest Tube line, and sees almost 1.4 million customer journeys each year. Access to the transport network for people with accessibility needs will be vastly improved, with a new lift and link bridge having transformed the station.

The new lift and link bridge were built off-site and craned into the station in August last year in a complex overnight operation. This reduced the amount of time that engineers needed to work on site, ensuring that disruption to customers was kept to a minimum. Since then contractors have worked hard to divert critical services, upgrade the station systems and install the lift.

The introduction of step-free access at Mill Hill East will improve the daily lives of passengers who use this busy station, especially disabled people, older people and those with young children. Eleven more Tube stations are set to become step free this year – helping make London's transport network more accessible for everyone.

Blackhorse Lane reopens in full

Blackhorse Lane in Croydon reopened to two-way traffic on 25 February following the completion of work that saw the Transport for London (TfL) owned bridge over the tramway and the neighbouring Croydon Council owned bridge over the Addiscombe Railway Park replaced, as a single scheme delivered by TfL.

The bridges were replaced at the same time to minimise the impact on residents and users of Blackhorse Lane and to save public money.

Improvements delivered as part of the project have included wider pavements to make walking easier in the area, provision for new cycle lanes and improved lighting for added safety. Both bridges, which were more than 120 years old, have had their bridge decks replaced and foundations strengthened, allowing Croydon Council to remove the weight restrictions that had been in place for several years.

The reopening of Blackhorse Lane has been on a phased basis with two-way traffic the final step in delivering these improvements. The road opened for one-way traffic in December 2019.

TfL and A2Dominion announce plans for hundreds of new affordable homes

On 27 February, Transport for London announced that it has been working with A2Dominion to bring forward plans to deliver around 400 new affordable homes in Hounslow, details of which will be shared with the public later this week.

The proposals, which cover a 1.48 hectare site, have been designed by HKR architects and include the delivery of around 400 new affordable homes across four buildings. The homes will consist of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties. They will be a mixture of both shared ownership, which offers an affordable route into homeownership, and London Affordable Rent, which provides low-cost rented homes to support low-income households. The rent levels for London Affordable Rent are set using my powers as Mayor of London and are substantially below open market rents. The site is being designed with a sustainable focus and includes the planting of new trees and a range of biodiverse planting across the development.

Being located directly next to Hounslow West Underground station, which is on the Piccadilly line, as well as a number of bus routes, the development will also enable new residents to easily travel across the capital using public transport. The designs will ensure that the station's Grade II-listed ticket hall is preserved and kept at the centre of the proposals. The new station

concourse, which will be built as part of the development, will also allow for improved step-free access via lifts to be provided in the future.

Road danger reduced in the capital with new 20mph speed limits on all TfL roads in central London from next week

On 27 February, Transport for London (TfL) announced the introduction of lower speed limits across the central London TfL road network in a significant move to reduce road danger across the capital, starting on Monday 2 March.

The new 20mph speed limits will be enforced across all TfL roads within the Congestion Charging Zone – including Millbank, Victoria Embankment and Borough High Street – following strong public support for the proposals.

The 20mph speed limits will be supported by new signage and road markings, with raised pedestrian crossings being installed in prominent locations where a high number of people walk, including near Embankment and Tower Hill Underground stations and outside the Tate Britain. TfL will recalibrate all the speed cameras in central London and will work closely with the Metropolitan Police to ensure that drivers are complying with the new safer speed limits.

From April, a new Metropolitan Police speed enforcement team will identify speeding drivers across the capital, including within the new 20mph speed limits. The team will be deployed to known high-risk locations for speeding and will respond to stakeholder and community concerns about drivers speeding in their area.

TfL marks 20th anniversary year with Royal visit to London Transport Museum

On 4 March, their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall paid a visit to the London Transport Museum with the Mayor of London and the Transport Commissioner in celebration of Transport for London's 20th anniversary.

This visit was the latest in a long-held association between the Royal family and London's transport network including back in 1969 when Her Majesty became the first reigning monarch to travel on the London Underground when Her Majesty opened the Victoria line. Her Majesty subsequently visited London Underground on its 150th birthday in 2013.

During the visit The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall met staff who have pioneered environmental and mental health schemes in the workplace and crisis response staff.

Their Royal Highnesses also spoke with the future generation of staff who will help shape London's next twenty years, including engineering apprentices working on signalling projects on the Tube to make services even quicker and more reliable, and interns from TfL's award-winning Stuart Ross Internship scheme designed to improve diversity in a number of areas of TfL's workforce.

His Royal Highness unveiled a TfL20 plaque to commemorate the visit, and London's Transport Commissioner, Mike Brown MVO, presented the royal couple with personalised 'Prince of Wales' and 'Duchess of Cornwall' roundels.

Fire and Resilience

Citizen Aid

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, met with Sir Keith Porter and other representatives from CitizenAid, a charity which aims to prepare individuals, communities and organisations to help themselves and each other in any situation where there are multiple casualties, particularly from deliberate attacks.

Meeting with Her Majesty's Inspector of the Fire & Rescue Services Matt Parr CB

On 20 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, met with Her Majesty's Inspector of the Fire & Rescue Services, Matt Parr CB, to discuss the progress in implementing the recommendations of HMICFRS's report on the London Fire Brigade.

Meeting with Families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire

On 24 February, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM and London Fire Commissioner Andy Roe, met with families who were bereaved in the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy.

London Fire Brigade Exercise

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross AM, attended an exercise led by London Fire Brigade to test their new Fire Survival Guidance policy.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 5 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr 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 questions to the Deputy Mayor and the London Fire Commissioner.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

London Infrastructure Group Announcements

On 12 February, I attended a meeting of my London Infrastructure Group (LIG) making several announcements.

- I set out plans to boost diversity and inclusion in London's infrastructure sector, as a new report commissioned by City Hall and the LIG revealed women, people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, disabled and LGBTQ+ Londoners are significantly underrepresented in the industry. The LIG have pledged to tackle this critical challenge through proactive outreach and mentoring initiatives, as well as collecting better data on diversity and inclusion and sharing good practice.

- I also launched my new Infrastructure Advisory Panel, comprising leading figures from the infrastructure and development field who will advise me and the London Infrastructure Group on a range of issues. The panel is 30 per cent BAME and 70 per cent women, and I hope they will inspire others into the sector from under-represented communities.
- I launched new measures to improve infrastructure delivery and cut congestion on London's roads, 15 per cent of which is caused by roadworks, which costs the capital around £900 million a year. To address this challenge, I have set up an infrastructure coordination service and announced five street works coordination pilots where utility companies will work together through a 'dig once' approach to street works to minimise disruption for Londoners.
- I also launched a developer infrastructure coordination service in three London boroughs, which will help the public and private sector to work together to plan and deliver infrastructure works.
- Data underpins the coordination service, and I was pleased to launch version 3 of the London Infrastructure Mapping Application. This online tool brings together over 50 layers of data to allow boroughs and infrastructure providers to better plan for housing delivery as well as coordinated street works.

Skills for Londoners Framework Consultation

On 20 February, I launched my annual Skills for Londoners Framework consultation. The consultation seeks views on priorities for London's Adult Education Budget (AEB), as well as other skills and employment policies and programmes. This is the third time the consultation has been carried out since the publication of London's first ever Skills for Londoners Strategy in 2018. As in previous years, the findings from this consultation will be used to inform future changes to the AEB. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 22 March 2020.

European Social Fund 2019-23 Programme Round 2 Launch

On 20 February, City Hall launched the second round of funding for the European Social Fund (ESF) 2019-23 programme. This comprises three projects; 'Parental Employment', 'Homelessness', and 'Ex-Offenders', totalling £11.5 million. These projects will support Londoners with complex needs to gain skills and find jobs. The 'Parental Employment' project will also support employed parents on low pay to progress in work. These projects are an important part of our work to make sure that our skills system works for all Londoners.

Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund awards

Through the Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund we're allocating £7.3 million to deliver 28 projects across 26 AEB grant-funded providers. The 28 projects demonstrate innovation in the delivery of training and are expected to reach over 10,000 Londoners. The projects tackle key priorities set out in the Skills for Londoners Strategy including provision of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), providing access to learning for disabled Londoners as well as bespoke provision aimed at preventing youth violence.

‘Designing a City for All Londoners’ at Rich Mix

On 2 March, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, opened the Designing a City for All Londoners event at Rich Mix. Compered by Sadie Morgan OBE, a Mayor’s Design Advocate (MDA), the event celebrated the progress we’ve made through the Good Growth by Design programme on research and guidance across a range of priority areas such as the circular economy, child-friendly cities and high streets. It also outlined work to date on new housing design guidance, which embeds quality at the heart of housing delivery, and the Public London Charter, which sets out new principles for the rights and responsibilities of the owners, managers and users of public spaces. The work of the Good Growth by Design Programme has been summarised in a new compendium, edited by MDA Rory Hyde and launched on the day.

London Fashion Fund Makes First Investments

I am delighted to announce that the London Fashion Fund, enabled through seed funding from the Good Growth Fund, has made its first investments into three sustainable Fashion Businesses.

KAPDAA, Clothes Doctor and REWRITTEN are the first three recipients of the co-investment fund, which supports early stage sustainable fashion and fashion tech start-ups that could help shape the future of the industry.

Housing

London Housing Panel

On 12 February, Tom Copley AM attended a meeting of the London Housing Panel in advance of his formal appointment as the new Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development. The London Housing Panel is jointly funded by City Hall and Trust for London, and brings together a group of 15 voluntary and civil society organisations to influence and inform the Mayor’s housing policies.

Tom Copley heard from the Chair of the Panel, Raji Hunjan, about the Panel’s work to date. A discussion was then held with Panel members on a range of issues including homelessness, social housing, community engagement, and the private rented sector.

Council Homebuilding

On 13 February, I visited a former neighbourhood housing office that is being regenerated to provide both new council homes and a new community centre on the Acorn estate in Southwark. It is being redeveloped thanks to funding from the Building Council Homes for Londoners programme. Southwark has one of London’s most ambitious council home building programmes, so it was exciting to see the site and also to meet some of the apprentices working on the development, who live in the local area.

Visit to a survivor of domestic abuse

On 20 February, I visited a domestic abuse survivor who has recently moved on from a refuge into a home funded through my £50 million Move On programme and provided by One Housing Group. She and her children being supported by the new Casa Project, led by Solace Women's Aid and also funded through my programme.

These move-on homes, combined with the Casa Project, which is the only pan-London floating support service for survivors of domestic abuse, are playing a critical role in helping women and children to rebuild their lives in a safe space after the trauma of what is often many years of abuse. I have so far allocated up to £25 million through the programme to deliver 200 homes for both survivors of domestic abuse and former rough sleepers, and fund support to the people moving into them.

Lobbying Government on Building Safety

On 25 February, I joined a lobby of Parliament in Old Palace Yard. The event was organised by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority with the support of UK Cladding Action Group and Manchester Cladators.

The lobby was attended by about 60 leaseholders from London and around the UK living in homes with unsafe cladding. I reiterated my calls to the Government to widen the scope of remediation funds to cover the costs of all types of unsafe cladding and interim safety measures to protect leaseholders from the high costs of making their homes safe.

Homes for Londoners board

On 4 March, I was pleased to chair the Homes for Londoners board. The Board brings together London boroughs with the housing and voluntary sectors, and at this meeting we discussed diversity in partner organisations and received an update on the Leadership 2025 initiative, which will support the progression of BAME housing sector employees. We also heard about infrastructure and work by City Hall to liaise with authorities in the wider South East and received an update on the London Estates Board.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Awards for BT's Work Ready Programme

In February, my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, presented certificates to graduates from BT's Work Ready Programme which prepares 18-24-year olds for the world of work and teaches them practical and digital skills to improve employability. This was held at BT Tower where 40 graduates had the opportunity to showcase their new skills and network with potential future employers.

Civic Innovation Challenge

On 11 February, I announced eight of the capital's innovative tech start-ups that have been shortlisted in my Civic Innovation Challenge, in the areas of countering violent extremism online and making the planning system more accessible. More than 125 entrants were whittled down

to the eight finalists, which will work with City Hall and the Metropolitan Police Service to develop their proposals to help tackle some of the key challenges facing the city. Two winners – one per category – will each be awarded a contract worth £40,000 and will be announced at a ceremony in City Hall on 12 March. Another 20 companies will work with Transport for London to try to secure funding and support in developing their ideas - in the coming months, six of them will be selected to receive £20,000 each to support solutions to tackle the impact of freight delivery on road congestion.

KPMG Best British Tech Pioneer Competition

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke at KPMG's Best British Tech Pioneer Competition (BBTP) held at City Hall. Attended by over 200 industry specialists, the competition discovers the next rising tech stars from across the UK - providing the opportunity for winners to connect with senior corporates, investors and the media. Rajesh's speech reiterated that London is the best city to grow a business and is open for innovation and talent.

The Government's Immigration Proposals

On 20 February, I wrote in response to the Government's plans to implement a new points-based immigration system by the end of the year was published in the Independent. Under the proposals, London-based employers would not be able to recruit many of the essential workers we need in key sectors like construction, hospitality, retail and social care. Undermining these sectors will make it even harder to build the homes we need, look after our elderly relatives, and resolve the ongoing pressures within our NHS and social care system.

Working together with London business groups

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with The London Business Board, comprised of CBI, FSB, IoD, London First and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners. Laura presented London & Partners work on international promotion to the business groups. Rajesh discussed with the business groups on the Government's points-based immigration system and how the business groups can work closely with City Hall to make the case for London to Government ahead of the 11 March Budget.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

On 2 March, alongside London Councils and the LEAP I wrote to the Chancellor to urge the Government to bring forward plans for the UK replacement for nationally-managed European Structural and Investment Funds and any successor to the national Local Growth Fund. As part of this we called for London to receive at least as much funding as it currently does from the existing programmes. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund should also have an increase in the overall national funding level and be fully-devolved.

Good Growth Hub Roadshow

I have announced details of a forthcoming London Growth Hub Roadshow, focused on helping SMEs prepare for and deal with the impact of the transition period following our exit from the European Union. The programme, taking place at various locations around London, including Hammersmith and Soho from 9 March, includes workshops and one-to-one sessions for

business owners, with experts in various fields such as employment law and changing economic circumstances. Sessions will be delivered in partnership with The British Library, Google, Facebook, Funding London and Silicon Valley Bank.

LEAP Summit

Following up on my Diverse Entrepreneurs Summit in 2019, LEAP held an Entrepreneurs Summit on 5 March. The event was designed to bring together business owners across the capital, from a range of backgrounds, who may have faced barriers to entrepreneurship due to their gender, ethnicity, disability or sexuality.

Attendees were able to receive free one-to-one mentoring, network with business support providers hear about our current programme offers, including the London Growth Hub's business support hubs; the Business Growth programme; Start Up, Step Up London; and the Growth Hub's Business Resilience offer, supporting SMEs as the UK leaves the EU. The event was also used to showcase small businesses that LEAP and the London Growth Hub have supported through the Mentoring for Growth, Tomorrow's Market and Digital Talent Programmes.

Environment

Launch of the Retrofit Accelerator – Homes programme

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a keynote speech to the representatives from boroughs and housing associations attending the event to officially launch Retrofit Accelerator – Homes. The programme will help the public sector cut carbon emissions and reduce energy bills by drastically improving the energy efficiency of their homes. It is designed to kick start a 'whole-house' approach to improving a home's 'building fabric' (walls, windows, floors and roofs), heating system and install renewable energy where possible (such as heat pumps and solar panels). This approach should result in around 2.5 times as much carbon reduction per home than is achieved under standard retrofit approaches.

Meeting with Renewi and East London Waste Authority

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, convened a meeting with representatives from Renewi and the East London Waste Authority (ELWA). Renewi is the waste contractor for ELWA, the authority responsible for waste disposal in the East London boroughs of London boroughs of Newham, Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. The parties discussed options to reduce waste and improve recycling in the constituent boroughs.

Meeting with the Woodland Trust

On 24 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Dr Darren Moorcroft, the new Chief Executive of the Woodland Trust to discuss opportunities for working together to plant trees and woodlands in London.

Nursery Air Quality Audit Programme

On 26 February, I visited Columbia Market Nursery School in the London borough of Tower Hamlets to announce the success of my air quality audits. This nursery is one of 20, in some of London's most polluted areas, that was chosen to be audited to help reduce nursery children's exposure to air pollution. Trials of six Air Filtration Systems (AFS) were funded by the GLA from April 2019 until October 2019. The trial found that AFS can be effective in the right circumstances at reducing PM2.5, and to a lesser extent NO2, in a real-world nursery environment. However, currently there are no UK design standards, minimum performance requirements or testing criteria for air filtration systems. The Mayor has written to the Government calling on them to urgently address this issue.

Recommendations for these audits were published online at:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications>

LSDC Financing for a Future London Event

On 4 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at the launch of the London Sustainable Development Commission's (LSDC) report: Financing for a Future London, How to finance a fair transition to a resilient, circular, zero carbon London. My Deputy Mayor set out the contribution that this report will make to the conversation about the need for ambitious action and the challenges that will be faced in the future in terms of financing the transition to more ambitious zero carbon targets.

The report includes recommendations on unlocking the investment needed to transition the city to a zero carbon, circular future, and recommends that a green finance taskforce is set up urgently

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Event

On 5 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, was a guest speaker at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), the capital's largest independent business network. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues briefed industry representatives on the success of the Ultra Low Emission Zone and its planned expansion, energy efficiency and how we can continue to work together to make London a zero carbon city.

Education and Youth

Young Londoners Fund additional investment

On 12 February, I announced the allocation of a further £25 million to build on the Young Londoners Fund. This new funding is to continue providing positive opportunities for children and young people to fulfil their potential, particularly those at risk of getting caught up in crime.

Since February 2018, my Young Londoners Fund has supported community groups, charities, youth centres and schools to provide much-needed sport, educational and cultural activities for young people which will help to tackle knife crime and youth violence. More than 110,000 young Londoners will benefit from the fund.

For a full list of the projects already funded please see our website:
<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/young-londoners-fund-projects>

Schools Challenge Final

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed students to the final of 'Schools Challenge' at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Schools Challenge is an exciting programme run by J.P. Morgan. It supports students from widening participation backgrounds to complete STEM projects that explore environmental challenges in London. Students can also receive funding through my Mayor's London Scientist programme to achieve the CREST Award – the top accreditation for school STEM projects in the UK. At the event, 24 teams from 12 schools presented their innovative solutions to London's challenges.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, welcomed and talked with fourteen young people with care experience who were at City Hall to complete a two-day accredited course in Youth Mental Health First Aid. We want to equip young people with the skills they need to appropriately support and signpost peers who may be struggling with poor mental health. The training was one of six commitments I made to care leavers as part of the national Care Leaver Covenant initiative.

Fashion London resource

As part of London Fashion Week (14 – 18 February), I launched my fantastic new 'Fashion London' resource – the latest addition to my London Curriculum programme of free events and resources for schools and families. Fashion London was developed with art and design teachers, to give students a taste of the range of jobs available in the fashion industry. It aims to encourage the next generation of designers and entrepreneurs, and help improve diversity in the industry.

Communities and Social Policy

Civil Society Roots Fund

Working in partnership with City Bridge Trust, National Lottery Community Fund and MOPAC, I awarded £500,000 of funding to specialist equalities civil society support organisations through the civil society roots fund on 26 February. This includes support for BAME, LGBTQ+, Women's, Deaf and Disabled people led organisations. This funding will help strengthen the support available to user led organisations tackling inequality in London.

Love ESOL

On 11 February, City Hall opened its doors to English as a second or foreign language (ESOL) learners from across London for a LoveESOL celebration. A video was shown in which my Deputy Mayor for Social Mobility, Social Integration and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, shared with learners all we are doing to support and enhance ESOL provision

in London. Learners also made presentations to policy makers and films about their experiences of ESOL, including their ideas on how ESOL provision can be improved.

Veterans Roundtable Meetings

On 13 February, Armed Forces champion Assembly Member Len Duvall OBE, hosted the third of our Veterans Roundtable meetings with Veterans' organisations working across London. These meetings are an opportunity to hear about current work across the GLA group that supports the armed forces community. It is also serving as a space to discuss ongoing and emerging issues affecting armed forces community and what opportunities there may be for Mayoral support.

Social Integration Evening Panel and Reception

On 19 February, my Deputy Mayor for Social Mobility, Social Integration and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted my Social Integration Evening Panel and Reception. This event brought together over 120 of my key stakeholders, from local authorities, civil society, cultural and public sector institutions, to discuss how we can all work to create cities that are socially integrated. Cities where people feel they belong, able to build meaningful relationships across difference, enabled to participate in their communities, and have equal access to opportunities. We also used this event as an opportunity to share a video showcasing projects I am supporting in London that are improving social integration, and a new report that highlights the work I have achieved since I published my social integration strategy, in March 2018.

Community Sponsorship Scheme

On 20 February, City Hall hosted an event to promote the Community Sponsorship scheme. The scheme involves groups of people coming together to welcome refugee families into their local areas and support them to find housing, jobs, language lessons, schools and healthcare. The event was organised in partnership with Citizens UK. Community Sponsorship Groups and a refugee who came through the scheme have shared their experience with the attendants.

Annual Holocaust Education Programme

On 24 February, my Deputy Mayor for Social Mobility, Social Integration and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, had the honour of visiting Belsize Square Mosque as part of their annual Holocaust education programme. The programme is designed to teach pupils about the rise of the Nazis and the events of the Holocaust. It introduced them to the Synagogue and Judaism and gave them the chance to hear first-hand from Holocaust survivors. My Deputy Mayor met with both organisers and pupils from La Sainte Union Catholic School who attended the event.

Brent Poverty Commission

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Social Mobility, Social Integration and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited the London Borough of Brent to speak at a meeting of the Brent Poverty Commission. This is an independent commission set up to identify actions that can be taken by the Council and its partners to tackle poverty, its causes and consequences. My Deputy Mayor shared an update on the actions the GLA are taking to address poverty and low incomes, including my project to tackle child poverty through schools.

ESOL Plus Arts Grants

In March, I awarded ESOL Plus Arts grants to four outstanding projects that will test the use of creative and heritage practices to enhance English as a second or foreign language (ESOL) learning for Londoners facing barriers to learning. These projects bring together the ESOL sector with arts practitioners and museums for a year-long programme. The programme will include a community of practice bringing together all grantees and experts in their sectors to reflect on and evidence the effectiveness of their innovations. This is part of my wider ESOL Plus programme, which tests and evidences innovative models to support Londoners facing barriers to accessing or progressing in English language learning.

Health

HOW DO WE #THRIVELDN? CAMPAIGN

Thrive LDN launched their new mental health campaign on 17 February to coincide with National Random Acts of Kindness Day, exploring and celebrating Londoners and what they are doing in their communities to build strength and resilience by asking: How do we #ThriveLDN? Many communities across London are doing amazing work and this campaign recognises that with challenges and barriers comes aspiration, passion and important contributions to London. The campaign continues Thrive LDN's citywide, open conversation to encourage everyone to think, talk and act more when it comes to mental health and wellbeing for them and their communities.

Thrive LDN has been working with local authorities and wider partners to collate and develop inspiring examples of how individuals or local organisations are supporting their communities to build strength and resilience. The campaign runs until Friday, 6 March.

The overarching campaign has coincided with the launch of a citywide [Act of Kindness Bench pilot scheme](#) – known as AOK Benches for short – to help combat loneliness and isolation. The pilot scheme, launched on National Random Acts of Kindness Day 2020, is open to all Londoners who want to create a safe place where people can meet and share a chat in their area.

Applying my six tests to the Oriel proposal to move Moorfields Eye Hospital's City Road services

In the last month, I completed the first application of my six tests, to the Oriel proposals to move Moorfields Eye Hospital's City Road services to a new site in St Pancras. My tests are a way for me to review and assess proposals, to look at how they reflect my priorities, and to actively engage in consultations.

The proposals present an exciting opportunity for Moorfields Eye Hospital to continue to deliver world class eye care in a new, purpose-built facility, and overall, I am broadly content with the proposals.

Water Only Schools Launch

On 2 March, I visited Tower Bridge Primary School in the London Borough of Southwark to launch a 'water only schools' campaign including a toolkit for London's Primary Schools. The visit celebrated the progress that the school has already made to promote water only across the school as well as their work to achieve Healthy Schools London Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The visit was also attended by the Chair of London's Child Obesity Taskforce, Paul Lindley, Taskforce member, Ellen O'Donoghue and Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health in Southwark. I used this visit to highlight my response to the Taskforce recommendations and to announce an ambition for all schools in London to become water only.

Lobbying the Government to plug the social care funding gap

On 24 February, I sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, urging him to make good on the Government's continued commitment to fix the social care crisis.

Social care is at breaking point, and the sector is facing unprecedented pressures, particularly in London. The Government must set out a long-term, sustainable plan for adult social care, with secure funding. Londoners need confidence that they will receive high-quality social care, when and where they need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

My letter to the Secretary of State sets out the principles I think must be reflected in any plans or proposals for long-term social care reform and is available here:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/letter_to_rt_hon_matt_hancock_mp_on_social_care.pdf

Launch of the London Hep C Route Map

On 2 March, City Hall hosted the launch of a routemap for eliminating hepatitis C in London by 2025. In London there are estimated to be 14,200 people living with chronic hepatitis C infection and we know that many of them remain undiagnosed. Hepatitis C is a serious health inequalities issue. It is highly prevalent amongst people who are homeless, and over half of people who attend hospital for hepatitis C are from the poorest fifth of society.

I've been supporting the work of leading clinicians, public health leads, drugs service staff, patient groups, pharmacists and others to develop the routemap which sets out a pan-London approach to preventing new infections, increasing access to testing for people at risk, and improving pathways to treatment for those infected.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

'Imagining Tower Hamlets for Ourselves' Muslim Girls Fence exhibition at City Hall

On February 19, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, launched the 'Imagining Tower Hamlets for Ourselves' exhibition at City Hall. The exhibition was created by the participants of the 'Muslim Girls Fence' project funded under my London Together Fund. It was delivered by Maslaha and

British Fencing and presents a 3D model of a Utopian Tower Hamlets, imagined and created with women from the borough.

Muslim Girls Fence is a project collaboration between Maslaha and British Fencing which aims to facilitate spaces at a grassroots level for Muslim girls and women to challenge assumptions and narratives relating to their gender, racial and religious identities.

Volunteering in London event

On 25 February, City Hall hosted 40 sector leaders to share learnings from research and pilots in volunteering initiatives funded by the GLA over the last year. Attendees heard preliminary findings about family volunteering, the experience of BAME volunteers and messaging for more diverse audiences in volunteering.

Team London Trustee programme

On 26 February, a new pilot was launched to extend the delivery of the Team London Trustee programme in order to reach more Londoners. In partnership with four outer-borough infrastructure bodies and two expert organisations, this initiative will host sessions to raise awareness of trusteeship to potential volunteers and share best practice for the recruitment of trustees for small and grass roots organisations. 8 sessions will be delivered in the participating boroughs; Havering, Ealing, Bromley and Merton.

Major Events volunteering

On 1 March, 90 Team London event volunteers supported the delivery of the Vitality Big Half. Volunteers provided signposting and wayfinding services to spectators and runners and assisted at water stations along the route.

Team London Young Ambassadors

On 4 March, 5500 of my Team London Young Ambassadors attended WE Day, Europe's largest youth empowerment event. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility & Community Engagement spoke on stage at Wembley SSE Arena with a fantastic group of young people from The Tutorial Foundation who are running arts projects to bring their community together and build bridges with local groups and businesses.

Culture and Events

Launch of Steve McQueen exhibition at Tate Modern

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the launch of a major exhibition by Steve McQueen at Tate Modern. This is the first exhibition dedicated to this London artist in the capital for more than 20 years and it spans two decades of his career. The exhibition explores his pioneering approach to filmmaking which still makes him one of the most influential artists working in film today. McQueen's portrait of a generation of young Londoners, 'Year 3', comprising of over 3,000 class photographs is also on display at Tate Britain until May 2020.

Reception for Amanda Nevill CBE, outgoing Chief Executive, British Film Institute

On 13 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended a reception for Amanda Nevill CBE, Chief Executive of the British Film Institute (BFI). The BFI is a key strategic partner for the GLA and delivers the annual London Film Festival (LFF) including the Mayor's Gala Screening. Amanda Neville is stepping down from the BFI after 16 years where she has overseen an expanded remit for the BFI as the UK's National Lottery Distributor for film and has led the charge on greater inclusion and diversity in the film industry.

London Fashion Week and Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design

On 18 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, attended London Fashion Week for the announcement of the 2020 Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design. This year's award was presented to Rosh Mahtani, designer and founder of Alghieri Jewellery by HRH The Princess Royal on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen.

My Deputy Mayor also attend a reception at 10 Downing Street hosted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Oliver Dowden, to celebrate sustainable British fashion and a dinner hosted by Anya Hindmarch who has launched a range made with recycled water bottles and windscreens as part of a continued drive to improve sustainability in the fashion industry.

The UK's fashion industry generates £32 billion a year and London Fashion Week is the UK's major trade event. In 2018-19, London Fashion Week delivered £110 million in new orders, investment and trade. My funding supports the delivery of London Fashion Week and business development schemes NEWGEN and the London Fashion Showcasing Fund supporting new talent.

Cultural Leadership Board

On 25 February, I attended the final meeting of my Cultural Leadership Board to thank the group of cultural leaders for their commitment and contributions to supporting London's culture and creative industries. The Board have helped to deliver Culture for All Londoners, the most ambitious culture strategy for London. With the help of these committed cultural ambassadors, I have delivered a number of bold new initiatives including London Borough of Culture, Culture Seeds, Creative Enterprise Zones and the Cultural Infrastructure Plan.

New workspaces for Fashion, Creativity and Entrepreneurship in East London

On 27 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, opened a series of new custom-designed low-cost workshops, studios and facilities at Poplar Works. This space provides training and business development and will support the next generation of designers and entrepreneurs to become part of London's successful fashion industry as part of my Fashion District initiative. It is being delivered in partnership with housing association Poplar HARCA, London College of Fashion, social enterprise The Trampery and is funded through my Good Growth Fund. The opening was attended by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, local residents, young entrepreneurs and fashion designers, including Bethany Williams, winner of the British Menswear Talent-Emerging award.

Night Czar Surgery – City of London

On 28 February, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held a Night Surgery in partnership with the City of London Corporation. My Night Czar met with a range of night time workers, including those working in hotels, banks, St Bartholemew’s Hospital and the police. She also met with the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell, to discuss issues that affect the City at night.

International

Meeting with the French Ambassador

On 12 February, I held a meeting with the French Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Mrs Catherine Colonna at City Hall, where we discussed shared goals between London and France, including supporting the rights of European Londoners.

Meeting with the Mayor of Budapest

On 13 February, I welcomed the newly elected Mayor of Budapest, Gergely Karácsony to City Hall. The meeting focused on our shared commitment to tackling climate change and standing up for our values of diversity and openness across Europe.

London Legacy Development Corporation

East Bank

On 25 February, I confirmed plans to spend £437.5 million over the next four years on the new culture and education hub on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The destination will provide skills and jobs for local people, attract visitors from around the world, bring more than 10,000 students to the site, deliver 2,500 jobs and a £1.5 billion boost to the economy. This followed the London Legacy Development Corporation’s announcement on 24 February that a further five construction packages for the Stratford Waterfront element of the project have now been let bringing the total value of construction contracts to £182 million.

The construction programme for Stratford Waterfront will see more than 1,500 people at peak working on site, at least 30 per cent of whom will be local residents, and more than 50 apprentices.

London Stadium

On 26 February, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, attended a SportsAid event dedicated to championing the parents and guardians of talented young athletes at the London Stadium.

Planning

Planning and Development Control Friday 11 February to Thursday 5 March 2020

London Plan

The Secretary of State wrote to me on 14 February stating that he would not be responding about the Intend to Publish version of the London Plan by 17 February as previously advised, but required an additional four weeks due to government being busy, and so would now respond on or by 16 March.

Planning Decisions (call ins)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has approved plans for the redevelopment of the Biscuit Factory and Bermondsey Campus in Southwark, which will deliver 1,500 homes and new buildings for a local secondary school, as well as affordable workspaces and two new pedestrian routes through nearby railway arches. Southwark Council refused permission for the scheme in February 2019. I considered the application last May and decided to take it over to subject it to further scrutiny. As a result, the number of homes has been increased from 1,342 homes to 1,548 and the level of affordable housing has been boosted from 27.5 per cent to 35 per cent.

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

Crown House and Linton Road Car Park, Barking, 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.

49-87 New Road, Rainham, LB Havering

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

Former Kew Biothane plant, Kew, LB Richmond Upon Thames

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

Former Honey Monster Factory site, Southall, 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.

5 Strand, Charing Cross, City of Westminster

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

Eastman Dental Hospital, 256 Grays Inn Road, LB Camden

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

Combined Stage 1 and 2

Albany Park, Herford Road, Ealing, LB Enfield Stage 1 & 2

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- 79-164 Ilderton Road, South Bermondsey, Southwark
- Premier Inn, Uxbridge Road, Ealing
- Fairview Business Centre, Clayton Road, Hillingdon
- 55-56 Chamber Street, Tower Hill, Tower Hamlets
- IBSA House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, Barnet
- Wells House, 15-17 Elmfield Road, Bromley, Bromley
- Phase 3, Colindale Gardens, Former Peel Centre site, Barnet
- 2A, Part of Westend Saab and Boyriven Textile, Bridgewater Road, Wembley, Brent
- Bow River Village Phase 3, 1-4 Hancock Road, Bromley-By-Bow, LLDC

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

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

Colindale Underground Station, LB Barnet

The Deputy Mayor, has written to the London Borough of Barnet stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- St James Market Phase 2, 57-60 Haymarket, City of Westminster

Key Engagements

- I announced the 2021 and 2023 winners of the London Borough of Culture competition at City Hall on 11 February
- I attended the London Councils Congress of Leaders on 11 February
- I appeared before the London Assembly Police & Crime Committee on 12 February
- I had an introductory meeting with HE Mrs Catherine Colonna, the French Ambassador, on 12 February
- I visited the Unison "I heart unions" stall at City Hall on 12 February
- I attended a meeting of the London Infrastructure Group on 12 February

- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 13 February
- I visited a former neighbourhood housing office at Meeting House Lane in Southwark, that has received funding from the Building Council Homes for Londoners programme and is being regenerated to provide both new council homes and a new community centre on the Acorn estate, on 13 February
- I had an introductory meeting with Gergely Karácsony, the Mayor of Budapest, on 13 February
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 13 February
- I visited the Arriva bus garage in Brixton, on 14 February, to launch the bus driver retention payment scheme
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 17 February
- I visited Brussels on 18 February to meet with senior leaders of European Union institutions to promote Londoners interests in the forthcoming negotiations
- I visited Selhurst Park on 19 February to see the latest phase of the Kicks programme which is working with Premier League football clubs to support some of the most vulnerable young Londoners
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board meeting on 19 February
- I met with Steve Reed OBE MP for Croydon North on 19 February to discuss constituency issues
- I visited the offices of One Housing Group in Camden, one of the organisations delivering homes for the Move On Programme, on 20 February
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 20 February
- I visited Regents Park Mosque on 21 February
- I attended the Final Budget Plenary on 24 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 24 February
- I met with the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board on 25 February
- I joined the UK Cladding Action Group Lobby of Parliament on 25 February to call on the Government to provide immediate financial support in the Budget to those who continue to live in fear due to the dangerous cladding on their homes
- I met with the Rt Hon Robert Buckland MP, Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice, on 25 February to discuss justice devolution
- I visited the Columbia Market Nursey School in Tower Hamlets on 26 February to publicise the new air quality report, commissioned by the GLA, on the long-term health impacts of the ULEZ and policies included in the London Environment Strategy (LES)
- I met with the New West End Company Board on 26 February
- I attended the High Court on 27 February to hear the Court of Appeal's decision on Heathrow expansion
- I attended a Business Leaders' lunch on 27 February
- I had my regular meeting with the Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 27 February
- I attended the Haven House Children's Hospital Reception hosted by Keith Prince AM at City Hall on 27 February
- I visited Baylis Road in Lambeth on 28 February to see the protected cycle lanes currently being built and to celebrate delivering my commitment to triple the amount of protected space for cycling in London
- I attended the Citizenship Ceremony at City Hall on 28 February
- I visited Tower Bridge Primary School on 2 March to launch the Water Only Schools Campaign

- I chaired a meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Group on 2 March to discuss London's preparedness for COVID-19
- I had an introductory meeting with Hamdia Ulukaya, Founder & CEO of Chobani & The Tent Partnership for Refugees, on 3 March
- I met with Mike Brown MVO, Transport Commissioner, on 3 March ahead of the London Assembly Transport Plenary meeting
- I attended the British Kebab Awards on 3 March
- I chaired the Home for Londoners Board meeting on 4 March
- I joined HRH the Prince of Wales and HRH the Duchess of Cornwall at the London Transport Museum on 4 March to mark the 20th Anniversary of Transport for London
- I attended the London Assembly Transport Plenary meeting on 5 March to answer questions as the Chair of Transport for London
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 5 March
- I hosted a media reception at City Hall on 5 March

End