

49th Mayor's Report to the Assembly – 11th February 2021

This is my forty-ninth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 8th January 2021 – 11th February 2021.

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

Executive Summary

Covid-19 Update

Londoners continue to make huge sacrifices to tackle the virus, from the heroic frontline workers who keep us safe, to the vast majority of Londoners who are staying at home to protect themselves, their loved ones, and the NHS.

Our dedication and commitment is paying off, with case rates and hospital admissions coming down. But London is still in the grip of the virus, and there is no room for complacency.

We are now in week two of the Government surge testing scheme known as Project Eagle, which is designed to track down cases of the South African variant now being detected in several parts of the UK, including some parts of London. This week I visited a testing site in Ealing to see first-hand the work being carried out by our local partners.

I have lobbied the Government over its control of our borders and we finally learnt this month that hotel quarantine will be introduced from the 15th February. While the Government's belated action is welcome, the approach they are taking – with only arrivals from a limited list of countries being required to quarantine – makes no sense when future strains could come from anywhere and when existing ones have already spread globally, and I remain concerned that only a fraction of the number of rooms it was estimated would be required are currently ready to use. Londoners need a safe, clear system to protect us from future spread of the virus, and I will continue to call on the Government to provide this.

With the Government's end date for the business rates freeze and VAT relief scheme now in sight, the Government have yet to respond to my calls for support to be extended. They also remain silent on support for the night-time economy businesses that haven't been able to open since last March. No further support has been provided to those self-isolating either, even though it has been shown that the self-employed are less likely to self-isolate due to financial concerns. I will continue to advocate for Londoners and will remind the Chancellor that London's recovery will be a vital part of the national recovery.

As we fight to support Londoners through the pandemic, there is now light at the end of the tunnel in the form of the vaccine roll out. Over 1.2 million Londoners have now received

their first dose, which is a huge achievement and a real source of hope for the coming months.

This month I had a positive meeting with the Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment, in which he assured me that London will receive its fair share of the vaccine, proportionate to the size and density of our population and the level of need. I have also written to seek assurance from both the Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care that there will be no disruption to supplies from the EU for the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

I have continued to make clear my support for front line workers to be included in phase 2 of the roll out. This should include teachers, TfL staff and the Metropolitan Police, who might be more vulnerable to infection due to the public-facing nature of their work and because they cannot work from home. I, and all London leaders, are ready to work with the Government now to ensure this phase of the roll-out happens smoothly and quickly.

I also continue to do everything I can do tackle vaccine hesitancy, which we know remains high in London's Black, Asian and Minority ethnic communities. This month I visited vaccine centres in Tottenham, Network House in Brent and at Kingsbury Mandir to showcase the importance and safety of getting the vaccine. It is essential we counter disinformation people might be hearing. That is why I am also continuing to work with community stakeholders, faith groups, unions, businesses, London Councils and the media to promote the uptake of the vaccine and allay any concerns.

I am pleased that the Government have listened to my calls and will be collecting and publishing ethnicity data on vaccines, however it's important this is comprehensive and published as quickly as possible so we can help ensure everyone who needs the vaccine is receiving it.

My mum has received her first dose of the vaccine, and I will be taking it when it's my turn to do so. My message to all Londoners is clear – the vaccine is safe and effective, and I would strongly urge all Londoners to take it when their time comes. Vaccines save lives.

London's economic recovery

On 20 January, my Deputy Mayor for Business and I convened a meeting with the London Covid Business Forum, bringing together industry leaders, to oversee progress of the 'roadmap to a safe reopening of our economy'. The Forum continues to focus on the priorities facing businesses, including grants and funding opportunities, support available for employees and communication on vaccines and testing.

On 1 February, I published a new interim report into the future challenges and opportunities facing central London, which has been severely impacted by a large decline in footfall due to COVID-19. This new research, commissioned from Arup with Gerald Eve and the London School of Economics, shows that the pandemic has had a profound impact on the Central Activities Zone (CAZ). Many businesses and jobs are facing enormous challenges due to the growth in home, need to socially distance, unprecedented restrictions on hospitality and cultural venues and events, and the collapse in tourism.

In the long term, however, the report concludes that, if the right action is taken, central London's ecosystem will be well placed to recover strongly. The next phase of the work, to

be published in the Spring, will model future scenarios and develop policy recommendation to ensure a quick, resilient and sustainable recovery for the economy of the CAZ and across London.

I continue to call on the Government to improve and extend their support for businesses in retail, hospitality, leisure and culture, and once the vaccine has been widely administered and restrictions lifted, the UK will require the biggest tourism campaign the country has ever seen, with a particular focus on the capital – one of the biggest draws to the UK for international travellers.

You can read more here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/business-and-economy-publications/central-activities-zone-caz-economic-futures-research>

London buses now meet ULEZ emissions standards across the city

On 14 January Transport for London (TfL) announced that all buses in its 9,000-strong core bus fleet now meet or exceed the cleanest Euro VI emissions standards, an important milestone on the path to delivering tighter London-wide Low Emission Zone standards from 1 March 2021. This has significantly reduced the proportion of transport-related NOx emissions from TfL buses from 15 per cent to just 4 per cent. Since 2017, TfL has worked to phase out polluting diesel buses and to retrofit older buses with cleaner engines. Now completed, this will see harmful NOx emissions from buses fall by an average of 90%. To date, more than 400 all-electric buses have been introduced – including the UK's first full routes of electric double decker buses – and around 300 additional zero-emission buses are expected to join the fleet by the end of this year.

Community-Led Recovery Programme launch

On 11 January, I launched my Community-Led Recovery Programme to support communities to get involved in London's recovery. The programme offers two grant streams:

- Community-Led Action Grant: offers grants of up to £9,000 to initiate social action projects which gather new insights.
- London Community Story Grant: this strand will offer grants of up to £1,500 to organisations with existing projects which capture Londoners' experiences of Covid-19, supporting them to be presented and shared with a wider audience.

The Community-Led Recovery Programme will support the London Recovery Board's nine Recovery Missions, with grantees working to share insights that relate to one or more of the nine missions.

Commission for Diversity in Public Realm Appointments and Community Engagement

On 9 February, I announced the members of my Commission for Diversity in Public Realm. The Commission brings together 15 inspiring leaders from the arts, architecture, community engagement and business sectors, bringing a range insight and knowledge that will help to improve the representation of our public landscape and ensure the complete story of our history is celebrated and commemorated in our city. Members will work closely with the

Borough working group and the Partners Board, which includes ActionSpace, Art Fund, Arts Council England, BCA, English Heritage, Historic England, Iniva, Museum of London, National Heritage Lottery Fund, Proud Places, Paradigm Network, Queer Britain, Shape Arts.

On 21 January, my teams partnered with the East End Women's Museum to host an evening of community-led discussion on representation of women's histories across London's public realm. This meeting forms part of a series of community discussions on the topic and insights will inform the first meeting of the Commission for Diversity in Public Realm.

You can read more here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-members-of-landmark-commission>

London Plan

On 29 January, the Secretary of State wrote to me confirming that he is content for the Mayor's new London Plan to be formally published, with no further changes.

I will now progress to formally publish the new London Plan. This will take a few weeks, to allow for statutory notifications to be issued alongside other administrative tasks.

This marks a big milestone for the city, allowing us to finally progress with an ambitious spatial development plan that will help make London safer, healthier, greener, fairer, after over a year's delay from the Government in approving it. I'm looking forward to working with Londoners to realising our vision for the city.

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony 2021

On Monday 25 January I was pleased to be able to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in a joint ceremony with the London Assembly. The ceremony was pre-recorded to ensure the safety of all contributors and shared via social channels, including the GLA's YouTube channel.

City Hall worked closed with the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to create a ceremony that reflected this year's theme to "be the light in the darkness". It commemorated victims of the Holocaust and provided a time for reflection for those affected by more recent genocides.

I was able to reflect on my visit to Poland in 2020 for the 75th anniversary commemorations where I was privileged to meet Holocaust survivor Renee Salt, who was also another key contributor to the ceremony this year. We also heard testimony from Abdul Musa Adam, a survivor of genocide from Darfur and a moving address from Rabbi Barry Marcus MBE.

I'm proud that we were able to unite in our commitment to stand against racism, discrimination and persecution, and reminding us of our duty to stand up and speak out against prejudice, oppression and injustice wherever they may be found.

Further progress on reviewing the MPS Gangs Violence Matrix

On 3rd February I published an update on the progress made by the MPS in fulfilling the recommendations I made in my 2017 Review of the Gangs Violence Matrix. As a direct result of these recommendations to make the Matrix database more transparent, effective and more evidence based than ever before, more than 1,000 young black Londoners who should

not have been on it have now been removed. At the same time detection rates have improved.

We know that gang-related violence still accounts for a significant proportion of the most serious violence in London and the Matrix is a necessary enforcement tool as well as a means to support and intervention, but it's vitally important that the police continue to evaluate, improve and communicate how it is used to address concerns from communities about the disproportionate number of black Londoners and young men on the Matrix.

Keeping Londoners safe remains my top priority and while Ministers are refusing to fully refund City Hall and the MPS for the money spent tackling the pandemic in London, I am committed to doing everything I can to help tackle crime – including investing £6m in the capital's first-ever London Gang Exit Programme which is helping hundreds of young people at significant risk of harm from criminal gang activity to turn their lives around and look to a more positive future.

Policing, Crime and Security

Improving transparency, accountability and trust in policing

On 8th January I welcomed the publication of the MPS review of handcuffing, their engagement with black communities and their acknowledgment of the concerns there are about disproportionality and a lack of transparency in the way handcuffs are being used by police on young black men in the capital. The Review will lead to better training and clearer guidance for officers, particularly around the requirement to justify and record any use of handcuffs before arrest.

On 18th January I welcomed the launch of the MPS pilot which will see ethnicity data collated for vehicle stops conducted by roads policing officers. This was a key commitment in my Action Plan to improve transparency, accountability and trust in policing. We listened and responded to the continued frustrations of black Londoners, who are rightly concerned that they are six times more likely to be stopped in a car than a white person, and this pilot will help us to begin to assess and address concerns about racial profiling and disproportionality in our city. I have also written to the Home Secretary to ask her to make it compulsory for the police to collect and publish data on ethnicity for Road Traffic Stops because it is absolutely vital that our police service retains the trust and confidence of all the communities it serves.

Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Reference Group meeting on 26th January

I chaired the Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) Partnership Reference Group, which provides strategic direction, support, and challenge to the Unit's work and comprises leading figures in the public sector, alongside representatives from voluntary, community, and youth groups. One of the key aims of the meeting was to consider the wider impacts of violence and how prevention and engagement play crucial roles in reducing violence with this meeting focusing on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The group discussed the opportunities to be considered for the VRU to help advance the VAWG agenda. We also heard from two members of the VRU's Young Person's Action Group (YPAG) who to date have aided the VRU develop interventions, supported partnership networks and gained their personal and professional development plans.

Transport

TfL launches online data platform to raise awareness of road collisions in London

On 11 January TfL unveiled its new Vision Zero Dashboard tool, which will enable organisations and members of the public to more easily access and interpret London's collision data which is recorded by the police.

The Vision Zero Dashboard - located on the TfL website - visualises TfL's published collision statistics, complementing the data TfL has already made publicly available. Users can now easily filter the raw data based on key fields such as injury severity, location, date/time and by mode.

The new dashboard shows collision data from 2017 to 2019. Data from future years will be added in due course, with plans for further analysis capability including being able to identify casualty rates by kilometre travelled.

TfL investment creates up to 2,000 new cycle parking spaces across London

TfL has announced the awarded funding of more than £1million to create up to 2,000 much-needed new cycle parking spaces across the capital, providing a further boost to measures to boost walking and cycling.

Enabling more Londoners to cycle safely is more important than ever. While the current coronavirus rules state that people must stay at home unless there is a reasonable excuse, it is vital that as many of these journeys as possible are made by walking, cycling and public transport rather than by car.

This will help to cut congestion and pollution in the capital and reduce the risk of a car-led recovery, while also improving people's health and activity levels and making extra space on public transport for those who need to use it.

Transformation of Old Street roundabout moves to next stage as road changes to final layout

TfL's transformation of Old Street station and roundabout has reached its next milestone as roads have now been switched to their final layout, which will allow construction work on this vital project to move into its next phase.

This layout is the same as the permanent, final layout of the completed roundabout, though not all traffic and cycle lanes will be available straight away. TfL is working closely with its contractors and Islington Council to complete the transformation work as quickly as possible, with plans to finish work by autumn 2022.

It's more important than ever that roads are safe for people walking and cycling to avoid a car-led recovery from the pandemic

London freight should apply for a Direct Vision Standard safety permit as enforcement begins

TfL has been reminding heavy goods vehicle (HGV) operators to apply for a free safety permit as soon as possible, with less than two months to go until the introduction of London's pioneering Direct Vision Standard.

Enforcement will begin on 1 March, by which time all owners of HGVs over 12 tonnes - including those rated between one-star and five-star - will need to display a valid permit to continue operating the capital.

TfL's Direct Vision Standard will play a vital role in eliminating death and serious injuries from London's streets. Introduced with the support of London Councils, it is set to reduce lethal blind spots by introducing a permit system for HGVs, assigning vehicles a star rating based on how much the driver can see directly through their cab window.

The latest data shows that HGVs continue to be disproportionately involved in fatal collisions. Between 2018 and 2020, HGVs were involved in 41% of collisions where people cycling were killed and 19% of collisions where a pedestrian was killed.

From 1 March 2021, the Direct Vision Standard will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will be enforced on all roads in London. HGVs will need to meet a minimum one-star rating to enable them to operate in the capital or will need to fit Safe System measures to improve the vehicle's safety.

Transformation of Streatham Hill for walking and cycling progress

TfL is moving forward with permanent measures to make roads in Streatham much safer and less intimidating for people walking and cycling, following a public consultation that showed strong support for TfL's plans for the area.

This vital new scheme is in addition to wider measures TfL and Lambeth Council are taking across the borough to enable safer walking and cycling during the coronavirus pandemic.

The results of TfL's consultation into the scheme have been published and show that 83% of respondents agreed that the proposals would make people feel safer cycling through the area, with 70% saying the same about walking.

TfL has listened to feedback from people responding to the consultation and made changes to the scheme to improve it, including increasing the amount of tree planting and making other changes to side road access to further reduce rat running in the area.

TfL will now work to finalise its designs for these changes to local roads and will look to start construction work early next year.

Outer London sees 22 per cent rise in cycling as new data shows vital role in active travel

Transport for London has published new cycle count data that shows increased levels of cycling in both inner and outer London last autumn, as people across the capital continued to use active travel as a vital way of getting around during the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite a huge drop in the number of journeys being made overall as more people work from home and people only travel for legally permitted reasons, Londoners have been increasingly cycling to make essential trips and for exercise.

Since 2015, TfL has carried out annual cycle counts in both inner and outer London, usually in the spring. These count the numbers of people cycling past fixed points on the capital's cycling network over the course of a day. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, cycle counts in 2020 were instead carried out in the autumn, with results showing a seven per cent increase in cycling in inner London and a 22 per cent increase in outer London, compared to the previous count in spring 2019.

Significant increases in outer London also suggest that the types of journeys may be changing, as people increasingly use bikes to get around their local area, to access their local high streets and for exercise.

TfL gets go-ahead for 852 new homes in Acton

A new development by Bollo Lane in Acton has been given the go-ahead by Ealing Council, and will provide hundreds of new high-quality and affordable homes in the local area.

The masterplan was designed in collaboration with architects HOK and East and engineers Mott MacDonald covering a 3.6 hectare site and spans from Acton Town station in the north to the level crossing towards Chiswick.

The development is TfL's largest to date and will provide 852 new homes spread over nine buildings and will be a mixture of one, two and three-bedroom properties, suited to all types of households, including first time buyers, families and downsizers.

The affordable homes will consist of a combination of homes available at a range of affordable rents, such as discounted market rent and London Affordable Rent, and shared ownership properties.

The proximity of the site to Acton Town, Chiswick Park and South Acton stations means new residents will have easy links to central London with the Piccadilly, District and London Overground lines.

This access to the rail network combined with a number of bus routes serving the area enables new residents to travel sustainably with ease.

The area around the new homes has been designed to deliver long-term positive change and sustainability for the local community. As well as looking to incorporate renewable energy systems, such as solar panels, the designs include multiple gardens and new play spaces that the local community as well as residents can enjoy.

TfL takes hard line against minority flouting face covering regulations

An expanding team of TfL enforcement officers are cracking down on the non-complying minority who are not exempt, with 128,000 people stopped by officers, and 1,700 fines issued.

TfL has stepped up its enforcement of face coverings seven months after the measure became mandatory on public transport.

Public support remains high for the use of face coverings on the network and around 90 per cent compliance at the busiest times of the day, with only a selfish minority who are not exempt continuing to ignore the regulation and putting themselves and their fellow passengers at risk.

A new cohort of TfL enforcement officers completed training in December. This boosts TfL's enforcement team to around 500 officers who are ensuring compliance of coronavirus safety regulations, as well as tackling aggression, fare evasion and providing greater visibility and reassurance.

The new recruits are now in operation on the transport network, working alongside police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service (Met) and British Transport Police (BTP) and carrying out enforcement operations on the transport network every day across the capital. Operations are regularly carried out at stations with low compliance, and bus stops at Victoria, Brixton and Stratford have been targeted.

New extensions to Cycleway 4 route set to enable safer essential cycle journeys during pandemic

Transport for London (TfL) has set out plans to make a series of trial changes to Tooley Street and Duke Street Hill in central London, which will extend the new Cycleway 4 route to enable safer essential journeys between London Bridge, Rotherhithe and beyond.

The changes are a vital part of TfL's emergency response to the coronavirus pandemic and TfL is asking people for their initial feedback on the plans ahead of construction work starting in early March. This follows the recent start of construction work on a further trial extension to the route in southeast London, between Angerstein Roundabout and Charlton.

Construction work on Cycleway 4 started in July 2019 and the first section of the route, completed in September 2020, is already connecting neighbourhoods in southeast London to central London via a fully protected cycle route between Tower Bridge Road and Rotherhithe. TfL is working to build trial schemes which enable more people to walk and cycle and help to maintain space on public transport for those who need it.

Health

Roundtable with charities representing clinically vulnerable groups to discuss their experiences and support needs during Covid-19

On 28 January 2021 I convened a roundtable, chaired by my Deputy Mayor, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, with thirteen charities representing a range of groups of Londoners recognised as clinically vulnerable to Covid-19, including disabled people and older people. We discussed their experiences during the pandemic and the issues they face in terms of access to support, particularly for those shielding. The discussion covered a wide range of issues including employee rights; COVID-secure workplaces; communications in multiple languages and formats; access to affordable food; access to treatments, diagnostics and vaccinations; do not resuscitate orders; digital exclusion; social isolation; physical activity; and social care reform.

I will now be writing to the participating charities outlining the actions I will take in response to the issues raised at the meeting. In addition, I am convening a second roundtable for the same group of charities, with Sir David Sloman, Regional Director of NHS England and NHS Improvement, to discuss the specific concerns the charities raised related to access to healthcare and vaccination roll-out. This roundtable will be chaired by my Mayoral Advisor, Dr Tom Coffey.

Mental health interview for GQ Magazine

This month I used the opportunity of an interview with Alastair Campbell for GQ Magazine to have an open conversation about mental health and challenging the stigma that surrounds it. The interview was published in print, online and on YouTube, to a largely male readership in the hundreds of thousands. I discussed my own struggles during the pandemic, mental resilience, and the importance of being honest about our feelings. We also talked about the stigma that is still attached to speaking up or seeking support, particularly amongst men. Through the discussion I raised my concerns about the mental trauma the pandemic will leave in its wake, especially for young Londoners and those

working on the frontline – whether that be for the NHS or in other key worker roles. I called on central government to ensure the mental health services that are desperately needed are suitably resourced.

Pandemic Response

I have continued to meet weekly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the Covid-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with Covid-19 and other health needs. During this period key topics discussed have also included the extreme pressures on NHS bed capacity and challenges for staff, the declaration of a major incident in London, roll out of the vaccine, the importance of tackling vaccine hesitancy among our most vulnerable communities, and the impact of Covid-19 on mental health and action being taken in London.

Fire and Resilience

COVID-19 Assembly Member Leaders updates

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

London MPs call

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

London COVID-19 Leaders Committee

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

London 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.

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.

Trade Union Councils meeting

On 12th January, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with representatives from Trade Union Councils (London, East and South East) to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

Meeting with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment

On 14th January, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting with Vaccine Deployment Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP to discuss the COVID-19 vaccine supply and rollout; prioritisation and take-up.

Meeting with PFCCs and Deputy Mayors for Fire

On 14th January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Building, Safety, Fire and Communities, alongside other Deputy Mayors and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCCs) to discuss challenges in the fire sector.

Resilience Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 18th January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual Brexit Contingency Planning Group meeting as Chair of the London Resilience Forum.

Meeting with Major General C J Ghika CBE

On 26th January, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Major General C J Ghika to discuss London's response to COVID-19.

London Fire Commissioner meetin

On 1st February, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of the London Fire Brigade.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Mayor's ESF - Creative Enterprise Zone - Lewisham

On 8 January I launched a new £500,000 funding opportunity for the Mayor's European Sector Funds (ESF) Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) in Lewisham. This project will help people living in Lewisham gain skills and experience to find jobs in the creative sector. It will also seek to diversify the creative workforce. It is funded by ESF, the GLA and the London Borough of Lewisham.

This project contributes to my recovery plans from the coronavirus crisis by providing targeted skills development and employment support to Londoners who are disadvantaged in the labour market, and likely to be further disadvantaged by the impact of COVID-19 on London's economy.

You can find out more about this at this link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/funding/european-social-fund/funding-opportunities>

Skills for Londoners Board and Business Partnership

My Skills for Londoners Board and Skills for Londoners Business Partnership are currently holding joint meetings until the Mayoral election in May 2021, to enable a joined-up focus on London's COVID-19 recovery work.

The two boards recently met on 26 January 2021. Members discussed the FE White Paper, the impact of COVID-19 on their businesses/sectors and what we can do to support them during this time. Discussions focussed on the Good Work for All and Digital Access for All recovery missions; and plans for the Adult Education Roadmap.

They also received updates on London's first Local Skills Report due to be published in March 2021, the upcoming London Learner Survey and the Adult Education Budget (AEB) programme. In addition, representatives from RCU presented their findings on the provision of, participation in and demand for education and skills at Levels 4/5 in London. The findings of the report will be published shortly.

One more meeting is planned to take place before the pre-election period, on 9 March 2021, so that members have further opportunities to feed in their views, especially on the relevant parts of the London Recovery Programme before the Mayoral and Assembly Election.

Launch of AEB Good Work for All Fund

On 8 February I launched the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Good Work for All Fund. The Fund is open to all skills providers located in London and the 'London Fringe' to apply to deliver adult education and training services to Londoners. This new provision will support the London Recovery Programme in response to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Fund will use part of London's AEB explicitly to support the London Recovery programme, with a particular focus on the sectors outlined in the Helping Londoners into Good Work and Digital Access for All missions, although this is not exclusive. The funding will be used to deliver training, education, and employability support that helps Londoners to gain relevant skills, retrain, and move into good work in sectors key to London's recovery.

The sectors outlined in these missions – Digital, Health and Social Care, Green Economy, and Creative Industries – have current and long-term economic growth and job creation potential or, in the case of health and social care, play a critical role in supporting London's recovery. Providers can make a case to deliver provision aligned with other sectors where they can demonstrate why that sector should be considered a priority in the context of London's Recovery

Applications will close on 19 March.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Letter to Chancellor on Budget

On 19 January, I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, outlining the needs of the capital from March's Budget. My Budget submission focused on the huge financial pressures the pandemic has placed on Londoners, businesses, communities, and the capital's vital public services. I urged Government not to take London for granted. For London's success to continue, the city needs careful consideration, a recognition of the unique challenges we face, and investment to support businesses, organisations, and people to succeed.

Business engagement

On 13 January, I chaired a meeting with my Business Advisory Board alongside my Deputy Mayor for Business. I introduced the 'roadmap to a safe reopening of our economy' and we discussed the role businesses can play in the vaccine roll-out in London and the impact Brexit is having on members' sectors.

On 20 January, my Deputy Mayor for Business gave a keynote address at the virtual 'Global Digital Transformation – Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) Conclave 2021', one of India's largest digital lending conferences. He highlighted London's strength in fintech and Indian Foreign Direct Investment and unique global status as a capital of finance, business, government and technology.

On 27 January, I participated in a panel as part of the World Economic Forum's virtual Davos Summit. The topic of discussion was around delivering social justice in recovery and the objective was to generate insights into how to advance social justice in the Covid-19 recovery. I covered how the Covid19 pandemic has affected London, the London Recovery Programme and how its missions have been shaped to create a fairer and more sustainable city.

On 4 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business gave the keynote opening speech as part of London & Partners' EdTech Virtual Trade Mission to India. He spoke about the strength of the education and digital education sectors in London and the opportunities for London companies to explore the Indian market, as well as for Indian companies to consider expanding to London.

The London Business Hub

From the beginning of January 2021, the London Business Hub has grown to include additional resources to support businesses following the end of the EU Transition Period. The support include help on subjects such as employment, trade, Intellectual Property and data and travelling to and from the EU. Businesses will be able to access dedicated advisers with up to three hours of one to one support and a panel of 'Brexit Expert Advisers' that London based SMEs can access free of charge

Flexible workspace

On 27 January, my Workspace Advisory Group hosted its quarterly meeting and discussed the planned surveying of the flexible workspace sector every five months over the next 15 months. The survey seeks to understand how the sector is changing and adapting as a result of the pandemic.

Mayor's Entrepreneur competition

In January 2021, 36 student interns began their part time placements to support my 2021 Mayor's Entrepreneur competition. Alongside their studies they will work to encourage their fellow students from across London's Universities to take part in the competition and consider entrepreneurship as a career path. This year, five winning business ideas will be selected from those submitted by London's students and recent graduates and each will be awarded £20,000 start-up funding to develop their ideas for market.

Promoting good work and high-quality placements for young people

My teams worked with London Councils and boroughs to produce a short guide for promoting good work and high-quality placements through the government's [Kickstart programme](#), as part of their efforts to support recovery.

You can find out more here: <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/what-makes-a-good-kickstart-placement>.

The guide follows the structure of my Good Work Standard and promotes fair pay and conditions, diversity and recruitment, workplace wellbeing and skills and progression.

Pay it Forward London

So far, more than 480 small businesses have raised over £1.7 million through my Pay It Forward London platform, thanks to the generosity of over 23,000 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.

Meeting with G.network on connectivity

On 9 February, I met with the CEO of G.network, Sasho Veselinski to hear about their £1bn full fibre investment for London. The investment aims to bring full fibre connectivity to around 1.4m premises across 13 London boroughs. I welcomed this much needed investment for the future facing broadband connectivity that Londoners need to meet our growing demand. This investment supports our London recovery work, specifically the Digital Access Mission for all, where good connectivity for all Londoners by 2025 is a key objective for the mission's success. My Connected London team and Head of Digital Communications & Data Innovation were also in attendance and will continue to work with G.network and other providers in London to support with coordination between boroughs

and share best practice. I also invited G.network to work with my infrastructure team to work collaboratively on street work projects with other utility providers in particular on TfL routes, in a bid to help reduce their capital costs associated with Lane Rental Charges so that their investment can stretch further and London's environmental impact for streets being dug up repeatedly are reduced.

Launch of Digital Exclusion Taskforce

On 2 February, I launched the Digital Exclusion Taskforce chaired by my Chief Digital Officer. The group is made up of experts from industry and the third sector and will support the wider work of the Digital Access Mission. Many Londoners still don't have the devices, skills or connectivity to get online. The taskforce will work to understand the scale of this problem, and then identify and tackle the barriers stopping Londoners getting online.

Environment

Rapid charge point milestone

On 21 January, I achieved a major milestone in my ambition to tackle London's toxic air pollution and prepare for the expanding Ultra Low Emission Zone, the successful delivery of 300 more electric vehicle rapid charging points across the capital before the end of 2020. This includes the first rapid charging hub in London at Stratford International car park with six charging points, and contributes to the now more than 500 rapid charge points and 5,500 residential charge points across the capital. This success is testament to our partners in the boroughs and the private sector who have stepped up and shown real ambition to help London lead the electric vehicle revolution.

Impact of air quality policies

On 25 January, I published the results of a study commissioned from Imperial College London's Environmental Research Group which found that my air quality policies and wider improvements in air pollution will increase the average life expectancy of a child born in London in 2013 by six months. Despite these significant improvements, levels of air pollution in London are still too high for most Londoners and the study found that in 2019 toxic air contributed to the deaths of more than 4,000 Londoners. This shows that there is still vital work to do to improve London's air quality which is why I am committed to expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone in October this year.

UK100 Letter to government on air pollution

On 27 January, I joined a cross-party group of UK mayors in calling on Government to adopt World Health Organization (WHO) targets for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) as legally binding air quality limits in the Environment Bill to be met no later than 2030. The letter also urged the Government to provide at least £1.5 billion in additional funding for local and combined authorities to effectively tackle air pollution. The letter was featured in the Guardian on the same day.

You can find the article at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/27/uk-mayors-boris-johnson-tougher-air-pollution-targets?CMP=tw t a-environment b-gdneco>

Meeting with Jack Dromey MP and Liam Byrne MP

On 27 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Jack Dromey MP and Liam Byrne MP. Both represent West Midlands constituencies, where LEVC has a large manufacturing presence, particularly LEVC's new zero emission capable VN5 van. The van can potentially play a role in supporting the transition to a zero emission transport system. Both MPs were supportive of working together to secure additional funding from Government from van scrappage and wider support for the switch to electric vehicles.

Meeting with the Confederation of British Industry

On 29 January, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues had a meeting with Tony Danker the new Director-General of the CBI. The meeting was to discuss our plans for COP26 and London's transition to net-zero and the opportunities these represent for working with the CBI and their members. They discussed potential shared workstreams for engaging businesses in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and supporting London's drive for a green and equitable recovery.

Green New Deal Advisory Group meeting

On 2 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, co-chaired the first formal meeting of the Green New Deal Advisory Group. The group, co-chaired with Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville, has been set to provide strategic advice, review and guidance on the implementation of the Green New Deal as well as ensuring sustainability is embedded across of London's recovery work. At the meeting, group members reviewed activity to date and the approach to developing the recovery missions' action plans, and they discussed what the external environment will look like in the coming months.

Water Advisory Group

On 3 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues chaired my Water Advisory Group, which includes senior representatives from London's water companies, the water regulators, environmental NGOs and consumer champions. Group members updated on their organisations' resilience and preparedness in the context of Covid-19, Brexit and forthcoming bad weather. The group discussed opportunities for the water infrastructure sector to work together with the GLA and other London stakeholders to deliver the Green New Deal mission; The group also heard from the Environment Agency on the process on updating the Thames Estuary 2100 plan to ensure London's continued protection from tidal flooding.

Meeting with Joerg Hofmann, Chief Executive LEVC

On 5 February my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Joerg Hofmann, Chief Executive of LEVC, to discuss the role that LEVC's new zero emission capable VN5 van could play in supporting the transition to a zero-emission transport system.

Education and Youth

Letter to Secretary of State for Education

On 21 January, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP, calling on him to take action on a number of key issues to better support nurseries and schools in London as the COVID-19 crisis continues.

Nurseries and childminders provide a crucial service, especially during this lockdown. It's encouraging that asymptomatic early years staff can get Covid-19 tests in community testing centres, but the Government should make regular testing available for early years practitioners in the same way as it is for teachers. Further financial support from the Government is also essential to ensuring the sustainability of the early years sector through this crisis. I urged the Secretary of State to provide this, including continuing to pay for funded early years places based on pre-Covid attendance levels. I have made the same call to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

For older children, I recognise that it was the right decision (albeit a difficult one) to cancel this summer's exams; however, I urged the Secretary of State to learn from last year's mistakes and to provide clarity over GCSE, A-Level and BTEC assessments. The time between now and the summer must be used to ensure that chosen assessment methods do not unfairly disadvantage any student. What's more, the Government must take a consistent, national approach to BTEC examinations, and provide clarity to university admissions teams as early as possible regarding how grades will be awarded.

Unfortunately, digital poverty is still impacting children and families. I urged the Secretary of State to quickly provide a laptop and internet access to every child or young person that needs one. Wrap around support must also be provided to ensure that users and parents have the necessary skills to use this technology effectively. This issue clearly overlaps with class, race and immigration status. The Secretary of State must also rethink the allocation formula for the Government's catch-up funding, so that it truly reflects current inequalities and support is targeted at areas with the highest need.

I welcomed the Government's announcement of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme and its commitment to extend the Holiday Food and Activities programme and increase the value of Healthy Start vouchers. However, I know that this doesn't go far enough and that hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty are still falling through the gaps. In my letter, I urged the Government to take further action by fully implementing the National Food Strategy's recommendations and expanding the eligibility of Free School Meals and Healthy Start vouchers to include every child from a household in receipt of Universal Credit or equivalent benefits, and those with no recourse to public funds. The Government must also ensure that food parcels delivered to families are to the high standard they deserve.

Finally, along with London Councils, I called on the Government to ensure that clear plans are established for widespread and regular testing to facilitate the safe return of all students to schools and colleges. I also support the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommendation for the second phase of vaccination to include those at increased risk of exposure to Covid-19 due to their occupation. This should include early years practitioners and teachers.

Celebrating the Early Years Leaders Programme

On 21 January, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, had the pleasure of welcoming guests to an online celebration event, marking the end of my Early Years Leaders Programme.

Early Years Leaders was run by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and aimed to further develop the management, leadership and business skills of early years practitioners in London. Since June 2019, it has supported 88 participants, across 27 London boroughs, giving them access to one-to-one sessions with a development coach, as well as group coaching and networking opportunities.

Joanne was delighted to hear from some of these participants about their achievements on the programme, including the invaluable coaching relationships and blossoming peer-to-peer support networks that have been built. In taking part in the programme - and in sticking with it through the unprecedented challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic - these practitioners have shown extraordinary dedication to their professional development and to the local families that they work with.

The importance of high quality early education, especially for London's most vulnerable families, has been brought into even sharper focus by the pandemic. I was very pleased to write to all participants and coaches involved in the programme to congratulate them and thank them for their involvement.

Schools for Success webinar

On 28 January, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, opened our latest Schools for Success webinar, focusing on methods schools are using to help narrow the attainment gap. Leaders from Chase Bridge Primary School, Winterbourne Junior Girls School and Salusbury Primary School discussed the importance of access to digital devices, empowering students to making decisions about their school, and an innovative approach to reading as key strategies used to support their pupils at this difficult time. In addition, Sue John and Roisin Killick from Challenge Partners presented findings from their recent research into the characteristics of top performing schools.

My Schools for Success programme brings together educational leaders to share knowledge and experience through a series of webinars and published school profiles. Schools were invited to attend our next event, LondonEd 2021, a research conference held in the week commencing 1 March focusing on the challenge of inequality in the education system.

Devices roundtable

On 2 February, I held a roundtable with the Chair of London Councils to hear first-hand how pupils across London are digitally excluded and need urgent support. I was joined by young

Londoners, Headteachers, London Grid for Learning, the Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare and the Assistant General Secretary of the National Education Union. We shared information on how our new Digital Exclusion Taskforce will support the London Recovery's Digital Access for All mission to ensure that every Londoner has access to good connectivity, basic digital skills and the device or support they need to be online by 2025.

Housing

Protecting London's renters

On 7 January, I co-signed a letter to the editor of the Guardian as a supporter of the Renters Reform Coalition, urging Government to extend the ban on bailiff action to enforce private rented sector evictions, and to introduce another full ban on possessions proceedings like the one imposed during the first national lockdown last year. Although this would not address the underlying problem which is leading many private landlords to seek possession, namely the increase in rent arrears due to the pandemic, it would help to keep renters safe from homelessness at this critical time.

Although Government has extended the ban on bailiff action until 22 February, they have declined to introduce a new possession ban, or to introduce further targeted financial support to help keep renters in their homes. In addition, an increase in illegal evictions throughout the pandemic, as well as a spike in rent arrears is now being reported by a wide range of organisations, from Citizens Advice to the National Residential Landlords Association. In January I announced that the number of Londoners reporting concerns about their landlord or letting agent through my 'Report-a-rogue' tool more than doubled during the pandemic compared to the period March-December 2019. One in five of those complaints relates to an unfair eviction. I continue to call on Government to act now to support renters to pay their rents and clear arrears built up during the pandemic, in order to avoid more illegal evictions and a huge increase in homelessness later in the year.

Increasing vaccination of rough sleepers

On 27 January, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development and Senior Advisor for Health Policy wrote to the Chair of Covid-19 Immunisation at the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, making the case for prioritising rough sleepers in emergency accommodation for the Covid-19 vaccine through the flexibility that JCVI guidance provides. The letter highlights the current window of opportunity, with several thousand rough sleepers currently accommodated. It outlines how this course of action would both protect public health and ensure clinical time is used efficiently in administration of the vaccine.

Domestic Abuse Bill

On 1 February, my Deputy Mayors for Housing and Residential Development and for Policing and Crime, and the London Councils Executive Member for Crime and Public

Protection jointly wrote to the Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State for the Home Office and for Rough Sleeping and Housing welcoming the intention of Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Bill. This will place new duties on Tier 1 authorities (the GLA in London) and Tier 2 authorities for the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation, with the potential to improve outcomes.

The letter urged the Government to address three important immediate issues, to help ensure that this aim is achieved. First, to ensure that the level of funding devolved to Tier 1 authorities to commission support is sufficient to achieve the necessary step-change in provision. Second, to take urgent steps to protect the services being funded by the Government this year, which are at risk of closure because of delays in the roll out of the new arrangements. Third, to allocate sufficient funding to the GLA so that it can properly administer the new duty, taking into account London's size and complexity compared with other Tier 1 authorities.

Communities and Social Policy

Civic Futures Programme launch

On 11 January, I launched my second iteration of the Civic Futures Programme, a fellowship programme to support London's recovery.

From March 2021, the Programme will work with up to 30 people from across London's civil society and local government (including GLA colleagues) for 12 months to facilitate collective learning and discovery focused on collaboration, exploration and inquiry and systems thinking.

Roundtable with East and Southeast Asian communities

After I met with East and Southeast Asian communities in November 2020, I promised follow-up on a range of issues with the Deputy Mayors. On Tuesday 12 January, Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden held an online roundtable with East and Southeast Asian communities on their experiences of Sinophobia, racism and hate crime during the pandemic. The meeting was attended by a community representative of the Met Police. Work is continuing to support these communities.

Faith Sector Panel meeting

A part of London's Resilience is the important Faith Sector Panel, co-chaired by Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard and Father Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London. With Covid-19 escalating in early 2021, the panel met again on Tuesday 12 January to discuss my advice on restricting communal worship. The panel responded positively, and I want to wholeheartedly thank faith communities across the city for their support on this and their continued work with Londoners.

Public Health Communities Briefings on Covid-19

On Tuesday 12 January and Tuesday 02 February my Community Engagement team held virtual Public Health Communities Briefings on Covid-19 with Public Health England and the

NHS. Over 160 people representing communities across London attended each meeting. The meetings gave updates on the levels of the Covid-19 pandemic in the city, as well as on the vaccine roll-out

WIN Design lab launch

On 26 January, my Workforce Integration Network team formally launched the Design lab for the Construction sector. The WIN Design lab is a year-long programme co-hosted by City Hall and the Equal group which will support 11 of the leading construction and infrastructure businesses to break down structural barriers to employment for young Black men. The long-term aspiration of the programme is to create sector-wide change in building more diverse and inclusive workplaces.

The launch was attended by the 11 participating companies, including: SGN, J Murphy & Sons Ltd, Wates Ltd, UK Power Networks, Balfour Beatty, Mott MacDonald, Ferrovial Construction UK, Laing O'Rourke, Hyperoptic, Thames Water Limited and Balfour Beatty Vinci Systra JV - HS2 OOC Station Partner. It included speeches from some of the sector leading industry bodies and marked an important commitment from these businesses to address the persistent inequalities faced by certain groups in accessing London's labour market. My Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard was in attendance, alongside the GLA WIN team.

Black Majority Church leaders meeting

On 28 January, I virtually hosted my regular Black Majority Church leaders meeting, alongside Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard. At the meeting we were joined by representatives from the NHS and Public Health England, and I discussed with the church leaders the importance of tackling vaccine hesitancy. There was agreement on working together to support communities, including on vaccine roll-out. We also had an update from MOPAC on the policing action plan, which several of the church leaders directly input into.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Vaccination volunteers

Team London has been supporting the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccinations across London by contributing to the huge mobilisation of volunteers. We are contributing in several ways:

- Deploying my Team London volunteers to provide support in Marshal roles at the vaccination centres in London, including the Excel centre.
- Supporting NHS leads to set-up volunteering management and deployment at mass vaccination sites across London.
- Working with the wider voluntary and community sector in London to develop tools and processes for the co-ordination of requests for volunteers.

Team London Young Ambassadors

In January, I awarded 24 grants to schools across London to enable student-led projects supporting local communities with issues exacerbated during the pandemic. The projects

address prominent, wide ranging issues including mental health and wellbeing, anti-racism and inclusion, environment and sustainability, food poverty and inequality, and isolation and social connections.

The schools receiving funding include secondary, primary, SEND Schools and Pupil Referral Units. These projects engage 2,800 young people in their communities. A total of 59 per cent of participants were deemed 'at-risk'.

Culture, Events and External Relations

Meeting of the OECD Ambassadors on Culture

On 12 January, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a keynote speech at the Meeting of OECD Ambassadors (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) on ways to support culture through the pandemic crisis. On behalf of the World Cities Culture Forum, she also gave an overview of the emerging approaches to supporting culture across 40 global cities in response to Covid-19. The event was attended by the OECD Secretary General and 26 OECD Ambassadors from across 10 countries who all committed to continuing to support culture and the creative industries.

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board

On 2 February, my Cultural Leadership Board chaired by Ben Evans CBE met for the final meeting of this administration. Items on the agenda included the current issues facing cultural organisations which remain closed because of the pandemic and the plight of creative freelance workers, many of whom are not eligible to claim Government financial support. The Board's specialist expertise and insight continues to inform the work of my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and her policy Unit during this crisis.

Boroughs Culture Roundtable

On 13 January, my Culture and Creative Industries Unit hosted the sixth borough culture roundtable with officers representing 25 boroughs across London in attendance. The theme of the event was 'Delivering cultural activities in 2021 and beyond'. There were updates and presentations from Arts Council England, Newham Council on their 'Unlimited' digital programme; Hammersmith and Fulham on their Mayor's Cultural Impact Award and from the Society of London Theatre, which outlined the impact of the pandemic on theatre in London.

People's Question Time Online

Thursday 11 February saw the second online version of People's Question Time, where Londoners were given the opportunity to put live questions to myself and the London Assembly. The event was chaired by Chair of the London Assembly and Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow, Navin Shah.

Registered audience members used the online live chat to put their questions to the panel, which were asked by the Chair. There was also an opportunity for Londoners to ask questions directly to the panel, live on the night, via video link up.

London Legacy Development Corporation

London Stadium

Despite being closed to the public in line with national lockdown restrictions, the action has continued at London Stadium with four matches played behind closed doors during this period. Homes matches against Burnley (16 January), West Brom (19 January), and Doncaster (23 January – FA Cup Fourth Round) provided three successive wins for West Ham United, followed by defeat to Liverpool FC on 31 January.

On 27 January London Stadium's external screen was used to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, joining iconic landmarks across the UK in displaying a message for 'Be the Light in the Darkness'.

Good Growth Hub

LLDC has appointed A New Direction to run an employment and skills hub for young people on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Opening in April 2021, the hub will offer a range of high-quality career programmes for local young people including London Living Wage-paid internships, support for freelancers, apprenticeships, careers advice and coaching.

The hub will be a beacon of best-practice for inclusive growth by encouraging and supporting employers to deliver fair and inclusive work practices in line with my Good Work Standard.

LLDC Board Appointment

On 8 January, the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) announced the appointment of Jamie Kerr to its Board. Jamie is a Chartered Surveyor with more than 30 years' experience in property development and finance. He previously held the role of MD Strategic Partnerships at LCR Property focusing on major projects such as the Waterloo Retail and International Quarter in Stratford which borders Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

East Careers Week

The LLDC has launched applications for teachers and pupils to sign up to East Careers Week. Delivered in collaboration with East Bank partners BBC, University College London, UAL's London College of Fashion, V&A and Sadler's Wells as well as other local partners, the East Education initiative will offer local Year 1-13 students an exciting online programme as part of National Careers Week. Running from 1-5 March, the sessions will engage young east Londoners with creative, digital and STEM careers and provide transferable employability skills needed for future jobs in any industry.

The programme will also link young people, schools and parents to the exciting institutions, universities and sectors that are coming to the Park, including at the ambitious culture and education district at East Bank.

Neighbourhood Priorities Fund

LLDC has awarded over £1,840,000 to 25 local community projects funding from the 2020 Neighbourhood Priorities Fund.

The Neighbourhood Priorities Fund was set up to administer the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), ensuring that local groups can benefit from the money that LLDC collects from developers building in the area.

Events

On 3 February it was announced that a Super League Triathlon (SLT) Arena Games Powered by Zwift event will be held behind closed doors at the London Aquatics Centre on 27 March. The event is a mix of swimming, as well as virtual racing on a treadmill.

It has also been announced that every match of the Vitality Netball Superleague 2021 season (April-June) will be broadcast across Sky Sports and England Netball platforms. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic, the season will be played behind closed doors across two venues - one of which is the Copper Box Arena. Games will also feature the venue's resident netball team London Pulse.

I'm pleased that although venues such as the London Aquatics Centre are closed to the public under current lockdown restrictions, they are able to host events such as these which support our events industry.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

North Kensington Gate, planning approval

On Thursday 14 January, OPDC's planning committee resolved to grant planning permission to City and Docklands for 208 new homes (35% affordable) and ground floor commercial floorspace. £1.4m in the Section 106 agreement will go towards local transport and infrastructure improvements, public realm improvements, and education and healthcare facilities.

Planning

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

Wembley High Road, 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.

Northwick Park Hospital, 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.

3 Turnberry Quay Site, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Ujima House, LB Brent

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

Former Dairy Crest Site, Hammersmith and Fulham

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

Morrison's Supermarket, 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.

Lilly's Farm, LB Bromley

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

72-76 Broadway, 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.

Land to the north of Central Middlesex Hospital, OPDC

I have written to the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Holiday Inn London West, OPDC

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

University Playing Fields Brunel University, LB Hillingdon

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

Site at Palmerston Court, LB Wandsworth

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

1,2,3 and 9 Watkin Road, 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.

St Augustines Priory School, 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.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- 70 Gracechurch Street, City of London
- Project Oriel, St Pancras Hospital, Camden
- 2-3 Finsbury Avenue, City of London
- 250 Kennington Lane and 2-10 Dolland Street, Lambeth
- 922-930 Purley Way, Croydon
- 29-39 Stirling Road and 2-10 Roslin Road, Ealing
- Prospects House, Bromley
- The Glamorgan, Croydon
- Access Self Storage, 248-250 York Road, Wandsworth
- Stanford House, Hillingdon
- 3 Millharbour and 6,7 and 8 South Quay, Tower Hamlets
- Brethren Meeting Hall Building, Lewisham
- Vaughan Road Car Park, Harrow
- 56-58 Stanley Gardens, Ealing
- Times Square Shopping Centre, Sutton
- Crown Honda, Hyde Estate Road, Barnet
- 19 Great Eastern Street and 9 Hewett Street, Hackney

- Bellerive House, 3 Muirfield Crescent, Tower Hamlets
- Leisure Centre, 36 Bromyard Avenue, Ealing
- Fels Farm, Barking and Dagenham
- 30 Marsh Wall, Tower Hamlets
- Heston Sports Ground, Crane Lodge Road, Hounslow
- Mapother House, Maudsley Hospital, Southwark
- Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital Grays Inn Road, Camden

Key Engagements

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

- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 11 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 11 January.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 11 January 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 12 January to discuss vaccine deployment.
- I had my regular meeting with representatives of the TUC LESE (TUC London East and South East) on 12 January.
- I met with Microsoft UK senior executives on 12 January to discuss how Microsoft can support London's COVID-19 recovery.
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Group meeting on 13 January.
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 13 January.
- I chaired the London Recovery Board Meeting on 14 January.
- I joined a conference call with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment, Department of Health and Social Care, on 14 January to discuss vaccine deployment.

- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 14 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 14 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I visited the new NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at the Olympic Office Centre in Wembley on 18 January to see the second large vaccination site to go live in London.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 18 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I had my regular meeting with Laura Citron, Chief Executive, London & Partners, on 19 January.
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 19 January.
- I chaired the London COVID Business Forum on 20 January.
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 21 January.
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 21 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 21 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 22 January.
- I visited the London Ambulance Service (LAS) HQ in Waterloo on 22 January to meet the emergency services to thank them for their hard work throughout the pandemic.
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 25 January.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 25 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 26 January.
- I attended the Draft Budget Assembly Plenary on 27 January.
- I joined the “Delivering Social Justice in the Recovery” panel session as part of the World Economic Forum virtual Davos Summit on 27 January.

- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 27 January.
- I hosted my regular meeting with representatives of the Black Majority Churches on 28 January.
- I hosted a roundtable on 28 January with leaders from 13 charities representing groups recognised as clinically vulnerable to COVID-19.
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 28 January to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I visited the Morris House Group Practice in Haringey on 29 January to see the work the GP surgery is doing to give out the COVID-19 vaccine.
- I met with Sarah Hope MBE on 1 February to discuss her ongoing work with TfL through the Sarah Hope Line.
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 1 February.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 1 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 1 February.
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 2 February.
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board Meeting on 2 February.
- I hosted a roundtable on 2 February with headteachers from three London Schools at which significant numbers of pupils are struggling to complete their schoolwork remotely during lockdown due to digital exclusion.
- 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 2 February to discuss vaccine deployment.
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 3 February.
- I met with London Councils Labour group on 3 February to discuss digital access.
- I visited the Kingsbury Temple, one of the new NHS vaccination centres in London and the first Hindu temple in Europe to be part of the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, on 4 February.

- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 4 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 4 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I visited a mobile testing unit at Ealing on 8 February.
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 8 February.
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP on 8 February with Regional Mayors to discuss devolution.
- I had an introductory meeting with Tony Danker, the new Director General of the CBI, on 9 February.
- I met with Sasho Veselinski, CEO and Co-Founder of G.network and David Sangster, COO and Co-Founder of G.network, on 9 February to discuss their £1bn investment across 13 London boroughs, which will create an additional 1250 new jobs.
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 10 February.
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 11 February to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London.
- I attended People's Question Time on 11 February.
- I hosted a roundtable with senior leaders from London's financial services sector on 11 February in partnership with TheCityUK and UK Finance

Ends