

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

### **Mayor's Question Time 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

This is my fiftieth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

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

## **Executive Summary**

### **Covid-19 Update**

With the government's announcement of easing of lock down restrictions London now has a path to recovery. Getting to the position of even discussing easing of restrictions has required a massive sacrifice from Londoners and everyone should be proud of the difference that they made.

London has lost over £11 billion in tourism revenue since the start of this pandemic and that is why I have been trying to ensure tourist attractions are ready to reopen, , now providing an additional £5 million to support the reopening of our world class cultural venues, restaurants and retail when it is safe to do so.

The Government has also set out when children will be back at school. It is right that the Government recognises the importance of children getting back into our schools and have included it within the first step of easing of restrictions. The impact on children during the gap in learning has been immeasurable, it is imperative, however, that we have in place measures that keep children, teachers and parents safe, which includes regular testing and the compulsory wearing of facemasks at secondary schools.

The vaccine rollout has continued unabated and now over 2 million vaccines have been given to Londoners. I am pleased to say that I have now also received the vaccine, as I suffer from severe asthma. I'm immensely pleased to have received it, and I am so proud of all those Londoners who are working to deliver the vaccine across the city.. We must ensure that vaccine take up remains high and that we do all we can to support the effort.

I have continued the call for teachers and the emergency services – including police and firefighters – to receive prioritisation during Phase 2 of the vaccination programme.

Last week I made the decision to stand down the 'major incident' status in London, but the city will remain on high alert due to a significant number of COVID-19 cases in hospitals. There is no room for complacency now – we must all stick together to help protect each other.F

As we look to the future, I just want to thank Londoners again for their hard work but to also remember that for us to emerge from lockdown safely means continuing to follow the rules at every step.

### **Vaccines campaign**

The widespread rollout of vaccines are our road to recovery from the Covid -19 crisis; protecting Londoners from serious illness, helping us all to get back to the things we have missed and enabling us to see the people we love. It is crucial that all Londoners are fully informed about the vaccine and feel confident to take it up when eligible. That's why I launched my vaccines campaign in December, encouraging Londoners, especially those most hesitant, to take up the vaccine when eligible. Over the last month, we have extended this campaign across further channels, such as community radio stations, digital display advertising, social media advertising and posters on the TfL network. We have also been working with partners across the city to host community roadshows to directly address people's concerns about the vaccines, enabling them to hear accurate information directly from health professionals, trusted community leaders and organisations at a grassroots level.

### **Budget**

This week the Government published a Budget that totally lacked an ambitious vision for building a better future for all who have suffered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This has been undoubtedly the toughest year that London and the UK has faced since World War Two and while there is now some light at the end of the tunnel, Londoners and businesses will need financial support for months to come.

The Government owes it to the more than 120,000 people who have lost their lives during the pandemic, to the NHS and key workers who have done so much to keep us safe and moving, and to everyone who has followed the rules and put their lives on hold - to build a better and fairer country after the pandemic. Yet there was a distinct lack of good news for the vast number of key workers earning low wages who got us through this crisis.

Unfortunately, it is clear that there is no ambitious planning from the Government for our recovery. We simply cannot afford to return to the entrenched unemployment of the 1980s which destroyed so many lives and communities. There was too little from the Chancellor in the Budget to kickstart the economy, create new jobs and protect existing ones or to provide the level of support our businesses and least well-off will need for many months to come.

I fully support levelling up the rest of the country, but that should not mean levelling down London and its communities. This budget takes London's recovery for granted and without support from the Government that recovery cannot be guaranteed.

This matters for the whole country because, whether it's right or not, for the foreseeable future it will be London that is the powerhouse of the UK economy, helping make sure the country can pay its bills.

## **Skills for Londoners Capital Fund**

In early February, onsite building works started for the Nine Elms STEAM Centre (NESC), a new campus for Lambeth College and South Bank University. This regeneration investment in the Vauxhall Nine Elms, Battersea and Waterloo Opportunity Areas is worth over £44m and in partnership with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), I have supported it through a grant of over £21m from my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund. I have also contributed additional COVID-19 emergency funding to enable critical activities to proceed through the pandemic.

With high quality design at the heart of this important development project, the centre will play a crucial role in educating and training young people and adults in creative digital, dentistry, engineering and construction skills. Set to be completed before the end 2022, the NESC teaching will follow an employer-led curriculum, driven by current and future industry needs. The centre will expand Lambeth College's delivery of apprenticeships as well as increasing opportunities for NEET and SEND students. It will work collaboratively with employers, councils, other FE providers and Jobcentre Plus and is set to attract over £25m additional investment, playing an active role in both the local and regional economy.

## **Pay It Forward London reaches £2m raised**

So far, more than 430 small businesses have raised over £2 million through my Pay It Forward London platform, thanks to the generosity of over 25,000 Londoners who have contributed. The scheme is still open, including the opportunity to receive up to £5,000 in match funding for eligible businesses through my Back to Business Fund. I urge any small business which has not yet taken advantage of this support to do so.

## **C40 – European Mayors Meeting**

I jointly hosted a C40 European Mayors meeting with Mayor Giuseppe Sala of Milan. The meeting was a platform for European Mayors to discuss COVID-19 recovery challenges and how cities can step up climate action within the context of a Global Green New Deal and the European Green Deal. We agreed this should include a strong focus on building resilience and ensuring a just transition. In addition, we discussed plans related to COP26 and how cities can best work together to achieve global ambitions to drive a green recovery that tackles the climate emergency and ensures a fair and just transition.

## **Introduction of tougher LEZ standards for heavy vehicles**

On 1 March, I introduced tougher emission standards for heavy vehicles operating within the London-wide Low Emission Zone (LEZ). These standards will now match those for heavy vehicles in the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), helping to reduce emissions from the most polluting vehicles and improve air quality across London. Tougher LEZ standards were originally scheduled to be introduced in October 2020 but in response to concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new standards were delayed until 1 March 2021. Tougher LEZ standards are an important part of my air quality programme and will be followed with the expansion of the ULEZ up to the North and South Circular Roads in October.

## **Air Pollution Schools Helpdesk**

On 22 February, I launched the new London Schools Pollution Helpdesk in partnership with Global Action Plan. The Helpdesk will support schools and local authorities London-wide to deliver air quality audits and will prioritise the remaining schools in areas of London still exceeding or nearly exceeding legal pollution levels. Audit recommendations for cutting pollution could include closing surrounding roads to traffic at school pick-up and drop-off times, walking and scooting campaigns, adding green infrastructure like green screens and tackling engine idling. Details on the helpdesk can be found here: [www.pollutionhelpdesk.co.uk](http://www.pollutionhelpdesk.co.uk).

## **Further investment to boost policing**

Keeping Londoners safe has always been my number-one priority and my record shows I am tough on both crime and the causes of crime. Since I became Mayor, I have invested more than £1 billion in policing and tackling crime - more than any other Mayor.

There are now 1,300 more officers out on our streets keeping us safe than when I first became Mayor, and on a visit with the Commissioner to meet with officers from the MPS Violence Suppression Unit in Bethnal Green on 16th February, I announced my proposals to invest an extra £30 million to guarantee they will continue to be funded from City Hall for the next four years, no matter what.

I became Mayor at a time when violence had been going up in London and across the country for two years. We've worked hard to tackle violence in our city, and it started to fall before the pandemic hit and has continued to do so. But it's clear we still have a long way to go.

If we are to see the long-term reductions in violence that we all want to see in our city, we must continue to tackle the underlying causes of crime, such as poverty, deprivation and lack of opportunities for young Londoners. I have therefore invested a further £8m of new council tax funding in additional violence prevention programmes – as part of a package that is both tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. I'm doing everything I can from City Hall to reduce violence, but it's clear we still have huge financial challenges ahead because the Government has implemented a new era of austerity on public services in London.

Ministers must now match my commitment to tackling this issue and fully refund City Hall and the Met for all the lost income and money spent tackling the pandemic.

## **Violence Reduction Unit**

On 26 February I announced that my Violence Reduction Unit is to invest £6 million in new funding in providing local communities with direct funding and support to deliver targeted interventions to tackle violence in their neighbourhoods.

The VRU's MyEnds programme has been developed to put communities at the forefront of tackling violence by giving them the support they need to deliver locally designed interventions in areas of the capital that are affected by high and sustained levels of violence.

We know that violence knows no border, and it's not often focused on an entire borough or area of London. Instead, it tends to be very localised and concentrated on estates or small pockets of roads. Experience tells us that it's often local people who know what's best for improving the area they live and work in which is why the Unit is providing support to local communities to help bring about change and provide better opportunities for young people.

The programmes bring together local groups and individuals as part of a local community network that involves residents, community groups, young people, youth outreach workers, local authority wardens and the police, to deliver meaningful change where they live and work.

Each community network will receive up to £750,000 funding to April 2023.

The successful bidders are consortiums in:

**Brent** – Estates in Chalk Hill, Stonebridge and Church End

**Lambeth** - Angell Town, Loughborough and Moorlands estates

**Croydon** – London Road

**Hackney** – Hackney Wick, Marsh Hill, Homerton

**Haringey** – Tottenham Hale ward

**Newham** - Canning Town North, Custom House, Plaistow South Ward – with a focus on the Barking Road.

**Southwark** - North Peckham estate, Rockingham, Brandon and Aylesbury.

**Tower Hamlets** - Four E14 neighbourhoods located within the Isle of Dogs - Island Gardens, Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf and Poplar.

## Policing, Crime and Security

### A new app for reporting terrorist content online

On 24th February I was delighted to launch a new smartphone app to make it easier for Londoners to report terrorist content online.

Research commissioned by City Hall found four out of five Londoners were unsure how to report extremist material from internet search engines during the pandemic.

The iREPORTit app has been funded by £40,000 of City Hall investment and created in partnership with the national Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit. It will enable Londoners and people across the country to report terrorist content online quickly, easily and anonymously to the police using their smartphone.

The new app recognises that we all have a part to play in rooting out terrorist material online. The app is free to download now on Android and Apple devices and allows users to flag any terrorist content online or on social media in three quick and easy steps. The anonymous reports will go directly to the national Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU), which has successfully sought the removal of hundreds of thousands of links to

terrorist material and assisted more than 500 counter terrorism investigations nationally in the last two years.

## Transport

### **TfL awards new contracts to ensure safer and more sustainable journeys on London's roads**

Transport for London announced the award of five new contracts as part of its Surface Transport Infrastructure Construction Framework, which will help ensure walking and cycling projects continue to be delivered to a high standard and that the capital's road network has safe and well-maintained infrastructure for years to come.

The new contracts will be used to deliver schemes to boost walking and cycling across the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN), including future projects to expand London's growing network of high-quality Cycleways. These projects will be vital to enabling more people in the capital to make journeys by bike and on foot, which will help to cut congestion, air pollution and road danger across London.

The new contracts also cover renewals work on much of the infrastructure that the TLRN depends on, including its bridges, road tunnels and river assets. Renewals work typically takes place every few years and is more significant than day to day maintenance, for which separate contracts are awarded. The contracts also cover the construction of enhancements to these assets where needed. Contractors will be asked to deliver early input, design and construction work through the framework.

### **TfL starts construction work to upgrade major cycle route between Wandsworth Town Centre and Chelsea Bridge**

Transport for London has announced the start of construction work on a major new 4.7km upgraded cycle route in southwest London, which will make cycling safer and easier for thousands of people travelling between Wandsworth Town Centre and Chelsea Bridge and beyond.

The route is the next stage of TfL's trial upgrades along the existing Cycle Superhighway 8 (CS8) route and will connect to a section delivered last year between Chelsea Bridge and Lambeth Bridge in central London. These changes are being delivered as part of TfL's emergency response to the coronavirus pandemic, which is giving people across the capital more space to walk and cycle safely.

Currently, there is no protected cycling infrastructure along this busy corridor, which creates a hostile and intimidating environment for people cycling and leaves them vulnerable to collisions with motor traffic. Data shows that there were collisions involving 64 people cycling between November 2016 to November 2019, of which 11 were seriously injured. The new infrastructure will give people cycling more protected space on the road and help give people confidence to cycle safely as well as provide more space on public transport for those who need it.

### **TfL brings forward work to improve safety at Battersea Bridge**

Transport for London has set out vital plans to make crossing Battersea Bridge safer, which will improve road safety in the area in line with the goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the road network.

The proposed changes include a new signalised pedestrian crossing on the north side of the bridge, which will make it much safer to cross the road here. TfL will begin engagement with the local community in the coming weeks and work to deliver these safety critical changes as quickly as possible. This work has been brought forward after a man was tragically killed on the bridge earlier this year following a collision with a vehicle.

TfL will also be reducing the speed limit on Chelsea Embankment later this year from 30mph to 20mph to further improve safety for vulnerable road users, including people walking and cycling. This follows work last year by TfL to reduce all of its speed limits in the congestion charging zone to 20mph and forms part of its ongoing commitment to lower speed limits across the capital.

### **London's congestion-cutting Lane Rental scheme to be expanded and updated from May, including pavements for the first time**

A series of changes to London's pioneering Lane Rental scheme are set to come into force from May after Transport for London's plans to improve the scheme were approved by the Department for Transport. These include an expansion of the area it covers and incentives for the highest safety standards.

The changes will play an important role in enabling more people to walk and cycle, by making roadworks more efficient and reducing the disruption faced when pavements and cycle routes are blocked by roads being dug up. Ensuring that roadworks are carried out as efficiently as possible will also help to protect bus service reliability across the capital, which is currently at record levels. The changes will support TfL as it works to deliver on the Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the transport network, by incentivising companies to commit to and demonstrate the very highest safety standards when carrying out roadworks.

The Lane Rental scheme allows TfL to charge utility companies and infrastructure providers a daily fee for digging up the busiest sections of London's roads at the busiest times. This encourages companies to plan their works outside of the most sensitive times. All money raised from the scheme is then reinvested in initiatives and innovations designed to reduce the congestion and disruption caused by roadworks across the capital. Ensuring that vital utilities roadworks can continue to take place with minimal disruption for other road users will be more important than ever as London's economy starts to reopen following the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions.

### **Proposals received for Hammersmith ferry service**

Transport for London (TfL) has received proposals from two bidders in its competition to determine who will provide a cross-river ferry service near Hammersmith Bridge for pedestrians and cyclists, while the vital link undergoes essential repairs and refurbishment works. City Cruises and Uber Boat by Thames Clippers are the operators who have submitted detailed bids.

Local residents – and the general public - will be able to use a ferry that will run between 06:00 and 22:00 on weekdays and an off-peak service on weekends. The service is expected to have a minimum capacity of around 800 passengers per hour at peak times. Fares are expected to mirror buses at £1.55 with a Hopper option and the same concessions accepted, subject to necessary approvals.

After a wider funding package was agreed with the Government, TfL urgently began a procurement process to appoint an operator to run the ferry. A rigorous assessment process has resulted in two detailed proposals covering design, delivery and the running of the service. This includes the location of the piers, the type of boats that would be used and customer service standards.

The winning bidder is due to be announced in March. Additional time requested by some of the firms taking part in the procurement process to ensure a high quality submission, means it is unlikely that the ferry will begin operating before the summer. When an operator is chosen to run the ferry next month, it will be possible to set out the programme in more detail.

## Health

### **Roundtable with charities representing clinically vulnerable groups and the NHS, 26 February 2021**

Following my roundtable meeting with charities representing clinically vulnerable groups to discuss their experiences and support needs during COVID-19 on 28 January 2021. I have convened a second roundtable for the same group of charities on 26 February, with Sir David Sloman, Regional Director of NHS England and NHS Improvement, to discuss the specific concerns the charities have related to access to healthcare and the COVID vaccination roll-out. This roundtable will be chaired by my Mayoral Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey.

### **London Health Board**

On 23 February I chaired the quarterly London Health Board meeting where Professor Kevin Fenton, PHE, Martin Machray, NHS London and Paul Najsarek, London Borough of Ealing updated on London's response to the second wave of COVID-19 including the current position and preparations for future work. They also outlined the lessons learned from the first wave and how these lessons had been applied to improve outcomes and ways of working this time. Martin Machray then updated on the COVID vaccination programme which had begun on 8 December.

The programme, the biggest mass vaccination programme in British history, had seen over 1.9 million doses of vaccine administered to Londoners. Professor Fenton and Will Tuckley, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, updated on progress in addressing health inequalities and the disproportionate impacts of COVID. The board also received a presentation from Mary Harpley and Martin Machray on the achievements and future challenges of supporting and treating homeless Londoners.

It was agreed that the priorities for forthcoming LHB meetings would include the King's Fund's latest report on Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and the challenges they will need to



address – health inequalities, estates, digital and workforce; children and young people’s mental health and homeless health where a clear plan was needed ahead of next winter.

### **Publication of the King’s Fund report on the development of Integrated Care Systems in London**

Following the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan in January 2019, local Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and Integrated Care Systems (ICS) were asked to develop five-year strategic plans setting out how they would deliver the national commitments. I commissioned the King’s Fund to review the development of STP/ICS plans and priorities within London, taking into account the principles of my six tests.

The review was conducted in two phases: the first was conducted pre-COVID and explored how partnerships had developed since the King’s Fund’s previous report in 2018. The second phase was conducted after the first wave of COVID-19 and looked at the response to the initial phases of the pandemic, and the impact of COVID-19. The final report, *Integrated Care Systems in London: challenges and opportunities ahead*, published on 22 February 2021, shows how the demands of the pandemic have led to organisations across the health and care sector working closer together, strengthening local and regional partnerships. The report highlights the devastating impacts of the pandemic on London’s diverse communities but also the work being planned to tackle the resulting health inequalities. It challenges the health and care system and wider partners to work together to follow this through with decisive action.

I will respond formally to the report following the election. In the meantime, I welcome in particular the priority given to addressing health inequalities across all five ICSs in London. I have spent the past five years championing and challenging the NHS to ensure Londoners get the best services to meet their needs. Throughout the pandemic I have worked more closely with the NHS and wider health and care partners than ever before.

The recovery from COVID will make even greater demands on the health and care system and the insights in the report about collaborative working will be invaluable. Building on the advances made during COVID, I will continue to champion, challenge and collaborate with the NHS to ensure a fair and healthy recovery for all Londoners. For more information about this work, read my Health Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey’s, [blog about the report here](#).

### **Regular meeting with the London Ambulance Service On Thursday 4 March**

I will be meeting with the London Ambulance Service leadership, Chief Executive Garrett Emmerson and Chair Heather Lawrence. We will be discussing body worn cameras for LAS crew members, London’s recovery from the pandemic, and the London Ambulance’s response to the pandemic. I am grateful for the ongoing hard work of all their staff, and we continue to work closely together as part of London’s response to the pandemic.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **London Strategic Coordinating Group**

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

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

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

### **COVID-19 London MPs briefings**

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

### **London COVID-19 Leaders Committee**

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

### **PHE/NHS conference call**

I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend virtual meetings with Regional Directors of PHE and NHS London to receive an update on London's response to COVID-19.

### **GMB Union meeting**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from GMB Union to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

### **Unison meeting**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from Unison to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

### **Prospect Union**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from Prospect Union to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

### **London Resilience Forum**

On 25<sup>th</sup> February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting of the London Resilience Forum. The forum discussed some of the initial learning from COVID-19 in relation to future protracted incidents and received updates from members with regard to their ongoing preparedness for COVID-19 and other incidents.

## **Local Government Association – Fire Conference**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke at a virtual session of the LGA Fire Conference on Inspections and the Future of the Fire and Rescue Service.

## **London Fire Brigade Trade Unions**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with trade union representatives for the London Fire Brigade to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

## **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

### **Adult Education Budget (AEB)- Provisions in Mayoral Decision-Making Framework**

Through MD2736 I approved some changes which streamline the decision-making processes for the governance of the Adult Education Budget (AEB). Under the delegation arrangements for the AEB, I must take all related decisions personally. Previously I was required to consider every decision relating to the AEB at the AEB Mayoral Board meetings, and then formalise them through a Mayoral Decision Form.

The new framework streamlines the decision-making process by allowing routine decisions to be taken by me at AEB Mayoral Board meetings without the need also for a Mayoral Decision Form. In the interests of transparency, the papers for the AEB Mayoral Board and minutes for those meetings are published on the GLA website and decisions taken at those meetings will be formally recorded. More significant decisions will continue to require in-principle approval at the AEB Mayoral Board and then a Mayoral Decision Form.

The changes have been written into the AEB Assurance Framework, which is published on the GLA website and sets out robust governance arrangements for managing the AEB programme to give stakeholders confidence that any decisions are proper, evidence-based and capable of being independently scrutinised.

Consequentially I also approved amendments to the Mayoral Decision-Making Framework in the GLA document to the section that deals with the AEB, which reflect these provisions.

### **AEB market warming events**

On 25 and 26 February, two market warming events were held for a new competitive grant award process that I launched through the Adult Education Budget in early February. The Good Work for All competition is open to all education and skills providers located in London and the surrounding area to apply for grants of up to £1.25m to deliver adult education and training services to Londoners to support the London Recovery Programme. Successful bids will deliver new provision that will help more Londoners gain the relevant skills to retrain and re/upskill to move into good work in sectors key to London's recovery.

## **Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board**

My Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board met on 24 February 2021, the last time before the Mayoral and Assembly Elections. The main items that were discussed and endorsed included a report on AEB financial management, which confirmed London's main AEB allocation for the 2021/22 Academic Year as £317,790,451. I am also pleased to confirm that additional funding has been received for the National Skills Fund (NSF) Level 3 Adult Offer, which includes £5,532,062 for the 2020/21 Academic Year and £22,150,655 for the 2021/22 Academic Year.

Final AEB Grant allocations for the 2021/22 Academic Year were also endorsed, as were proposals to increase funding for my AEB Good Work for All grant commissioning exercise. Funding of up to £32 million over two Academic Years will now be made available, up to £6 million of which will be ringfenced per Academic Year to deliver provision eligible through the NSF Level 3 Adult Offer.

We also discussed the AEB Procured audit and reconciliation approach, the AEB Funding Rules and Rates, and plans for the Adult Education Roadmap.

Finally, I will submit my AEB annual report to the Department for Education by the end of March. The report will be published on the GLA website and will include a summary of my policies for adult education; spend from the AEB; analysis of delivery; and local impact.

## **Funding to boost community business in London**

In partnership with Power to Change and Co-operatives UK, my Regeneration team recently launched Boosting Community Business London, a pilot programme supporting local groups to set up and grow community businesses, which are profit-generating organisations, run by and trading for the benefit of local people.

The pilot will offer up to £150,000 of development grants to up to 25 groups. The deadline for application is 12th March.

This is part of my commitment to helping London become a fairer, greener, more open and vibrant city and delivers on the London Recovery Board's High Streets for All mission.

Find out more here: <https://www.uk.coop/boosting-community-business-london/about-boosting-community-business-london>

## **Expanding London's Public Realm launch**

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, opened the launch event of the latest Good Growth by Design publication, Expanding London's Public Realm.

The event launched Expanding London's Public Realm research and design guide documents. These documents explore best practice to ensure that internal, semi-internal

and elevated public realm - specifically public spaces recognised in the new London Plan policy D8 plan, such as shopping malls, sky gardens, museums and stations concourses – are inclusive and accessible to all Londoners.

Expanding London's Public Realm will assist built environment professionals in designing, developing and assessing these spaces and the processes of how they are created, to ensure the highest levels of accessibility to maximise their role in the public life of an increasingly dense London.

This work focuses on design and complements the Public London Charter, which sets out principles and guidance on the management of public spaces in new development.

Read the research and design guidance here:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/expanding\\_londons\\_public\\_realm\\_combined\\_final.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/expanding_londons_public_realm_combined_final.pdf)

### **Industria – Intensifying Barking's Industry**

On 16 February, the Industria project (known as Intensifying Barking's Industry) secured planning permission.

The project is the first stacked industrial building of its kind in London; a high-tech business hub, situated just yards from both the Thames and Roding rivers. It could host a wide range of industries, such as a winery, specialist food production, jewellery makers and green industries. The experience for visitors and neighbours will be enhanced by green walls, business lounge, lively shopfronts and a new local café.

Construction is set to start later this year with a projected opening in Autumn 2022. Once finalised, an estimated 230-250 people will be employed on site.

I have provided £1m in funding through my Good Growth Fund, supported by the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), alongside Barking and Dagenham Council's investment of £33m.

### **Connective Social Infrastructure Launch**

On 24 February, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE introduced a new piece of research on social infrastructure in London. Co-commissioned by my Design Advocates and my Social Integration, Regeneration & London Plan teams, this design inquiry is part of my Good Growth by Design programme, and is intended to help make London a more socially integrated city, by realising the potential of social infrastructure.

The Connective Social Infrastructure report provides an evidence base, best practice examples and sets out, through actions and design tactics, how policymakers and those involved in the design and delivery of social infrastructure can support the realisation of its social integration potential.

The launch event was held to provide inspiration and encourage cross-sector collaboration on creating and protecting infrastructure that meets the needs of Londoners. Our city's social infrastructure is the cornerstone of thriving, inclusive and resilient neighbourhoods,

and its these places, services and support structures that can nurture social integration, celebrate diversity and help Londoners build relationships to enable greater participation with each other and our city.

Read the report here:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/connective\\_social\\_infrastructure\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/connective_social_infrastructure_0_0.pdf)

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

### **Covid Business Forum**

On 17 February, I convened the London Covid Business Forum, through which we have been working with business leaders to progress the 'Roadmap to a Safe and Full Reopening of London's Economy'.

A further meeting was held on 23 February, when my Deputy Mayor for Business convened a joint meeting of the London Covid Business Forum and Strategic Coordination Group Business and Economic Impact Subgroup to understand stakeholders reactions to the Government's Roadmap and agree actions in response to the Roadmap.

On 1 March, together with almost 20 London business leaders, I have written to the Chancellor with a wish list for the Budget, including an extension to the furlough scheme and the business rates holiday.

### **Championing London's Financial and Professional Services Sector**

I have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, following the Financial and Professional Services roundtable that I hosted with senior business leaders on the 11th February. The letter outlines the key priorities for the sector following the UK-EU trade deal and urges the Chancellor to press for a wider raft of agreements on regulatory equivalence, improved access to EU markets for the professional services industry as well as ensuring that the capital maintains its attractiveness to global talent.

### **Business Engagement**

I have continued to meet with businesses to explore ways in which we can work together to respond to the pandemic as well as supporting the economic recovery.

On 9 February I met with Tony Danker, the newly appointed Director General of the CBI to discuss London's recovery and growth, as well as opportunities for protecting and enhancing London's role as a global city.

On 24 February I attended the New West End Company's Board meeting to talk about my role in supporting the reactivation of central London and attracting visitors back to the Central Activities Zone.

On 24 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business met with Lord Gerry Grimstone, the Minister for Investment at DIT and BEIS, to discuss how we can work together to secure future investment into all parts of the UK including London.

On 24 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business attended a roundtable with members from the Business Services Association, to discuss how businesses can help in London's recovery.

On 3 March, I chaired a meeting with my Business Advisory Board to share how London's skills and employment programme will meet the needs of Londoners and businesses in light of Brexit and in supporting the London Recovery programme. Following Arup's presentation on the latest Central Activities Zone research, we also discussed how we could bring back footfall to central London and support the hardest hit sectors.

### **Support for Businesses navigating post-EU Transition**

Since the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement was agreed, I have been focusing on making sure smaller businesses are supported to navigate the changes to how they access talent and support their staff, travel in the EU, trade with EU member states, and keep their data secure and compliant. Through my London Business Hub, SMEs now have access to support from two dedicated EU advisers and a panel of EU experts, including accountants and law firms.

### **Resilience Fund**

On 23 February 2021, I launched an open call for innovators to submit proposals to solve the challenges identified by the Resilience Partners as part of the £1m Resilience Fund. I announced last August. The call will bring together innovators, civic society organisations, business associations and public sector bodies to deliver projects that will create the products and services to help London's economy emerge from the current crisis and fare better during future stresses and shocks and adapt and diversify. From 600 expressions of interest 10 Resilience Partners which have defined challenges that the Fund could help address.

### **Designing London's Recovery**

Along with the Resilience Fund, on 23 February 2021 I announced the launch of a new programme, Designing London's Recovery, a £500,000 innovation challenge that uses a design-led approach at the heart of developing solutions to support London's Recovery. The programme aims to pioneer a new way of working with organisations across London to solve the city's systemic challenges, created or made worse by COVID. Building design skills into the delivery of London's Recovery programme will drive further innovation and create a thriving environment under which local businesses can grow.

## **Environment**

### **Anti Idling Comms Campaign**

On 22 February, I joined City of London and Camden to launch the London-wide anti-idling marketing campaign "Engines Off. Every Stop". This is part of the Idling Action London project funded through my Air Quality Fund. The aim of the campaign is to reduce unnecessary engine idling by raising awareness of how harmful toxic pollution can be to human health.

### **LSDC - Social value insights paper launch**

On 22 February, my London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) launched their social value insights paper and held a workshop at the National Social Value Conference. London has suffered significant adverse social and economic impacts as a result of the pandemic. This insights paper summarises some of the recovery challenges facing London and its communities. It highlights how approaches being developed to deliver social value can help all those involved in the recovery work and deliver positive outcomes for Londoners. The report can be found here:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/social\\_value\\_insights\\_paper\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/social_value_insights_paper_0.pdf)

### **Better Futures and Advance London Green New Deal funded Grant programme**

On 23 February, my Better Futures and Advance London programme launched grant programmes aimed at low carbon, circular and cleantech, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in London. These grants, part of the £10 million Green New Deal fund aim to promote a green recovery post-COVID-19. The Advance London and Better Futures+ business support programmes are offering emergency grant funding for London-based SMEs, that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have previously registered with either of the two programmes before February 2021. The programme will prioritise support to businesses in either geographic areas or sectors impacted most severely by the pandemic, including BAME and female-led organisations.

### **Business Climate Challenge launch**

On 25 February, I launched my Business Climate Challenge, a new energy efficiency scheme for commercial buildings. This programme will support businesses to commit to tackling emissions from heating and powering their buildings and provide technical support to help them achieve a 10 per cent reduction in energy use in the first year. I have worked with Bloomberg Associates to develop this programme, learning from comparable initiatives in other global cities. For its initial phase I have partnered with Better Bankside, a business improvement district in Southwark, to recruit twenty businesses to participate in the scheme. Consultants Turner and Townsend will provide technical support and tailored recommendations for each business.

### **Summit Roundtable – Getting to Zero**

On 2 March, Deputy Mayor Rodrigues joined a roundtable meeting at the Huxley Summit to showcase London's leadership on climate and its achievements. The Summit is a thought leadership programme that debates key scientific and social challenges facing the UK in the 21st century. This year the theme is 'Building resilience: the role of science and innovation in creating a sustainable future'. This roundtable focused on 'Getting to Zero', bringing together leaders in business, science, policy and the media to address what climate levers need to be pulled in 2021. More details can be found at: <https://forthought.uk/>

### **Removal of Non Road Mobile Machinery LEZ COVID-19 exemption**



On the 1 March I asked boroughs to recommence enforcement of the tighter NRMM LEZ standards which were temporarily relaxed during the COVID-19 pandemic. I tightened the standards for the NRMM LEZ in September 2020. Alongside this policy update, I introduced a Time-Limited exemption from the tighter standards for a period of 6 months between the 1 September 2020 and the 28 February 2021. This exemption was introduced as I recognised that COVID-19 had caused disruptions to construction sites and to supply chains. Tougher NRMM LEZ standards are an important part of my air quality programme.

### **ULEZ/LEZ compliance report published**

On 1 March, I published a report setting out the rates of vehicle compliance with the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards over the course of 2020. This is the fifth in a series of reports into ULEZ compliance and the impact on air quality since the launch of the scheme in central London in April 2019. The report showed that, despite the coronavirus pandemic, compliance with the ULEZ continues to grow and that 'pre-compliance', where drivers have prepared themselves for the new, tougher, LEZ standards is very high at almost 90 per cent of vehicles already meeting the standards.

### **London Councils on the Council Leaders meeting**

On 3 March, Deputy Mayor Rodrigues met with London Councils to discuss shared priorities around COP 26, the UN Climate Change Conference set to take place in Glasgow in November. The meeting chaired by Mayor Philip Glanville, Chair of the Transport and Environment Committee, was attended by other senior leaders across London's boroughs. The meeting covered a reflection on work undertaken together through the Green New Deal mission, a discussion of shared challenges and common priorities, and an initial discussion of potential joint advocacy work around COP26 and London's response to the climate emergency. The Deputy Mayor outlined the positive joint work undertaken through the Green New Deal mission, but emphasised the importance of doing more. It was important in COP 26 year that the organisations made an effective joint case for powers and funding to government, that London Boroughs committed to divesting pension funds and assets in fossil fuels and actively supported investment in green technology, supported the Cities Race to Zero campaign.

## **Education and Youth**

### **Business support for London's early years sector**

On 12 February, we published findings from our GLA commissioned research into the business support needs of London's early years sector. This work was led by the Early Years Alliance, in partnership with CEEDA, with the aim of supporting the sector's sustainability through Covid-19. The availability of high-quality early education will be essential to London's economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

The research confirms that early years providers in London have been hit hard by Covid-19. Of those surveyed, 64 per cent of nurseries and 56 per cent of childminders indicated that they were at immediate risk of closure or concerned they will not be operating in 12 months-time.

The research also offers three clear recommendations for the sector, which my officers will be calling on relevant stakeholders to come together to achieve. Firstly, the need for greater coordination and accessibility to business support for the early years sector in London; secondly the need for a boost of specific business sustainability support in 2021-22; and thirdly the need to promote the importance of high-quality early childhood education and care to London's employer's, parents, carers and wider public. You can read the full research report by the Early Years Alliance here: [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/support-families-and-early-years/early-years-and-childcare/business-support-londons-early-years-sector](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/support-families-and-early-years/early-years-and-childcare/business-support-londons-early-years-sector)

Their third recommendation is also supported by findings from my 2019 London Early Years Campaign, which aimed to improve awareness of free early education entitlement amongst eligible families. A meta-evaluation of eleven small grant projects funded through this campaign has also recently been published and is available at: [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/support-families-and-early-years/early-years-and-childcare/london-early-years-campaign](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/support-families-and-early-years/early-years-and-childcare/london-early-years-campaign)

### **LondonEd 2021- a research conference for London schools**

I delivered the opening address of LondonEd 2021, a research conference for London schools, that took place in the week beginning 1 March. In partnership with the London South Teaching Schools Alliance, we brought together more than 700 teachers, educational practitioners and academics to explore the evidence and share innovative strategies to support all students to excel. This year's conference focused on the challenge of inequality in the education system, with each day tackling a different theme: gender and sexuality, ethnicity, deprivation and class, SEND. On 3 March, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, joined a panel discussion focusing on the early years sector and young children. Other speakers included representatives from my Schools for Success programme, Stepping Stones, the Black Curriculum and UCL Institute of Education. All presentations and panel discussions are now available to view at [www.LondonEd.org](http://www.LondonEd.org)

### **Young Londoners Practitioners Network meeting**

My Deputy Mayor of Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, recorded a speech for the most recent meeting of my Young Londoners Practitioners Network (YLPN) on 1 March. The YLPN is made up of 500 members, representing a whole range of organisations that work with children and young people across London - from local authorities and charities, to arts, disability and mental health groups. On 1 March, the meeting focused on issues related to housing and homelessness. The network heard from organisations who support young people in these areas, as well as watching some short films and spoken work performances from young Londoners.

### **Launch of our 'children and young people as partners' handbook**

I've pleased to announce the launch of our new 'children and young people as partners' handbook, which was produced by my Peer Outreach Team, with a foreword from the GLA's Chief Officer, Mary Harpley. The handbook encourages teams in City Hall to engage with young Londoners and offers some very simple first steps to doing so. It's vital that young Londoners play a role in our city's recovery from Covid-19 and help to shape responses to some of the key challenges we're facing. The handbook contains some great examples of

the impact that involving children and young people can have. It's an easy guide to initiating engagement and then building on it, to help inform our future strategies.

## Housing

### **Lobbying to stop leaseholders bearing fires safety cost**

On Wednesday 24 February, in advance of a debate on Lords amendments to the Fire Safety Bill on the same day, I wrote a comment piece for the Independent setting out my view that MPs should back amendments designed to protect leaseholders from bearing the costs of remedial fire safety works. I was disappointed to see that the Government did not back these changes, and I will continue to campaign for the funding needed to make all homes safe without residents bearing the cost, with major housebuilders contributing through a new levy which I have proposed which could raise at least £3bn.

### **Response to rough sleeping statistics**

On Thursday 25 February, national snapshot statistics on rough sleeping were published. The data reveal a record-breaking fall in rough sleeping in London, which is testament to the world-leading work done in the capital to get people off the streets in the face of the COVID-19. My rough sleeping team has worked tirelessly during the pandemic, alongside our charity, health and local authority partners to help people off the streets. This programme saved lives and helped hundreds of people who were homeless to move on into longer-term accommodation.

However, these statistics, gathered on a single night last autumn, cannot distract us from the immense amount of work that still needs to be done to end rough sleeping for good. Unfortunately, Government support has dwindled over the last year and Ministers have refused to put in place the scale of support seen in the first lockdown during this current lockdown. I will continue to lobby the Government for the funding London needs to end rough sleeping.

## Communities and Social Policy

### **Launch of the Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers Fund**

My new Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers fund was launched on 15 February 2021. I will be investing £233,000 for frontline organisations to support Londoners sleeping rough to prove or obtain secure immigration status and enable a positive move-on from the streets or from emergency accommodation. Projects funded by the Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers Fund will aim to reach migrant rough sleepers to reduce their vulnerability to rough sleeping again or becoming entrenched rough sleepers, as well as reducing their risk of falling victim to exploitation or crimes such as modern slavery.

### **“Big Conversations” vaccine community engagement events**

The GLA Community and Social Policy Unit and Team London have worked in partnership with NHS and PHE London on the timetable for a pan-London “roadshow” of vaccine

community engagement virtual events. The prioritisation of ethnic minority and faith communities has been informed by evidence of communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, especially in terms of morbidity rate, and those who may have vaccine hesitancy. The content of the “roadshow”, which has started in the second half of February and will continue during the pre-election period, builds on the lessons learned from the successful public health briefings delivered by the GLA’s Community Engagement team - with a clinical speaker, a public health speaker and an open, accessible and inclusive Q&A with participants about vaccination.

### **Welcoming Hong Kongers**

My Deputy, Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke at an event hosted by UK Welcomes Refugees and Hong Kong Watch under the theme of “Why Civil Society Must Step Up to Welcome Hong Kongers”. Debbie shared a welcoming message for Hong Kongers who are planning to come to London, reflected on the barriers to integration, and called the Government to provide funding for local authorities and civil society organisations to support the needs of Hong Kongers.

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

### **Pay it Forward London**

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I launched my ‘Pay it Forward London’ platform to provide support for local businesses whose doors have been closed through lockdown, and to give Londoners the opportunity to support their favourite local businesses from home. I also launched my Back to Business Fund in July, a funding scheme that matches funds raised by Londoners for up to £5,000 – providing additional financial support to businesses who may have been left out of government grants and schemes so far. This month, the platform has reached the milestone of more than £2,000,000 raised by Londoners. Since launch, the platform has been a huge success, with over 25,000 Londoners providing vital support for over 1,300 local businesses in need. On top of this, my Back to Business fund has pledged nearly £700,000, helping provide businesses with vital funds they need to stay on their feet.

### **Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm - Inaugural Meeting**

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement Debbie Weekes-Bernard hosted the first meeting of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Diversity is central to London’s identity and to our city’s success, but many Londoners do not see themselves or their histories reflected in our public realm. The Commission which will last for two years, will make a tangible and visible difference to our public spaces. The Commission is made up of highly skilled people from a wide range of backgrounds, with a passion, knowledge and desire for action in this area. The Commission will engage the public, London boroughs and key statutory bodies through constructive debate and research to ensure its success.

### **Arts Council England London Area Council Meeting**

On 19 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE attended the Arts Council England London Area Council Meeting and met with Arts Council England Chair, Sir Nicholas Serota. This strategic relationship is essential to ensure London's culture is supported through the pandemic, sharing research and evidence to inform advocacy for the role of culture in London and nationally. Arts Council England supports Mayoral programmes such as London Borough of Culture.

### **Central Activities Zone Research Partnership Board**

On 25 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE co-chaired the Central Activities Zone Research Partnership Board with my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal. The Partnership Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Central Activities Zone research project, which aims to develop recommendations for supporting the economic recovery of the Central Activities Zone and understand how the relationship between the Zone and the rest of London may shift in the future. This work will inform future policies and provide insights for boroughs, central government and Central Activities Zones businesses.

### **East Bank – Good Growth Hub**

On 16 February, A New Direction was announced as the delivery organisation for the Good Growth Hub in Hackney Wick on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which will support local people to gain access to support and training and enable them to benefit from thousands of jobs that East Bank and the businesses in the area will create. Culture and creativity will be at the heart of our economic recovery, and it's important that we do all we can to allow talented Londoners to build a career in the creative industries. East Bank, with its world leading institutions, BBC, V&A, Sadler's Wells, UCL and UAL's London College of Fashion, offers huge opportunities for local people with economic benefits and opportunities that will change the lives of many thousands of people.

### **London Fashion Week**

On 22 February, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE attended London Fashion Week which went ahead as a digital-only event with trade events running online. London Fashion Week hosted 94 design businesses, with additional business support provided to a further 100 – vital at a time when the high street remains closed to retail. Justine Simons also attended the QEII Award for British Design which was awarded to Priya Ahluwalia in recognition of the designer's sustainable sourcing and manufacturing practices.

## **International**

On 18 February, I spoke at Berlin's virtual Opening Ceremony of European Volunteering Capital 2021. I highlighted how volunteering is crucial to the spirit, success and soul of London. At no time has this been clearer than in the last year, as Londoners have voluntarily stepped up and supported the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 February, I spoke at a virtual roundtable chaired by the EU Ambassador and joined by the Heads of Diplomatic Missions from EU countries. During this event, I reaffirmed London's commitment to continue to support EU nationals living and working in London, to

celebrate the invaluable contribution they make to the capital, and to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with EU cities, institutions and member states.

## London Legacy Development Corporation

### East Careers Week

LLDC's East Careers Week kicked off on 1 March, providing young east Londoners (Years 10-13) with experiences and insights into future careers from world-leading institutions. The week-long programme was delivered in collaboration with local and East Bank partners including UCL (Engineering, Culture, Special Collections and Institute of Making), the BBC, V&A, UAL's London College of Fashion, Sadler's Wells, Here East, Staffordshire University, Liverpool Media Academy, Mace, and Art Clubbers.

Building on the success of LLDC's annual East Summer School, the successful programme engaged around 1,500 local young people with creative, digital and STEAM careers, with sessions including a virtual tour of Sadler's Wells, an interactive webinar with broadcasters from the BBC, and advice from UAL's London College of Fashion on how to perfect a portfolio.

### Events

While indoor venues on the Park remain closed to the public, London Stadium has continued to host West Ham United's home games behind closed doors, with matches against Sheffield United (15 February) and Tottenham Hotspur (21 February) resulting in two wins for the club.

Copper Box Arena has also continued to host Vitality Netball Superleague games behind closed doors, as one of only two venues hosting this season's matches.

### Here East

Here East, the tech and innovation campus on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, has launched a scholarship programme in collaboration with Staffordshire University London and Liverpool Media Academy. Starting in September 2021, the programme will provide full undergraduate tuition and supporting loan supplement to three prospective local students from east London to study at these institutions, as well as work experience and mentoring opportunities.

### Stonewall FC

Stonewall FC – the world's most successful LGBT football club, which plays its home matches at the London Marathon Community Track (LMCT) – was featured on BBC Sport's Football Focus (13 February) as part of LGBT History Month. In the piece, founding member Aslie Pitter MBE and player Adam Turner talked about the club's history and the importance of the club to the LGBT community.

I'm pleased that the LMCT remains a fantastic facility for grassroots sports, supporting groups like Stonewall FC, and progressing the sporting legacy of the 2012 Games.

# Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

## Local Plan

On 4 March, OPDC's Board agreed the Local Plan Modifications to be submitted to the Planning Inspector, this follows approval at Planning Committee on 23 February. This is a major milestone for OPDC and follows several months of collaborative working with key local stakeholders and engagement with the wider community.

Although most of the plan remains unchanged, the modifications provide overall improvements to the deliverability, connectivity and placemaking potential of the plans while protecting and intensifying employment land in Old Oak North. The changes have been thoroughly assessed and will enable OPDC to meet the London Plan homes and jobs targets, with a forecasted 13,800 homes in the first ten years. OPDC will now resubmit plans to the Planning Inspector.

## Wormwood Scrubs

OPDC's planning committee on 23 February 2021 granted permission for a change in access route across Wormwood Scrubs to facilitate sewer works as an alternative to the Braybrook Street access. The close collaboration between Hammersmith & Fulham Council, HS2, local residents and the OPDC planning team has helped protect the Scrubs, whilst preventing delays to the Old Oak Common Station and minimising disruption to those living nearby.

## Harlesden Canalside

Throughout March, OPDC is holding a series of online public engagement activities to consult on its exciting plans to improve Harlesden Canalside with work, community and social space, including a webinar on 15 March introduced by Dawn Butler MP, featuring a number of local speakers. Feedback from the public will shape the plans. The improvements are funded by my Good Growth Fund and will help to tidy up an underused part of the Grand Union Canal into a much-needed, vibrant space for local people to enjoy.

## Planning

### London Plan

I published the London Plan 2021 on Tuesday 2 March. This is a major milestone for planning in London. The London Plan is now part of the statutory development plan for all boroughs, meaning that my Good Growth principles will be the guiding force for the many thousands of planning decisions that are taken each year across the capital. The Plan sets a sustainable spatial framework for the future development of London, and borough's Local Plans must be in 'general conformity' with the Plan.

London has experienced real challenges since the Plan was prepared – a global pandemic and exit from the EU – alongside the challenges already in place at the time including the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis, and housing delivery and affordability. My London Plan includes far-reaching and innovative mechanisms to rise to these challenges.

This includes targets for 52,000 homes per year (a 23 per cent increase from the previous Plan) and for 50 per cent of new homes to be genuinely affordable; policies to achieve zero-carbon development; measures to improve air quality and green cover; and support for businesses and the cultural sector, which have been hit hard by the impacts of Covid-19.

### **Safeguarded Wharves**

I published updated safeguarding directions for wharves, as agreed by the Secretary of State, on 1 March 2021. These directions ensure that applications on safeguarded wharves are referred to me for consideration. My London Plan protects safeguarded wharves for bulk freight handling, ensuring they will continue to play a vital strategic role, moving waste, aggregates and other materials using the river. This helps to reduce the number of lorries on London's roads, which has a positive impact on air quality and carbon emissions.

### **Local Plans**

On 1st March the GLA responded on my behalf to the London Borough of Wandsworth Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation.

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

#### **20 – 24 Popes Road, Brixton, LB Lambeth**

I have written to the London Borough of Lambeth to direct (under the powers conferred by Section 2A of the 1990 Act) that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the application.

#### **Blackfriars Crown Court, 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.

#### **12 Thames Road, LB Barking & Dagenham**

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

#### **Gascoigne Estate West Phase 2, LB Barking & Dagenham**

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

#### **Padnall Lake, LB Barking & Dagenham**

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

#### **Garages adjacent to Trevithick House, 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 Perfume Factory, 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.

### **Plot G Brentford Waterside, LB Hounslow**

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

### **381 A-D, 381-397 & 13-20 Park Parade Mansion, LB Brent**

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

### **Colindale Gardens, (Former Peel Centre), LB Barnet**

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

### **Plot S10, International Quarter, Westfield Avenue, LLDC**

I have written to the London Legacy Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

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

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

### **Whalebones Park, Wood Street, LB Barnet**

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

### **100 Jersey Road, LB Hounslow**

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

### **Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)**

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

- 52 Tottenham Street, Camden
- Orchard Wharf, Tower Hamlets
- The Triangle, Hammersmith & Fulham
- Prospects House, Bromley

- Bury House, City of London
- Woolwich Exchange, Greenwich
- Land at Blackwall Yard, Tower Hamlets
- Durning Hall Community Centre, Newham
- CP House, Ealing
- High Lane Estate, Ealing
- 17 Corsham Street, Hackney
- 37-39 North Acton Road, OPDC
- Sainsbury Outpatient Pharmacy Solomon Centre, Southwark
- Low Hall Sports Ground, Waltham Forest
- Cambridge Road Estate, Kingston upon Thames
- Colechurch House, London Bridge Street
- Morris Walk (North) Estate, Woolwich, Greenwich
- Morris Walk (South) Maryon Road, Woolwich, Greenwich
- 79-87 Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth

## Key Engagements

- Among my additional engagements since my last report were the following:
  - I had an introductory meeting with Christina McAnea, the new General Secretary of Unison, on 15 February
  - I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 15 February
  - I visited Bethnal Green Police Station on 16 February to meet with Violence Suppression Unit officers to thank them for their hard work during the pandemic
  - I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 16 February
  - I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 16 February to discuss policing and security
  - I chaired the London COVID Business Forum on 17 February
  - I hosted a conference call with the Leaders of the London Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Camden, Westminster and the City Corporation on 17 February to discuss the Central Activities Zone (CAZ)
  - I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 18 February
  - I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 18 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London

- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 18 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I visited Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, which is being used as a vaccination clinic providing vaccines to patients from 10 GP surgeries across Balham, Tooting and Furzedown, on 19 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 22 February
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 22 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call hosted by Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment, Department of Health and Social Care, with the M9 Mayors on 23 February to discuss vaccine deployment
- I chaired the London Health Board Meeting on 23 February
- I joined a roundtable hosted by the Ambassador of the EU on 23 February with the Ambassadors and the High Commissioners of the EU27 Member States
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board meeting on 24 February
- I met with the New West End Company Board on 24 February
- I attended the Final Budget Plenary on 25 February
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 25 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 25 February
- I joined a conference call hosted by Paul Scully MP, Minister for Small Business, BEIS, with the M9 Metro Mayors on 25 February to discuss the reopening and recovery of cities and town centres
- I joined a conference call with Emily Sheffield, the Editor of the Evening Standard, on 26 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 1 March
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 1 March to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I co-hosted, alongside Mayor Giuseppe Sala of Milan, the C40 European Mayoral Convening on 1 March
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 2 March
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 2 March
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board meeting on 3 March
- I had my regular meeting with the Fire Brigade Unions on 3 March

**Ends**