

44th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 17th September 2020

This is my forty-fourth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 3rd July – 3rd September 2020.

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

Executive Summary

COVID-19 Update

The continued commitment and selflessness of the vast majority of Londoners over the summer has helped to ensure that COVID-19 cases in London remain low, and we have not experienced spikes or clusters of the type seen elsewhere in the country.

Getting to where we are now has been a challenge, involving partnership working on a scale not seen anywhere in recent years, and we are all grateful to the health and social care workers, emergency responders and other key workers who have helped protect us all and keep the city running in the most difficult of circumstances.

While many of us have taken tentative steps towards some kind of new normal over the summer, some parts of our economy are still suffering greatly, and central London has not returned to the bustling place we all know well.

I am in ongoing discussions with the Government about the support needed to help businesses and arts and culture institutions through what remains one of the most challenging times in London's history.

And while Transport for London (TfL) services are – with the appropriate social distancing in place – now supporting Londoners to get to work, school and around the city when they need to, London's future success depends on the Government stepping up to provide a long-term funding solution for the services many of us rely on.

Although cases are now relatively low, we must remain vigilant. The virus has not left us, and with schools now returning and social interactions increasing, the possibility of a deadly second wave remains ever present.

It is vital that we are prepared to act, should cases increase in London at any point in the coming months. My officers are working with public health officials, central Government and others to ensure that a robust, London-wide outbreak control plan is in place. Everyone involved must know what their roles and responsibilities are in the event of an increase in cases, to avoid the kind of confusion over the Government's actions we've seen in other parts of the country.

Here in London, we've all worked to protect each other during the pandemic. Joint working and the commitment of Londoners themselves have been vital throughout, and will remain so over the coming months.

I continue to work with the Government, London Boroughs and other partners in London as part of both the Transition Board and the Recovery Board to help oversee London's short, medium and long-term response to COVID-19.

Action from owners of unsafe buildings

On 2 September, I wrote to more than 40 London landlords to demand that they put the safety of their residents first and begin work to remove dangerous aluminium composite materials (ACM) cladding.

I have always made it clear that the safety of residents is the absolute priority. It is vital that residents are provided with real certainty, clear progress and a firm date for the completion. We are working closely with London boroughs, London Fire Brigade and the Government on potential enforcement where building owners fail to progress at pace.

Notting Hill Carnival 29 – 31 August

For over 50 years, the August bank holiday has seen Notting Hill's streets awash with colour as people from a range of diverse communities come together to celebrate Notting Hill Carnival. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year the organisers took the decision to cancel the event as the world knew it, instead putting on a fantastic programme of digital events that everyone could enjoy safely from their homes and gardens. Carnival has such a deep and meaningful significance, and this allowed people to mark it and celebrate, but in a COVID safe way.

The online programme meant that Carnivalists could still produce and present their art forms, with initial stats showing that they received 4 million unique views to the Parade channel and 2 million unique views to the Sound System channel across the weekend.

During the planning in this extraordinary year, my team again worked closely with the organisers on their contingency plans, including supporting a community stewarding programme to work in consultation with the Metropolitan Police Service. These community stewards acted as the first liaison point for people travelling to the traditional Carnival route, who had not realised the event was cancelled.

UNESCO Day for Remembering the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition 2020

On Sunday 23 August, I was honoured to partner with Sankofa Day to host a digital event to mark the 22nd year of UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The commemoration event, co-curated with Slavery Remembrance, Black Cultural Archives, The Equiano Society, Ligali and Wanda Nation, encouraged reflection on how the Transatlantic Slave Trade continues to have a profound impact on the lived realities of so many both here in London and across the globe.

With an overarching theme "Reclaiming the past", the event featured reflections from author and historian, S.I.Martin, Professor of History of Slavery, Bristol University, Professor Olivette Otele, and musical performances by saxophonist Xhosa Cole and Chineke!.

The slave trade was a brutal, barbaric enterprise and we cannot ignore the reality that London and the UK owes a significant portion of their wealth to this evil practice. Recent global events have shone a light on the racism, inequalities and injustices that remain pervasive in our society and highlighted the need for us all to be doing much more to root out hatred and discrimination whenever and wherever we see it.

Being aware of and understanding our history is fundamental to enabling change and we all need to work together if we are to build a fairer, more just society and a future fit for all our children, regardless of the colour of their skin.

Calling for financial support for self-isolating workers

On 20 August, I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health and Social care to call on the Government to act now to put in place comprehensive financial support for workers who are required to self-isolate. This followed my meeting with Baroness Harding where I explained that I am concerned that the current system of Statutory Sick Pay does not provide adequate support to those who must self-isolate, putting them and their communities at risk.

Approval of major new film studios in Dagenham

On 14 August, I visited the site of what will be the capital's largest film studios in Dagenham East, boosting the borough and London's growing film and TV industries as part of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor. These new studios will cement our position as a global capital for film and television, create 1,200 jobs and show the world that London is open to creativity – and always will be.

New ambulance training centre opened in Barking

On 14 August, I unveiled a new hi-tech training centre which will help enable London Ambulance Service to train more emergency call handlers and boost its vital service to Londoners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new training centre in Barking will help London Ambulance Service build greater capacity to take potentially life-saving calls as well as enhancing the NHS 111 service for east London. By the end of the year, 155 emergency call handlers will have trained at the new interactive 999 training centre and be ready to take emergency calls from the public. An additional 150 ambulances have also been added to the capital's streets to help the service deal with the expected rise in demand in the months ahead.

Supporting central London - visit to West End and letter to Prime Minister

On 12 August, I wrote to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, to say that businesses in central London are facing a 'perfect storm' as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with home working, the shut down in tourism, and a lack of public confidence that the virus is under control meaning that footfall in the West End stands at just 27 per cent of the same period last year. I called for targeted financial and fiscal support from Government which must include confirming an extension to the business rates holiday, due to end in March, and creating a direct financial aid scheme for hospitality, retail, leisure and cultural businesses in the central London zone.

Key Worker Housing

On 4 August, I launched a public consultation on intermediate housing. The consultation explores how the GLA can best ensure that intermediate housing is working effectively for Londoners and meeting my policy objectives. It covers four key areas which are: affordability and delivery; eligibility, allocation and prioritisation; supporting London's key workers; and improving data on intermediate housing.

Alongside the consultation, a new Housing Research Note has been published which sets out new evidence and analysis on intermediate housing in London. The consultation will run until 11 October, and a page on the GLA's online community, Talk London, has also been launched to encourage Londoners to respond.

London Resilience Fund

On 31 July, I announced the £1 million London Resilience Fund. This will bring together innovators, small businesses, and civil society organisations to deliver projects that will help London's economy emerge from the current crisis, fare better during future stresses and shocks, and adapt, diversify and deliver their products or services in new ways. It will create intellectual property, which is open source, and uses open data to maximise innovation. This will spur on wider development and progress beyond the timelines of the programme. It will fund over 30 projects with grants of between £30,000 and £50,000.

Back to Business Fund

On 30 July, I announced the £1 million [Back to Business Fund](#), offering up to £5,000 in match funding to small businesses crowdfunding through the successful Pay It Forward London scheme. Through the Fund, businesses will get financial help to expand their operation online and to adapt to safe, socially distant trading. This could be used for such things as new Perspex screens, contactless payment technologies or new equipment. Since launching, there have been over 360 expressions of interest, over 100 projects added to the platform and 20 projects 'go live'.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

On 29 July, I called for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to put greater focus on whether race and discrimination were factors in the tragedy. I believe it's crucial that we explore the issue of social housing in this country and I urge the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to give this greater attention when it reconvenes again on 7 September.

This Inquiry provides an opportunity to bring about meaningful change to how residents are treated, and to ensure they can feel safe in their homes. The Prime Minister and his Government need to turn warm words into proper action - the lack of progress and communication is simply unacceptable.

New Partners Board to be created to support

For too long our public spaces have neglected the achievements of many in our city. The range of people immortalised in our statues, memorials and buildings have left a restricted view of the past that fails to show our capital's great diversity. It's time for this to change. We must work together to tell the full story of our history.

On 28 July, I announced that a new Partners Board is being created to support the work of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. A range of organisations, including statutory bodies and policy makers, are being invited to share their expertise with the Commission, which is being set up to review and improve diversity across London's public realm.

Launched the Cycle Skills course

I am determined to do all I can to ensure a green recovery for our city by building on Londoners' record-breaking demand for cycling over the past few months. I am proud that we are rapidly rolling out more space for walking and cycling and upgrading cycle routes to make them safer.

But we also need to equip people with the confidence and skills they need to cycle in our city, so on 23 July, I was delighted to launch the first online cycle training course, Cycle Skills, for Londoners.

Woodland Creation Projects

On 23 July, I confirmed plans to create two new woodlands as part of my work to protect and improve the Green Belt and will improve Londoners' access to nature. The two new woodlands spanning over 84 hectares will be created in Havering and Enfield with close to 140,000 trees planted in the newly acquired areas, which were previously inaccessible to the public. The woodlands will be located in London's Green Belt, the majority of which is not public open space despite making up 22 per cent of the capital's land area. Tree-planting will start later this year subject to COVID-19.

£13 million fund launched to help transform Royal Docks

On 22 July, I launched in partnership with the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz, a new £13 million Royal Docks Good Growth Fund to drive the transformation of London's Royal Docks. The Royal Docks Good Growth Fund is tailored to the specific needs of the area and has the potential to deliver 35,000 jobs, 4,000 new homes and more than £5 billion of inward investment by 2037/38.

City Hall secure £67 million for long-term homes for rough sleepers

The extraordinary effort to house London's rough sleepers during the COVID-19 pandemic saved hundreds of lives and allowed many homeless people to access health and welfare services for the first time.

On 18 July, I was pleased to announce that we secured a £67 million grant from the Government to provide long-term accommodation for those currently living in hotels, hostels or other supported housing.

Investment in positive opportunities for young people

The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on children and young people in London has been profound. It has affected young people's mental health, education and pushed some further into poverty, when we already know there is a clear link between deprivation and serious youth violence.

That is why, on 17 July, I announced a £2.1 million investment which is part of the measures I am taking to tackle serious youth violence as lockdown restrictions are eased. This funding will support youth work projects over the summer and autumn that are dedicated to improving the wellbeing and opportunities of young people aged up to 25 across London, including some of the most vulnerable young people and their families.

Emergency support fund awards £1.5 million to London studios

On 9 July, I announced that £1.5 million of emergency funding has been awarded to artist studios across the capital struggling from the impact of COVID-19.

The fund for creative workspaces, which includes an investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies, has benefitted 82 artist studios across 18 London boroughs, supporting more than 11,500 creatives. Delivered by the Creative Land Trust, it is designed to help studios who are suffering the most from the near shut-down of the culture and creative industries.

7/7 Anniversary

On 7 July 2020 I attended the 7/7 memorial in Hyde Park along with Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick, and representatives from the emergency services and London wide organisations to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the horrific terror attacks on our city on 7 July 2005. This was conducted in line with social distancing guidelines. There, I was privileged to lay a wreath at 8.50 am, the time of the first bomb, to honour the 52 people who lost their lives and more than 700 who were injured fifteen years ago.

My team also provided support for the 7/7 community group in the creation of their annual commemoration service, which was held as a virtual event this year rather than in Hyde Park due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The way that our city responded and stood united in the aftermath of the attack showed the world that our values of decency, tolerance and mutual respect will always overcome the hate of the terrorists. To those who wish to divide us and spread hatred, we send a clear message that they will never succeed.

London Is Open

Following the easing of lockdown measures in early July, I relaunched my London is Open campaign to help support London's economy reopen safely; encouraging Londoners to visit their local shops, restaurants and venues whilst following public health guidance. The campaign continues to promote all the incredible activities and venues that make our city so great and urges Londoners to stick to the rules, act responsibly and stay safe when out and about.

The campaign has profiled businesses and venues and partnered with famous and local London locations, such as Borough Market, London Zoo and independent cinemas and coffee shops to showcase their reopening. To ensure we are reaching as many Londoners as possible we have worked with partners to share the #LondonIsOpen and health messaging far and wide. This includes working with cultural organisations like Historic Royal Palaces, Tower of London, and

the Science Museum; outlets like Loose Women and Joe.co.uk; and with well-known voices such as Gordon Ramsay, Chris Evans, and Rick Astley, who produced their own London is Open video content.

Since re-launch in July, the London is Open hashtag has been used over 5,400 times. In conjunction with the #BecauseImALondoner campaign, #LondonIsOpen continues to inspire Londoners to return to high streets safely, showing Londoners how they can go out and support London's brilliant local businesses and cultural attractions to help to kick-start our economic recovery in a COVID-safe way.

Policing, Crime and Security

£2.1 million invested in summer activities for young people

On 17 July, at a visit to a sports project for young people at Mossbourne Riverside Academy in Hackney, I announced that I am investing £2.1 million to provide positive opportunities and a package of focused support for vulnerable young Londoners who have been most impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown.

This investment is part of the measures I am taking to tackle serious youth violence in London as the government eases lockdown restrictions. This funding will support youth work projects over the summer and autumn that are dedicated to improving the wellbeing and opportunities of young people, including some of the most vulnerable young people and their families.

The majority of this £2.1 million investment is from my Young Londoner's Fund which is already supporting more than 300 education, sport and cultural activity projects to help tackle knife crime and provide positive opportunities for young people across the capital. The Violence Reduction Unit, which is leading the public-health approach to tackling the causes of crime in the capital, has also contributed to the fund and its investment will support key frontline youth services working to tackle violence in the city.

On 17 August, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, visited 'The Power of One' project, run by the Crystal Palace Foundation in Bromley, to see how it is benefitting from the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund. This summer the organisation has been providing hockey and dance sessions for young people. 'The Power of One' delivers physical activities and youth worker support for young people across local parks, open spaces, and a local hub.

The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on children and young people in London has been profound. It has affected young people's mental health, education and pushed some further into poverty, when we already know there is a clear link between deprivation and serious youth violence.

Youth services have been on the frontline of a decade of damaging government cuts, with figures showing that there has been a 46 per cent reduction in national funding for youth services in the capital since 2011. Following lockdown, a UK Youth report highlighted that 72 per cent of youth services say they need access to emergency funds.

Now more than ever we need the government to invest more in youth services rather than pursue another deeply damaging period of austerity, which would devastate the youth sector and the vital lifeline it provides to vulnerable young people.

Young people contribute to Action Plan for policing

Earlier this summer, I commissioned my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, to work with the police and our communities to draw up an action plan for improving trust and confidence, transparency and accountability.

On 14 July, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) facilitated a workshop attended by almost 30 young people from across London as part of our efforts to ensure that the experiences and ideas of young people, who have a chronic distrust of the police, are fed into the final Action Plan.

It is important that young people feel that they have a stake in their own futures. Therefore, I am delighted that the VRU has now also selected ten impressive young people from across London with lived experience of violence or campaigning on youth issues to form a new Young People's Action Group. Through this group they will directly influence the VRU's work and ensure that decisions are made with the input of London's young people.

Home Secretary's response to youth services letter to the Prime Minister

On 12 May, I wrote to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, to highlight the impact that COVID-19 has already had, and would continue to have, on the capital's youth services and practitioners. Supporting young people by investing in the services they rely on is a significant part of our public health approach to reducing violence in London. The letter called on the government to consider and implement additional measures to protect and galvanise youth services. It also called for government to invest in a comprehensive range of diversionary activity targeted at young people.

On 28 July, I received a response from the Home Secretary, Priti Patel MP, who agreed that public safety is a top mutual concern and recognised that a whole-system approach to reducing serious violence – like that adopted by the London VRU – was the right way forward.

In her response, the Home Secretary made a commitment to distribute £7.8 million of emergency support for charities specifically helping vulnerable children who have been impacted or are at risk of violence - £587,000 of that funding was allocated to London, and the VRU mobilised and worked diligently (and to very tight timeframes) to run a competitive process for the distribution of these funds along guidelines set by the Home Office.

Subsequently, 57 organisations were selected to receive vital funds that will secure their immediate futures and enable them to continue the great work they do to support London's most vulnerable young people over the summer and autumn months. This a welcome start, but more long-term investment in youth services is needed from the government after a decade of deep and painful cuts.

Youth Violence Commission Final Report

In recognition of the fact that tackling violence affecting young people was the responsibility of all of society, a cross-party Youth Violence Commission was established in 2017 and I have been following their work since the start. In July 2018, the Commission produced an interim report in which it called for the adoption of a public health approach to violence reduction, overseen and coordinated by regional VRUs.

Following the interim report, I endorsed this approach along with the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP. The London VRU was established later that year, the first of its kind in England and Wales. The Commission published its final report in July 2020. Amongst many compelling recommendations, it calls for long-term funding for VRUs to enable them to pursue long-term violence reduction plans. This is a recommendation that I fully endorse.

My Ends programme to connect communities in fight against violence

£3.3 million in funds has been allocated to locally-led projects designed to reduce violence in neighbourhood most impacted by violence. These funds will be distributed over three years through the My Ends programme. Over the past year the Violence Reduction Unit has consulted with and listened to communities about what they view our key challenges to be across London, and what needs to be done. It is clear that a place-based approach to violence reduction that involves local communities is a powerful formula that can empower neighbourhoods to find local solutions to localised problems. The programme ultimately aims to build and strengthen local networks and grassroots organisations, and recognises that those closest to the issues should have a central role in owning and leading the collective response.

Ongoing support for victims and survivors of VAWG

We know that the COVID-19 crisis has created a set of unique and urgent pressures on existing specialist services and pathways for victims and survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), many of which are already strained. In order to sustain these life-saving services, I approved the ringfencing of up to £1.5 million to respond effectively to the emerging needs of victims and survivors of domestic abuse in London as the COVID-19 crisis developed. This has included working with providers, local authorities and the police to ensure appropriate emergency overspill accommodation and support options are available to safeguard victims and survivors in London.

There have been 295 referrals to the programme from all boroughs across the capital so far, with consistently high demand for single people and those with No Recourse to Public Funds. Successful placements for BAME individuals are nearly 30 per cent higher than the London average and the work continues to help some of London's most vulnerable including male victims and those from LGBTQI+ communities.

Transport

Ensuring the network is cleaner than ever and keeps Londoners safe

On 10 July, the new Transport for London (TfL) Commissioner, Andy Byford, joined my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander, to observe deep cleaning work taking place at Southwark station ahead of its reopening on Monday 13 July. Together, they saw some of the huge range of cleaning and hygiene measures that have been introduced across the transport network. ITV London and BBC London were invited to film the cleaning taking place as well as interview Andy Byford about the additional measures.

In addition to these measures, a trial has started that uses UV light to clean the handrails on escalators on the Tube network. The device, which could help supplement TfL's extensive anti-viral cleaning regime, is connected to the escalator handrail and uses its motion to power a UV bulb that breaks down surface contamination to sanitise the handrail. TfL is assessing the benefits of the technology, which could be installed more widely in the future

TfL urging children to walk, cycle and scoot to school to help children safely return to the classroom

As millions of Londoners return to education in September, TfL is introducing new measures making it easier for children, young people and teachers to travel safely on public transport.

The plans build on the extensive cleaning regime deployed at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, which includes hospital-grade long-lasting disinfectant, and include an additional 200 buses on key routes and traffic reduction near 415 schools to make active journeys to school safer and easier, helping to accommodate the journeys of the growing number of people returning to their workplaces across London as national pandemic restrictions are gradually eased.

TfL is asking schools and parents to encourage walking, cycling or scooting to travel to school wherever possible, with TfL's world-leading Streetspace programme making this easier and safer than ever before. An extensive communications campaign has been launched to encourage people to do so.

More than £3 million has been invested to date in 415 School Street schemes, across 26 boroughs, making active journeys to school safer and easier by limiting car access to school gates at drop off and pick-up times.

Some 22 School Street schemes have been delivered through the Streetspace programme so far, with many more due for completion in the coming weeks.

It is vital that the schemes being delivered as part of the Streetspace plan are accessible to all. To ensure this, those that need access, including local businesses and blue badge holders, can apply for exemptions that grant them access to School Streets during their hours of operation.

More walking, cycling and scooting to school will reduce the pressure on buses and the road network, but additional measures are also needed, and TfL is introducing a range of important changes to meet and manage demand TfL has designated some existing regular buses as School

Services on high frequency routes, which are prioritised for school travel and can operate at full seated capacity consistent with Government guidelines, in addition an extra 230 buses designated as School Services will be laid on to bolster some of the busiest lower frequency routes that are highly used by schoolchildren, including adding more vehicles to its existing school bus services.

All London buses now taking payments as capacity limits are safely increased

Since 13 July, all London buses are taking payments following the installation across the fleet of enhanced safety measures to protect drivers and customers from coronavirus.

Customers are required to touch in on all buses, entering through the front doors (on most buses) in a near complete return to traditional front-door boarding arrangements.

The reintroduction of revenue collection and front-door boarding began in late May. The decision came after analysis from research commissioner from University College London's (UCL) Centre for Transport Studies and Department of Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering found the protective measures TfL had introduced, including sealing off gaps in the driver's assault screen, significantly reduce the risk to drivers of contracting coronavirus from customers.

24/7 bus lanes proposed for London's busiest roads to support a sustainable recovery from the pandemic

On 21 July, TfL announced plans to extend the hours of bus lanes on its roads in London to reflect a customer shift away from peak hours, helping ensure London's sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

Extending bus lane operating hours will help guard against a damaging car-led recovery by improving bus journey times and safety for Londoners making journeys by public transport and the increasing proportion travelling by bike.

The trial is expected to start later this summer and will make bus journeys quicker throughout the day as 24-hour bus lanes will reduce the impact of any congestion on buses. They will also be more consistent, with journeys taking a similar amount of time, irrespective of the time of day. This will make it easier for Londoners to follow the Government's advice to travel outside peak times where possible. Customers will be able to more accurately plan their journeys, and greater service reliability will also prevent large queues forming at bus stops, making social distancing easier.

Existing access for bikes, taxis and motorcycles will be retained, while designated disabled parking bays, Blue Badge parking facilities and most loading bays will also be retained during the trial.

Independent review of TfL's long-term future funding and financing options

On 22 July, as Chair of the TfL Board, I announced that an independent panel of experts has begun a review of TfL's long-term future funding and financing options.

The review will be carried out by a panel with significant experience of public policy, Government reviews and reform of public bodies. It will develop options for TfL's long-term future funding and financing models that would enable TfL to deliver the right services for London, invest in new and existing infrastructure and continue to contribute to London's development and sustainability.

Their work will be carried out in parallel with the previously announced Government review of TfL's finances, and is expected to conclude in September. No limits have been set on the breadth of the review, and the panel is completely independent from both TfL and the Greater London Authority (GLA). The panel will not be paid a fee.

As part of the funding agreement reached with Government, we have agreed to a broad ranging review of TfL's future financial position and future financial structure being undertaken. This Government-led review, assisted by KPMG, will validate the financial numbers that underpin the current grant, identify short and medium-term efficiencies that could be introduced, and look to inform the terms of further short-term grant funding for the second half of 2020/21 and the subsequent financial year.

While the Government-led review is also likely to consider funding over a longer time frame, TfL requires long-term sustained funding to ensure it can deliver the major infrastructure projects needed to not just keep the city moving, but to support London's economic growth, particularly as it recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

TfL publishes draft revised budget for 2020/21 designed to keep London moving and support UK's economic recovery

On 24 July, TfL published its draft revised budget for 2020/21, outlining how the organisation will continue to support London's recovery from the pandemic, benefiting the UK economy as a whole. Should sufficient Government funding be forthcoming for the second half of the current financial year, these revised plans will enable TfL to maintain its statutory obligation to balance its budget, keep its assets safe and operable, and progress an investment programme focused on safety, active travel and completing projects that aid social distancing or support significant economic growth.

The budget includes upgrades to the Tube network such as finishing the Northern Line Extension, completing the Bank station upgrade and introducing new trains on the Piccadilly line. It also includes continued investment in the far-reaching programme to enable more walking and cycling. TfL also intends to build on recent huge improvements in air quality by expanding the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to inner London in October next year.

The Emergency Budget, published in May 2020, set out the need for up to £1.9 billion for the first half of 2020/21 and £3.2 billion for the full financial year, based upon early estimates from April 2020 of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on TfL's revenues. This Revised Budget anticipates TfL needing up to £3.5 billion for the full year, based upon current assumptions of the revenue shortfall due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

This is up to £300 million more than TfL previously outlined for the full year in its Emergency Budget. Due to elements of the revenue impact and capital investment moving to later in the year to preserve cash, TfL will need up to £2 billion funding for the second half of the year. While latest modelling shows that ridership on public transport is likely to remain significantly

down for the foreseeable future, there remains a large degree of uncertainty around future social distancing assumptions and the threat of a further pandemic-related suppression of demand. This could mean that TfL may see passenger income vary within a range of approximately +£500 million to -£235 million.

In order to stabilise TfL's financial position, it is anticipated that a further £2.9 billion will be required during 2021/22 which will enable the transport network to operate effectively and support the UK's wider recovery. TfL's budget assumes that there will be no new borrowing during 2021/22 as this would require further funding support to make the necessary repayments.

TfL responds to UCL's Institute of Health Equity review on bus driver deaths during the pandemic

On 27 July, TfL published its response to an independent review by UCL's Institute of Health Equity into the tragic deaths of bus drivers during the pandemic.

TfL had asked academics at the Institute of Health Equity to explore the pattern of infection with, and deaths from, COVID-19 in the London bus worker population to inform recommendations on any additional occupational health measures that should be put in place to protect them.

The report's findings include:

- Many of the London bus drivers who died from coronavirus were suffering with underlying health conditions particularly high blood pressure.
- Among the bus drivers who died, most stopped work in the 10 days either side of lockdown on 23 March, suggesting most of them became infected before lockdown. The report finds that after lockdown, death rates came down among drivers reinforcing evidence that lockdown was an effective measure in saving lives.
- A high proportion of drivers who died had a number of personal characteristics which enhanced their risk to coronavirus, such as their ethnicity, and living in areas with above average levels of deprivation in London boroughs with the highest coronavirus death rates in April.

The recommendation in this report provides a roadmap for action to further protect bus drivers. It is clear from this piece of work and others that there are certain characteristics that make people more vulnerable to coronavirus. TfL will work with our bus operators to ensure that they consistently carry out risk assessments and appropriate support is given to those that need it.

There are those with underlying health conditions, such as hypertension and cardiovascular disease, are at higher risk. In response TfL will extend wellbeing initiatives, such as the Health Bus, to reach more drivers. And we will work with the bus operators to prepare a response plan to help us make immediate, consistent interventions in the event of further.

TfL celebrates 10 years of cycle hire with a record-breaking summer for Santander Cycles

On 30 July, TfL celebrated a successful decade of cycle hire in the capital, ten years on from the launch of its flagship cycling scheme. On 30 July 2010, TfL introduced cycle hire to Londoners with 350 docking stations across eight London boroughs. These numbers have more than doubled: Londoners now have access to 781 docking stations and more than 12,000 bikes, with an additional 1,700 new bikes currently being added to the fleet.

Cycling in London has more than doubled since 2000. TfL's cycle hire scheme has been at the forefront of this cycling boom over the last decade, contributing to the largest increase in cycling in London since records began. Today, the red livery of Santander Cycles is a familiar sight on London's streets as cycling continues to skyrocket in popularity.

This year Santander Cycles has played an even more critical role by keeping London moving during the coronavirus pandemic. TfL data shows that cycling has increased significantly during the lockdown period and beyond, as Londoners turn to Santander Cycles for commuting and leisure.

More than 85,000 new members have signed up to the scheme since March – a 200 per cent increase on the same period last year - contributing to more than 2.3 million hires throughout May and June.

Previously, the scheme had never surpassed more than 50,000 hires on a normal workday, a record that has now been broken 13 times over the last seven weeks. Santander Cycles saw its busiest ever week with 363,000 hires between 25 - 31 May.

Throughout the pandemic, Santander Cycles has supported key workers by offering free access codes for NHS staff. The NHS code has now been redeemed more than 50,000 times since it was made available in March, with the most popular location for code redemption close to St Thomas's Hospital. The anniversary comes as TfL celebrated five years of Santander sponsorship. Throughout 2020, TfL and Santander are awarding a free annual membership to a dedicated cycle hire user each month, naming a bike in their honour.

Fire and Resilience

COVID-19 Assembly Members 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.

City Hall Council Leaders Update

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend regular virtual meetings chaired by my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, for London Councils Leaders, to update them on London's response to COVID-19.

Croydon Fire site visit

On 3 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited the site of a large fire on Croydon High Street with Sarah Jones MP.

Meeting with Major General C J Ghika CBE

On 6 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Major General Christopher John Ghika CBE to discuss the part the British military are playing in London's response to COVID-19.

UNISON meeting

On 7 July, 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.

Strategic Coordination Group

On 8 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting of London's Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19. This was the final meeting of the SCG, which was succeeded by the London Transition Management Group.

Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 9 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual Brexit Contingency Planning Group meeting.

London Fire Commissioner meetings

On 9 and 23 July, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

London Outbreak Management Exercise

On 9 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual London outbreak management scenario exercise.

GMB Union meeting

On 10 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from the GMB Union to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade.

Informal Meeting with the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 13 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, attended a virtual meeting with members of London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to informally brief them on the response to COVID-19.

Prospect meeting

On 14 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from Prospect to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade.

London Transition Management Group

From 15 July, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended weekly virtual meetings of the London Transition Management Group. The group oversees the London-wide operational management of the transition out of the emergency response phase of the pandemic.

Fire Officers Association (FOA)

On 15 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from Fire Officers Association (FOA) to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade.

London Regional Fire Brigades Union

On 22 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from the London Regional Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade.

Visit to Breakspear Temporary Mortuary Facility

On 3 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, along with Assembly Member's Susan Hall and Caroline Russell, visited Breakspear temporary mortuary facility.

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

On 4 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Matt Parr CB, to discuss the progress in implementing the recommendations of HMICFRS's report on the London Fire Brigade.

Escalation process workshop

On 11 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual escalation process workshop to understand the governments process in dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak in London.

Workshop: Wave 2 planning in London

On 20 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a workshop with civil servants and senior representatives of local Government and London's response agencies to discuss the risks associated with any potential second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in London.

London Transition Board

On 22 July, 12 August and 2 September, I co-chaired, the London Transition Board with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Board oversees London's strategic transition out of the emergency response phase of the pandemic, bringing together senior representatives from national, regional and local government, business, health, communities, arts and culture and education.

Building Safety Action Summit

On 3 September, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and Deputy Mayor for Housing, Tom Copley, attended a virtual Building Safety Action Summit chaired by Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government, which focused on ACM remediation in London.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Skills for Londoners Board and Business Partnership Recovery Workshop

On 13 July, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, and the Deputy Chair of London Councils, Georgia Gould, hosted an online recovery workshop with members of my Skills for Londoners Board and the Skills for Londoners Business Partnership.

The workshop brought together London's businesses, skills and employment providers, trade unions, community organisations and other stakeholders to identify key skills and employment priorities for London's recovery and inform the work of London's Recovery Board.

Participants identified a range of actions for City Hall, London boroughs and stakeholders to lead London's response, support good work and improve skills, support businesses through the pandemic, and ensure Londoners and communities who face significant disadvantages have the support they need.

Mayor & utilities join forces to accelerate infrastructure investment for economic recovery

On 29 July, through the London Recovery Board, I announced a package of infrastructure works worth up to £1.5 billion to help kickstart London's economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The companies including Cadent, Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), Southern Gas Networks (SGN), UK Power Networks and Thames Water, all of which are part of the Mayor's London Infrastructure Group, where they work with me to jointly tackle issues in the infrastructure sector and agree a common vision for long term infrastructure planning.

Throughout the crisis the utilities sector has been able to sustain their workforce, with none of the five companies needing to furlough their directly employed staff. Utilities play a vital role in the capital's success and this increased collaboration shows their commitment to accelerate work approved in their investment plans to fast-track jobs and projects into the London economy.

City Hall working together with London Councils can help to establish this accelerated programme, by working with boroughs to enable projects such as gas upgrades, fixing water leakages, improving the resilience of the water supply network and ensuring the electricity infrastructure is set up for future electric vehicle charging.

The collaboration will progress projects to support the green recovery and jobs, helping to counteract COVID-19's damaging impact on the economy. We are also working to align this work with our skills programmes and in identifying employment opportunities, especially for young people and Londoners from BAME backgrounds who have been disproportionately affected by the current crisis.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Support Fund

At the end of July, I launched the COVID-19 Emergency Response Support Fund (ERSF), a £6 million pot to support skills providers in meeting the capital costs associated with creating 'COVID-19 secure' physical learning environments, to enable the reopening of London's education and skills establishments.

The application window closed on 12 August and 94 applications were received requesting over £10 million, spanning a wide range of delivery partners, including general Further Education colleges, private skills providers, charities, local authorities and Institutes of Adult Education. Applications were received from all 32 boroughs and the City of London. The appraisal process is currently under way and the outcomes will be announced in October 2020.

Good Growth by Design Recovery Roundtables

A series of Good Growth by Design (GGbD) Recovery Roundtables have been held throughout July and August, inviting my Design Advocates and other external experts, to discuss the most pertinent topics facing London's built environment in the wake of the global health crisis and its ensuing social and economic impacts.

Sessions have been held to discuss high streets and town centres, ecological urbanism, equality, diversity and inclusion in the built environment sector, the child-friendly city, public realm and housing design. Participants have considered the role of existing policy and guidance in this new context and contributed examples of best practice in recovery responses across London and other cities. The findings are feeding into my recovery response, in particular through the

Economic and Social Recovery Taskforces that report to my London Recovery Board. Post meeting summaries can be viewed on the [Good Growth by Design webpage](#).

New policy changes for the 2020/21 AEB academic year

On 1 August, a number of policy changes came into effect for London's Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the academic year 2020/21.

The first two changes, which I agreed late last year, support two of my key priorities for reform for the AEB: improving adult English and maths participation and achievement rates and supporting adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to access learning opportunities.

Underlining my commitment to tackle the persistent challenges of adult literacy and numeracy and addressing the woeful underfunding of adult English and maths teaching, I have increased funding for the delivery of English and maths qualifications at GCSE level and below (levels 1 and 2) for adults by 10 per cent. This represents a rise of up to £2.7 million and is the first funding uplift for English and maths qualifications since 2013.

As part of my commitment to create a more inclusive education and training system, I am also giving providers greater flexibility through the AEB to train their staff to better support adult learners with SEND. This change will help meet the challenges highlighted in the London Post-16 SEND Review, which found that 70 per cent of the projected demand for SEND-specific training over the next five years will be among adult learners.

Recognising the challenges posed by COVID-19, I have made two further changes to the AEB to give providers more flexibility to support London's recovery from this crisis, particularly in helping those most at risk of long-term unemployment. The first change will allow all grant providers to use up to 10 per cent of their existing grant allocation to deliver more tailored pre-employment and job-focused training. The second change, will enable providers to offer full funding for any level 3 qualification lasting for a year or less to unemployed Londoners and those on low wages—regardless of whether they already hold a level 3 qualification (a condition which would normally bar them from accessing full funding). This will help Londoners to retrain and reskill / upskill to access new employment opportunities.

Having prioritised stability in the first year of AEB delegation, these changes will both support London's recovery from this crisis and help deliver my skills and employment priorities for the capital.

Getting Building Fund announcement

On 4 August, the Government awarded London £22.1 million through its £900 million Getting Building Fund. Priorities for investment were drawn from proposals made to the Mayor from partners, including local authorities, all over London. This funding will target investments to regenerate town centres and high streets across London, develop world-class creative production infrastructure, and improve digital connectivity particularly in outer London. In combination these investments will deliver a much-needed boost to local economies, support the growth of the UK's world-leading screen industries sector and create over 1330 jobs.

Additional funding received for AEB for 2020/21 academic year

An additional £12.9 million of Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding for London has been made available as part of the Department for Education's COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package. I have approved the use of GLA held AEB funding to top this up to £14.9 million and make this available to grant-funded AEB providers for the 2020/21 academic year.

AEB procured providers will be supported through existing processes for growth against contracts. This additional funding can be used by these providers to deliver high value courses to learners aged 19 if they cannot find employment or work-based training. It can also be used to support London's Recovery Programme and Good Work priorities.

AEB Data Publication

Earlier this year, I decided in [MD2633](#) that the Greater London Authority (GLA) will publish data on London's Adult Education Budget (AEB) programme on a quarterly basis. This will help to ensure transparency, bridge information gaps to support a more strategic approach to skills provision, and support learners and employers to make more informed choices.

In June, I published the first AEB data release which covered the first six months of GLA-funded adult education activity. That publication included a wide range of data on participation, achievements and spend, broken down by learner characteristics and their area of study.

On 25 August, I published the second data release covering the first three quarters of the academic year. This data release offers even further detail, including full sets of data specific to London's sub-regions and boroughs.

The data released is available here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/gla-adult-education-budget>

AEB evaluations for 2019/20 academic year

An evaluation on the process for delegation of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) has been completed and published on the GLA's website. The report concludes that the process for delegation of the AEB was well managed. It recommends a review on the use of the GLA Act 1999 to transfer powers to London with emphasis on enabling full devolution of powers to the Mayor. The report suggests improvements are made to the ways of working with central government, and the systems used for procurement and contract management.

Housing

Rough Sleeping

On 18 July, I launched a bidding round for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme, having secured £67 million from the Government to create 900 longer-term homes for, and provide support to, rough sleepers. The 900 homes created by the fund will complement the 2,700 homes for homeless people already provided in London via the Mayor's Clearing House service.

On 27 July, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, wrote to the Government Minister with responsibility for rough sleeping, Luke Hall MP. The letter expresses concern at the delays in the Government making available the full allocation of the £105 million for local authorities it announced on 24 June for interim accommodation and support for the rough sleepers accommodated during the pandemic. It also sets out that the potential consequence of not doing so is that many rough sleepers could return to the streets.

Housing Delivery Taskforce

On 22 July, the Housing Delivery Taskforce, convened by my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, to inform the development of a cross-sector post COVID-19 recovery plan, published its final report. It sets out a comprehensive recovery plan which, if fully implemented, would build construction sector resilience, protect jobs, and support organisations that develop new homes to continue to address London's chronic levels of housing need.

My Deputy Mayor hosted a virtual discussion on 21 August, bringing together a wide range of senior stakeholders from across the housing sector to present the findings of the report and discuss how to implement the recovery plan.

Affordable Homes Programme negotiations

On 29 July, I wrote to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, requesting to start negotiations over London's share of the next Affordable Homes Programme, which is due to begin in April 2021. My top housing priority as Mayor is to build more genuinely affordable homes in London, particularly council homes and homes at social rent levels. The Affordable Homes Programme is a vital source of funding to enable me to meet this ambition and it is crucial that central Government recognises the degree of housing need in London.

The Secretary of State responded to my letter on 11 August and we are now in negotiations over the scale and objectives of funding. I have been clear that the new programme must enable the GLA to provide the homes at social rent that Londoners so desperately need. I expect to be able to update the Assembly with the outcome of these negotiations in my next report.

Virtual visit to Croydon rough sleepers hotel

On 30 July, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, virtually visited one of the hotels that I am jointly funding with MHCLG to house rough sleepers during COVID-19. My Deputy Mayor got to see inside the hotel – which specifically supports people who are at a higher risk from the virus – and to meet some of the hotel guests. My Deputy Mayor was also able to speak to hotel staff and those from the charity Look Ahead who are supporting hotel guests both within the hotel and with the aim of helping them find suitable longer-term accommodation, and to access services related to their health and employment.

I am very grateful to the amazing staff across the many hotels that have been supporting over 1700 rough sleepers in this emergency accommodation. My team are now focussing on working with our partners to provide an offer of support to everyone in the hotels with the aim of ensuring nobody has to return to the streets.

Private Rented Sector

On 10 July, I wrote to the Housing Secretary to warn of an impending tsunami of evictions if the Government did not do more to protect London's two million private renters. In my letter, I expressed my concern at the prospect of the eviction ban coming to an end on 23 August and the Government's failure to protect those who have run up rental debts during the pandemic from eviction proceedings and homelessness.

On 11 August, I published new research, conducted with You Gov, which reveals that one in four of London's private renters are struggling to pay their rent. The research estimates that one in 12 private renters – equivalent to around 180,000 adults across London – have fallen behind on some or all of their rent since the start of lockdown. A further one in six – equivalent to around 374,000 – fear that they are likely to fall behind soon. More than a third of private renters polled said that they thought the pandemic will have a 'large impact' on their personal finances.

On 21 August, the Government announced an extension of the ban on evictions for a further month and set out its intention to extend notice periods to six months.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Reaching out to businesses

As we start to plan London's recovery from the Coronavirus crisis, I have continued to engage with businesses across London to understand their challenges and views on our city's future.

On 15 July, I was interviewed by my Business Advisory Board member, Debbie Wosskow OBE, for AllBright about the work City Hall is doing to support female entrepreneurs and the impact the Coronavirus crisis is having on women in London.

On 16 July, I addressed business leaders at the CBI (Confederation of British Industry) annual reception and called on the Government to introduce further measures to aid the recovery in London and across the UK. I also welcomed the CBI's London Tech Guarantee and pledged to work with the CBI and wider stakeholders to ensure that all young Londoners have equal access to education, training, jobs and skills.

On 22 July, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, participated in a CBI webinar during which he discussed how London can build a greener, fairer and more sustainable economy, and what support there is for businesses as they look to reopen and prosper following the easing of lockdown restrictions.

On 21 August, my Deputy Mayor and I met with John Allan CBE, Chair of the COVID Recovery Commission, as well as Vice President of the CBI and Chairman of both Tesco and Barratt Developments. We discussed the work of the new commission and my recovery plans for London. The COVID Recovery Commission is a committee of business leaders, made up of CEOs of corporates such as Heathrow, Vodafone, British Land and AstraZeneca. My Deputy Mayor will also join the advisory group to the COVID Recovery Commission.

Promoting London at Home and Abroad

I am pleased to see that London and Partners' (L&P) virtual trade missions are proving as busy and productive as their physical counterparts - enabling companies to continue achieving their international growth ambitions.

On 10 July, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke with delegates at the Urban Virtual trade mission to China. This mission gave delegates the opportunity to meet with key corporates across China in the PropTech, Urban Design and Sustainability sectors.

On 18 August, my Deputy Mayor welcomed the delegates of L&Ps' latest virtual trade mission to Germany as part of the Mayor's International Business Programme. This mission included virtual visits to the leading financial, banking and fintech powerhouses in Germany - providing invaluable connections and learning for some of London's fastest growing fintech and cyber security firms.

Environment

Borough-wide retrofit - Aiming big to achieve London's climate goals'

On 3 July, my officers organised and presented an event as part of the London Climate Action Week on energy efficiency retrofit. The event set out my goals to tackle the climate emergency and raised awareness of my Retrofit Accelerator programmes. The slides and recording are available here: [Watch the recording stream - Download the slide deck](#)

Green Recovery

On 15 July, my officers coordinated a joint workshop with London Councils to engage a wide range of London stakeholders on the development of the green new deal recovery mission. There was strong support for the mission amongst the attendees. Work to refine the mission further is ongoing. My Deputy Mayor, Shirley Rodrigues, also joined the first UK100 resilient recovery taskforce, on my behalf, with mayors and leaders from across the country to call on the government to commit to a new deal for green skills and growth.

TfL Power Purchase Agreements

On 17 July, I announced plans for Transport for London to supply increasing amounts of its electricity demands for tube and rail with renewable energy through power purchase agreements (PPAs). A market test has been launched to identify the opportunities to supply up to 10 per cent of TfL's electricity demand by Spring 2022 directly from solar or wind generators.

The market testing and procurement will also explore the potential of meeting the GLA group's wider electricity demand and opportunities to meet London's wider public sector electricity demand, with renewables. This work to ensure cost-effective and renewable energy will help to support our efforts on a Green recovery from COVID-19 and accelerate action on the climate emergency.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals and London's green and fair recovery

The London Sustainable Development Commission published an Insights Paper on 31 July on how the UN Sustainable Development Goals can help London's green and fair recovery. It makes recommendations on how housing retrofits, access to urban green space and green finance, can help tackle inequalities, create jobs and improve the environment. The [insights paper is available here](#).

Heat pump retrofit in London

To support the decarbonisation of heat in London, I launched in August a report on heat pump retrofits in London. It includes detailed analysis of the potential to retrofit heat pumps across a range of existing buildings in London and recommends an action plan for scaling up energy efficiency and heat pump retrofit across the capital. The report will help guide local authorities, social housing providers and others considering a heat pump retrofit, highlighting the principles of good practice system design.

Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund – Southwark Heat Networks

To support my work of making London a zero-carbon city and to aid the green recovery from COVID-19, my Energy Efficiency Fund provided a £7 million loan to the London Borough of Southwark for a low carbon heat project. Water source heat pumps will replace three gas heat networks and provide low carbon heat to 2,175 homes. The project will reduce carbon emissions by a total of 1,774 tonnes per annum. Vital Energi Utilities Ltd have been appointed the works contractor and the Project will support 45 new jobs a number of which will be local apprentices.

Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund - Bus Charging Infrastructure

As part of my work to tackle air pollution, decarbonise London's transport and support the green recovery, the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund provided a £1 million loan to Zenobe Energy to install electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at a bus depot in Walworth operated by Abellio. The charging infrastructure will serve the single decker P5 and new C10 bus routes. Each bus is forecast to reduce carbon emissions by 37 tonnes and remove 31kg of NOx per year. Overall, the 34 buses on the P5 and C10 bus routes will save 1,247 tonnes of carbon per year.

#Enginesoff campaign launch

On 3 August, I supported the launch of a new London-wide campaign encouraging business to tackle engine idling. This new campaign is led by the Idling Action project funded through my Mayor's Air Quality Fund and is a behaviour change initiative made up of a partnership of 31 London local authorities. The #Enginesoff campaign asks firms to pledge that their fleet drivers and other employees will not leave their engines on when parked. Idling Action is also offering London drivers free training and providing a toolkit of resources to businesses, whose operations involve vehicle fleets, professional drivers, or employees who travel by car to work.

The Idling Action project also includes events in which teams of volunteers, local authority officers and project staff work to educate both motorists and pedestrians, as well as providing support for local authorities to ensure idling regulations are enforced across London. [Read more about Idling Action](#).

Major milestone for ULEZ expansion

On 6 August, I announced a major milestone in my plans to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the North and South Circular roads: the installation of new cameras to ensure the effectiveness of the expanded scheme. The central London ULEZ has seen the number of vehicles meeting the tough emission standards rise from 39 per cent in February 2017 to more than 80 per cent now complying. The area covered by the existing Congestion Charge (CC) and ULEZ has around 650 cameras but due to new technology and TfL's experience of the CC and central London ULEZ, the new zone will only need around 750 additional cameras despite being 18 times the size of the central London ULEZ. This milestone marks a significant step towards implementing the expanded ULEZ in October 2021 and contributing to the continued progress in reducing London's toxic air.

High air pollution alerts across London

Between 6 August and 12 August, London and much of the South East experienced high levels of air pollution. Air pollutants were reacting with the strong sunshine we experienced during this period which led to high levels of ozone pollution. To ensure that Londoners were kept informed about this high pollution episode, I used the air pollution alerts system I established when I came into office. The air quality alert system included daily press releases, contacting vulnerable groups, boroughs and GP surgeries, social media messaging and use of TfL signage to alert Londoners to the unusually high pollution levels caused by the extremely hot weather. This was the 19th time the air quality alert system has been used since I became Mayor: one time for 'Very High' and 18 for 'High'.

Five times greater reduction in NO2 in London than rest of the country

On 7 August, I published new data as part of London's response to the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee's (EFRA) call for evidence scrutinising the Government's air quality strategy. The new data shows that since I took office in 2016 the scale of reduction in toxic Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) has been five times greater in central London than the national reduction average. The Government's own data shows just how little progress has been made outside London in the same period, demonstrating that the significant improvements in London have been driven by local (as opposed to national) policy. The report also highlighted research that shows London can achieve the WHO PM2.5 targets by 2030, despite Government still refusing to include these as legally binding targets for the entire country in the Environment Bill. I am calling on Ministers to follow London's lead and immediately amend the Environment Bill to give UK cities more powers and funding.

Data is available to view here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/5x-greater-reduction-in-toxic-no2-in-london>

Climate Change Adaptation

On 12 August, I launched guidance and projects to help London better adapt to a changing climate. The work focused on the elderly and young children who are less able to adapt quickly and control their environments, as well as Londoners who need a respite from the extreme heat.

The programme includes my care home overheating pilot which includes recommendations for simple measures that care homes can take to protect elderly residents and a checklist for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to include the risk of overheating due to the impact of climate change in their inspection assessment of care homes.

I also launched my Guidance for Schools and Early Years Settings, advising on how they can prepare for, respond to and recover from the three main risks that London faces because of climate change- extreme heat, flooding and water scarcity. And, finally, I launched my pilot, phase 1 cool spaces initiative. This will provide information on the locations of where Londoners can access, during the day, outdoor, open, green shaded space as a respite from the heat. The public spaces will follow current guidance on COVID-19 social distancing advice. The [publications can be found here](#) and the [Cool Spaces map is available here](#).

Grow Back Greener Fund open for applications

On 19 August, I launched my Grow Back Greener Fund. The fund offers grants between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects to improve and create green spaces, green the built environment and help London adapt to climate change. In response to the issues of inequality of access highlighted during lockdown, the fund will prioritise projects in areas with poor access to open space. It will also help support environmental charities and community groups as part of a green recovery.

Applications are open until Monday 5 October at: www.london.gov.uk/growbackgreener

London Green Spaces Commission launches report

In August, a year after London was designated the world's first National Park City, the London Green Spaces Commission published its recommendations on how to support London boroughs transform how parks services are managed and funded. I established the Commission in 2019 to identify new ways to secure a more sustainable future for London's parks and green spaces.

The report highlights the need for substantial long-term investment to maintain and enhance the capital's existing parks and green spaces. The Commission has recommended that a Centre of Excellence be established that would champion the many benefits of high quality, accessible green spaces, explore new funding mechanisms, share best practice and promote more inclusive use of parks.

In addition, the report calls for a greenspace skills programme to develop the skills and jobs necessary to maintain our parks and green spaces in the future. The recommendations will be taken forward with London Councils as part of London's green recovery work. As part of this process on 3 September my officers ran an online workshop with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss next steps and identify sector partners.

The report is available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-green-spaces-commission>

Education and Youth

London Transition Board

On 12 August, I co-chaired the most recent meeting of the London Transition Board, alongside the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP.

The Transition Board was set up to coordinate London's transition from lockdown to recovery from COVID-19. This meeting focussed on the return to education for London pupils in September, and was attended by Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families at the Department for Education. London's local authorities have been working with schools to plan for full re-opening in September. We discussed how the Board could support on a number of concerns raised; these included transport, how to manage the skills gap, what needs to be taught in the curriculum, pupil and parent confidence regarding return to school, mental health and safeguarding of pupils, concerns about digital poverty and guidance on wrap-around care.

Since the meeting on 12 August, City Hall has published 'back to school' guidance on its website, which stresses that the health risks associated with COVID-19 are lower than the educational risks associated with pupils not returning to school.

This is available at: www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/back-school

Learning from Scotland's return to school

On 26 August, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, and my Mayoral Health Adviser, Dr Tom Coffey OBE, met with colleagues from the Scottish Government to hear about their experience since schools had re-opened. The Scottish Government asked for all schools to be fully open by 18 August and some authorities operated a phased return from 11 August.

A-level, GCSE and BTEC results

On A-level results day (18 August), I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education to raise my concerns around the awarding of and publication of results. I called on the government to look at what Scotland had done, to admit that mistakes had been made, and to ensure that teachers' assessments were properly taken into account.

I raised particular concerns for disadvantaged pupils and those in state sixth-forms and further education colleges who had lost out disproportionately.

I welcomed the Government's subsequent u-turn, which has brought relief for hundreds of thousands of A-level, GCSE and BTEC students, not just here in London, but across the country, but this fiasco could have been completely avoided if the Government had taken action much earlier.

#DigiProm 2020

On 17 July, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, was delighted to be part of #DigiProm 2020 – a huge digital prom, designed to make sure that this year's school, college and university leavers don't miss out on celebrating their successes! The

event was set up by former NUS president Shakira Martin and attended by students from across the country.

My Deputy Mayor recorded her own personal message to the class of 2020, paying tribute to their extraordinary hard work, determination and resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit students hard, both in London and beyond. From home-learning, to the cancellation of exams and ceremonies, there has been a huge amount to contend with. I am so pleased that students have had a chance to really celebrate their achievements.

Be Inspired event for care experienced young people

On 27 July, I welcomed participants to Be Inspired 2020 - a virtual event hosted by presenter and reporter Ashley John-Baptiste, in partnership with Southwark Council and The Care Leaver Covenant. This annual event supports care experienced young people by empowering them through careers guidance and the ability to connect with each other. I am committed to supporting London's care leavers to achieve their full potential and make the most of the great opportunities our city has to offer.

Roundtable on issues facing young Jewish people

On 5 August, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, held a roundtable with the London Jewish Forum on the issues facing Jewish young people in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees included young leaders, aged between 16 and 30, in the Jewish youth and student community. They discussed a range of issues, including spiritual leadership, mental health, public transport to schools and uncertainty around the start of university. These discussions provided valuable feedback, which Joanne and participating officers have shared with the teams across City Hall.

UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition

On 23 August, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, took part in City Hall's online event for UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition. Joanne participated in a panel session that discussed the importance of inclusive schools and how our curriculum can better reflect black history. Joanne and I are committed to listening to London's black communities and exploring how City Hall's programmes can support schools to be more inclusive and anti-racist.

Communities and Social Policy

Free School Meals for those with NRPF

In June, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard joined sixty organisations and charities calling on the Education Secretary to permanently extend free school meals to children from low-income migrant families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Whether a child can eat and learn should not depend on their family's immigration status and the withdrawal of this vital support could mean that thousands of children will lose out on what could be their only nutritious meal of the day.

Black Majority Church Leader's meeting

On 23 July, I held another quarterly Black Majority Church Leader's meeting. These meetings are an opportunity to continue connecting with leaders from Black Majority Churches across London, to hear their concerns as well as update on the programmes and wider work at City Hall. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired the meeting and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, was also in attendance.

Mental health impact of COVID-19

In partnership with Thrive London and Doctors of the World I have launched wellbeing guidance, translated into 20 languages, including six practical steps to help Londoners cope with the mental health impact of COVID-19.

Multilingual COVID-19 guidance – Letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, supported a letter coordinated by Doctors of the World calling on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to commit to producing and maintaining national COVID-19 guidance in languages that reflect England's multilingual communities.

Community Conversations on Recovery Missions

My Community Engagement team have been leading the 'Community Conversations' opportunity for Londoners to have their say on the eight Recovery Missions. Until 4 September, community groups and civil society organisations will be able to discuss the opportunities and challenges in shaping the future of London. The same deadline applies to submitting the conversation summaries – sharing insights to refine missions in the next stage of work.

Following two briefing sessions, 52 applications were made for access grants up to £500 each. These enable conversations to be as inclusive as possible.

Africa in London advisory group and British Council second forum

The Africa in London advisory group in partnership with the British Council hosted the programme's second forum, online. It explored 'survive and thrive' for creatives during and post pandemic. My Head of Engagement and advisor to my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement were included as speakers along with performers. There were open discussions on Black Lives Matters and supporting creativity in the capital. The event was streamed on Facebook reaching over 3000 people.

Roundtables: disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, continued with the series of roundtables discussing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities. She met with community

leaders and activists from Latin American, Turkish, Kurdish, Chinese and South East Asian communities. Findings from these roundtables will feed into London recovery plans.

Age UK London and Positive Ageing in London – Pension credit letter

With the help of key partners, I sent a joint letter with Age UK London and Positive Ageing in London to tens of thousands of Londoners, encouraging those of state pension age who are not claiming the Pension Credit they are entitled to, to claim it. From 1 August 2020, those 75 and over lost their entitlement to free TV licences unless they were claiming Pension Credit. Receipt of this benefit can also unlock access to free dental treatment and possibly help with council tax, housing costs and heating bills.

Thrive LDN and Faiths Forum for London event

On 26 August, my Community Engagement team held an event with Thrive LDN and Faiths Forum for London on faith and belief and resilience. The event explored the role of faith leaders in supporting communities impacted by COVID-19, and also focused on strengthening resilience.

Health

Applying my six tests: responding to the Improving Healthcare Together 2020-30 proposals

At the beginning of July, I wrote to the Accountable Officers for the South West London hospital reconfiguration programme: Improving Healthcare Together 2020-2030. In the letter I set out my final position against the six tests, building on my earlier consideration of the first four tests. I stressed that the potential impact of the proposals on health inequalities must remain a priority. I urged them to undertake a further focused deprivation review as a matter of urgency, as I was aware of significant and ongoing concerns about the proposals and their potential disproportionate impact on the poorest and those with the highest needs.

I made it clear that until I see a robust action plan, with a dedicated resource to implement its recommendations, I will be unable to fully support the proposals. I encouraged them to continue working with the people who will be affected by the proposals – patients, their carers and families, members of the public – throughout all stages of the reconfiguration, including planning, design, and during the implementation of proposals, once they are agreed. I also urged them to work closely with the local authorities to further consider the impact on social care and look at additional services that could be located on district sites or in other local settings.

Opening the new London Ambulance Service training facility in Barking

On 14 August, I was pleased to be able to join the London Ambulance Service to formally open their new training facility in Barking. It also was an opportunity to thank all the call handlers and front-line staff based there for all their hard work, sacrifice and dedication during the coronavirus pandemic. As part of the visit I was shown round the existing 111 control room and the brand-new training facility by the London Ambulance CEO, Garrett Emmerson, and the Chair, Heather Lawrence, and was pleased to unveil a plaque to mark its official opening.

Meeting with Baroness Harding

On 18 August, I met with Baroness Harding, Interim Executive Chair of the new National Institute for Health Protection. The discussion covered the national Contain Framework and delivery of Test and Trace in London. I sought further clarity on roles and responsibilities within the Contain structures and sought reassurance directly from Baroness Harding that the National Institute for Health Protection will continue the work that we have been doing with Public Health England on tackling the coronavirus and health inequalities without interruption.

Better support for those who must self-isolate

As lockdown continues to ease, it has become clear we will only be able to protect the increase in restrictions being eased and support the reopening of the economy if the NHS Test and Trace service supports all Londoners to take the action needed to contain the virus. I am concerned that the current system does not provide adequate support to those who must self-isolate, putting them and their communities at risk. Although statutory sick pay is available to some, too many Londoners are falling through the gaps or unable to make ends meet.

On 20 August, I therefore wrote to the Health Secretary and the Chancellor to raise these concerns and to ask them to do more to financially support workers who need to self-isolate, and the businesses that employ them.

Meetings with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman

I have continued to meet regularly 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 plans to support Londoners with COVID-19 and other health needs. We have discussed a number of important issues including testing, contact tracing, community engagement, homeless health and the ongoing development of London's outbreak control plans.

Visit to Newham to encourage sign up for trial test and trace app

On 3 September, I joined the Mayor of Newham, Rokhasana Fiaz, to encourage people and businesses in Newham to sign-up to the new COVID-19 NHS Test and Trace mobile phone app. I visited a walk-in test centre in East Ham, Newham, to see the work taking place in the borough to tackle the spread of the coronavirus.

A working test, trace and isolate system is essential if we are to prevent a deadly second wave, and I will continue to call on the Government to ensure local authorities have the resources they need to make test and trace work, and that Ministers ensure nobody who has to self-isolate is pushed into financial hardship.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Research on the experience of Mutual Aid groups in London

In July, I published research on the [experience of mutual aid groups in London](#). The research draws on findings from a survey that garnered 38 responses from mutual aid groups across 18 boroughs, and an online focus group with 20 individuals. It provides insight into the resource needs of local mutual aid groups, challenges faced, activities they supported at a local level and the nature of local relationships. The findings will be used to inform discussions with stakeholders about how we can best enable mutual aid volunteering to sustain in London.

Socially Distanced Sport Pilot

On 17 July, I visited a socially distanced sport pilot project delivered in Hackney by Badu Sports, in partnership with Salaam Peace. I have funded Badu Sports to deliver a five week socially distanced programme of activities including football, basketball, and netball. This project made sporting activities available for underprivileged and vulnerable young people from the local area. It tested a model for group work that allows safe peer interaction, facilitated by experienced community group leaders.

The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on children and young people in London has been profound. It has affected young people's mental health and education, and pushed some further into poverty. The link between deprivation and serious youth violence is well known. Crucially, the learnings from this pilot have been compiled into a socially distanced sport implementation toolkit, allowing more organisations to deliver sport and physical activity sessions in a secure way.

Final round of Stronger Communities funding open

On 24 August, I launched the last round of my Stronger Communities funding programme. This funding will support projects that use sport and physical activity to address increased levels of loneliness and social isolation, which have spiked during COVID-19 due to prolonged lockdown and social distancing measures. Priority will be given to projects working with Londoners who are at a disproportionately greater risk of loneliness and isolation during COVID-19. Affected Londoners may include deaf and disabled people or those with long-term health conditions, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, parents with young children, people on lower incomes, and those with limited access to digital technology and the Internet.

I will support organisations that already have strong connections in their communities, as well as smaller organisations and individuals who typically find it hard to access funding. Grants between £2,000 - £10,000 can be applied for, with project delivery taking place between November 2020 and February 2021.

Culture and Events

Creative Enterprise Zones response to COVID-19

My Creative Enterprise Zones have continued to support local creative economic recovery. On 17 July, Hackney Wick Fish Island Zone launched 'Wick Together' – a new project that will provide work for over 20 creative freelancers who have lost contracts due to the crisis. Four local organisations have been commissioned to deliver business support in areas including online content delivery and photography which engage and upskill the broader community.

Meanwhile, Croydon Zone's Creative Practitioners Fund has awarded grants and business support to 36 local freelancers, artists and creative practitioners to help adapt business models to accommodate new social distancing rules. 47 per cent of recipients were from a BAME background and 15 per cent were LGBTQ+ communities.

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board

Following the Government announcement in March that the Mayoral and London Assembly elections will be postponed for a year to May 2021, my Cultural Leadership Board appointments were extended, for those that were able to stay on, in line with the new Mayoral term to 8 May 2021. On 16 July, the Chair of my Cultural Leadership Board, Ben Evans along with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, held their first Virtual Board Meeting. The Board reflected on the impact of the global pandemic on the sector and what actions need to be taken to ensure its recovery.

World Cities Culture Forum

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired two global webinars with cities from the World Cities Culture Forum. On 16 July, cities shared how festivals and events have been adapted to comply with health advice and discussed city-led events in response to COVID-19. On 30 July, cities discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on cultural infrastructure via examples from Toronto and Austin. These webinars are part of an ongoing series of international conversations about the impact of the pandemic on culture and creative industries around the world, and the learning is shared with cultural partners in London.

Borough Council Culture Officers Roundtable

On 22 July, my Culture and Creative Industries Unit held the fourth virtual roundtable in a series of COVID-19 Emergency Response Briefings for borough culture officers. The theme of the meeting was diversity, and it included presentations on the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm and a new BAME culture network established to tackle health inequalities. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss London's Transition and Recovery boards and approaches to recovery.

New Fourth Plinth Sculpture Unveiling

On 30 July, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, unveiled the 13th Fourth Plinth Commission, THE END by London based artist Heather Phillipson. The work, which was due to be unveiled on 26 March, was delayed by onset of the global pandemic. A film of the unveil moment was published on London.gov and social channels and received 2 million views. The sculpture comprises a giant swirl of whipped cream, at the point just before

collapse, topped with a cherry, a fly and a functioning drone. The drone captures footage of the public in Trafalgar Square and the non-recorded live stream has been viewed by over 50,000 people since it was unveiled.

Meeting with Jo Stevens MP

On 31 July, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, met with Jo Stevens MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to discuss how City Hall and the Labour party can work together to advocate for culture and the creative industries. My Deputy Mayor shared our approach to supporting the industry through the pandemic, as well as our plans for the future and agreed to work together to ensure Government support reaches all parts of the sector, including freelancers and the creative supply chain.

New Funding for Dagenham and 3 Mills Film Studios in the Thames Estuary Production Corridor

On 4 August, following a bid by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to support the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, the Government announced a £5 million grant to build major new film studios in Dagenham East and a £3 million grant to modernise 3 Mills Studios in Bromley-by-Bow. As part of the Getting Building Fund, this funding will help boost east London's world-class culture and creative industries, create jobs for local people and support London's recovery post COVID-19. On 14 August, I announced my approval of Dagenham Studios and visited the site with Darren Rodwell, Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council and my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE.

Visit to the Natural History Museum and Khadija Saye Exhibition at Westbourne Grove

On 5 August, I attended the reopening of the Natural History Museum to see the comprehensive measures the museum is taking to ensure visitors have a safe experience. I met with children and parents from a local community group who have been helping the museum test the safety measures. I then joined my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, to visit *Breath Is Invisible* at 236 Westbourne Grove, a three-month public art project which includes work by British-Gambian artist Khadija Saye who died in the 2017 Grenfell Fire. Ms. Saye's work is the first of three exhibitions to run at the free outdoor space.

A House for Artists – New Models for Affordable Creative Live-Work Space

On 2 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE visited the site of a new House for Artists in Barking Town Centre, with Darren Rodwell, Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council. This ground breaking project will offer 12 affordable, high quality residential units and studios, artists and their families, in return for working with local artists and the local community to develop the creative industries and creative works locally.

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm

On 3 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Barnard, chaired a roundtable with leaders of London's Councils to discuss the work of the upcoming Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Leaders discussed initiatives from their Boroughs including Hackney's Windrush Commission, and a joint approach

to ensuring that London's public spaces reflect the diversity of its population and the people who have shaped the city.

Through the World Cities Culture Forum, London is building a dialogue with other world cities who are also looking to improve representation across the public realm. On 26 August, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke with City Architect and Design Director Bridget Smyth from the City of Sydney. London and Sydney shared approaches and lessons learnt in improving diversity in the public realm. This builds on similar dialogue between London and New York City Hall around monument reviews.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Venues Re-open

Following the change in Government guidance, it was great to see the London Aquatics Centre and Copper Box Arena reopen to the public on 25 July, with the ArcelorMittal Orbit following shortly after on 1 August. These venues are key community assets, and teams have been working hard to ensure each venue is COVID-secure and able to operate in a safe and socially distanced manner.

London Stadium

Ahead of the 2020/21 Premier League season commencing, a new seating configuration has been installed in the North and South stands at London Stadium. The spend-to-save initiative will improve the matchday experience for fans, while also reducing seat move costs by circa £1 million each year as part of the plan to drive down the operating costs of the Stadium.

East Summer School

The annual East Summer School was held from 27 July - 14 August, with this year's virtual offering attracting more than 250 young east Londoners who took part in workshops and courses on topics ranging from coding and fashion, to filmmaking and engineering. All courses were developed and led by organisations linked to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, including East Bank partners such as the BBC and UCL as well as Staffordshire University London, Studio Wayne McGregor and the Yard Theatre.

3 Mills Studios

The 3 Mills Studios in Bromley-by-Bow has secured a £3 million grant from HM Government's Getting Building Fund following a bid by the Greater London Authority to support the Thames Estuary Production Corridor. The bid – which also secured funding for new film studios in Dagenham East – will help to modernise the studios in a boost to east London's culture and creative industries.

3 Mills Green Sculpture

I was delighted to see a new sculpture unveiled on Three Mills Green on 5 August, which was commissioned to celebrate the fifth anniversary of The Line art trail which stretches across east London. Funded by LLDC's Neighbourhood Priorities Fund and created by artist Thomas J

Price, the 'Reaching Out' sculpture is one of the few sculptures depicting black women in the UK.

Here East Impact Report

The Here East Impact Report was published on 27 August, demonstrating the impact the world-leading tech and innovation campus has had on the local community, as well as the nationally significant innovations - from sectors as wide-ranging as mobility and e-sports - which have been developed and piloted on site.

Wick Together initiative announcement

On 3 September, details of the first successful applicants under the Hackney Wick and Fish Island Creative Enterprise Zone's 'Wick Together' initiative were announced. The scheme provides funding applications to support projects in creative skills and training, with eligible projects needing to have four local freelancers or sole traders under employment.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

COVID-19 OPDC update

OPDC has now concluded three months of volunteering with the London Growth Hub. Staff were retrained as Growth Hub Business Advisors and provided up to 12 hours of free COVID-19 related support to businesses across London. OPDC staff supported over 165 businesses across London in a range of sectors. OPDC staff conducted initial meetings with businesses. If additional or specialist advice was required, we referred businesses to specialist business advisers at the London Growth Hub.

From 1 September, OPDC launches Echo, an online skills-sharing platform that unlocks and promotes the wealth of skills, resources and opportunities in the OPDC area, which can be used by businesses and community organisations facing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic.

On 10 August, OPDC welcomed Billy Seago to manage its new Employment and Skills Hub. The Hub is being delivered in partnership with the London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, and Hammersmith and Fulham, the Department for Work and Pensions and West London College to support businesses in Park Royal.

Planning and construction

On 14 July, the Planning Advisory Panel resolved to grant planning permission for 60,000 sqm of industrial space at the site on Bashley Road. This is estimated to create up to 1,276 jobs, while the redevelopment of a site at Central Middlesex Hospital will provide 158 affordable homes.

On 27 July, HS2's Station Construction Partner, Balfour Beatty VINCI SYSTRA joint venture (BBVS) took possession of the Old Oak Common station site, marking an important milestone in the construction of the 14-platform interchange station. OPDC is working closely with HS2's

engagement team to help ensure that OPDC residents and businesses are informed and engaged throughout construction.

On 3 August, Emma Williamson joined OPDC as Director of Planning from the London Borough of Haringey. Emma will provide strategic leadership on the development and implementation of OPDC's Local Plan, as well as directing OPDC's development management service, responsible for managing planning applications.

Delivery

On 22 July, OPDC commenced the first in a series of canal placemaking projects, funded by the Mayor's Good Growth Fund. Alongside London Borough of Brent and Canal & River Trust, OPDC announced plans to regenerate Harlesden Canalside into community and work space, which will be preceded by extensive public consultation.

On 11 August, OPDC with London Borough of Ealing and Canal & River Trust, launched a public consultation to improve towpath access and green space at Old Oak and will be submitting a planning application in September.

Planning

The London Plan

I am awaiting a response from the Secretary of State to enable progression of the London Plan towards its publication. GLA officers meet regularly with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) officials and continue to make the case for publication of the London Plan as quickly as possible, to support decision-making, investment and the delivery of Good Growth in these challenging times.

Changes to Permitted Development Rights and the Use Class Order

On 5 August, I wrote to the Secretary of State jointly with Cllr Peter John OBE, Chair of London Councils, regarding the Government's introduction of further Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and changes to the Use Class Order (UCO). In particular, the letter highlighted issues around the quality of housing delivered through PDR schemes, the lack of genuinely affordable housing such schemes deliver, and the economic and social impacts that the changes to the UCO could have on London's high streets and town centres.

Planning Decisions (Call ins)

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has approved plans for the redevelopment of Thameside West, Silvertown in Newham.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Sainsburys, Hyde Estate Road, Hendon, 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.

Imperial House, Barnet, 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.

Foster Estate, Hendon, 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.

2A Part of Westend Saab and Boyriven Textile, Bridgewater 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.

Durston House School, Ealing, LB Ealing

I have written to the London Borough of Ealing directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Land to rear of Red Lion Public House & 94 High Street, Southall, LB Ealing

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

Land off Brook Road and Mayes Road, Wood Green, LB Haringey

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

1-1A Bath Road, Heathrow, 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.

Nanaksar Primary School, Beaconsfield Road Hayes, 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.

1 Vinyl Square, Hayes, 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.

Land at Bashley Road, Park Royal, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

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

135 Park Street and 4-8 Emerson Street, Bankside, 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.

Plantation Wharf, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

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

2-18 Yelverton Road, LB Wandsworth

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

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has sent letters in response to the following statutory referrals:

Dagenham Film Studios, Former Sanofi Aventis, Yewtree Avenue, Dagenham, LB Barking and Dagenham

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Wembley Tesco Extra, LB Brent

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

Peel Centre, South Kilburn, LB Brent

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

Elthorne Works, Trumpers Way, LB Ealing

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

Marian Court, Phases 3 and 4 Link Street, LB Hackney

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

B and M Home Store, 867-879 High Road Tottenham, LB Haringey

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

Harrow View East, Plots D1, D2, D4, D5 and D6 (former Kodak factory), LB Harrow

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

Hero of Switzerland PH, Brixton, LB Lambeth

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

Land at Benedict Wharf, Mitcham, LB Merton

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Merton stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Former HSS site and 300 Manor Road, Canning Town, LB Newham

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

Land bounded by St Thomas Street, Fenning Street, Vinegar Yard and Snowsfield, LB Southwark

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Southwark stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

5 Seaforth Place, Westminster, City of Westminster

My Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Central Park, Rush Green Road, LB Barking and Dagenham

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land at College Road, East Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Selhurst Park Stadium, LB Croydon

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

Southgate Office Village, 286 Chase Road, LB Enfield

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

The Highway Trading Centre, Heckford Street, LB Tower Hamlets

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

300 Harrow Road, City of Westminster

My Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Land East of Yarnton Way, LB Bexley
- The White Hart, Northolt, LB Ealing
- The Triangle and Britannia House, Hammersmith, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Land at Bulls Bridge Industrial Estate, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- 238 Kennington Lane, Kennington, LB Lambeth
- The Railway Tavern, 131 Angel Lane, Stratford, LB Newham
- Blackfriars Court, 1-5 Pocock Street, LB Southwark
- 35-39 Parkhouse Street, Camberwell, LB Southwark
- Becket House, St Thomas Street, Bermondsey, LB Southwark
- 313-349 Ilderton Road, South Bermondsey, LB Southwark
- Butterfly Walk Shopping Centre, Denmark Hill, LB Southwark
- Cundy Street Quarter, Belgravia, City of Westminster

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Barking Reach Power Station, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Land adjacent Northwick Park Hospital, LB Brent
- 51-56 Manor Road, West Ealing, LB Ealing
- Southall Sidings, Park Avenue, Southall, LB Ealing

- Car Parks adjacent to Arnos Grove Station, LB Enfield
- Homerton High Street and Sedgewick Street, LB Hackney
- 265 Ridgeway, West Harrow, LB Harrow
- Stanmore Station Car Park, London Road, LB Harrow
- Northolt Road Retail Park, South Harrow, LB Harrow
- Grand Union Village Primary School, LB Hillingdon
- Douglas Webb House, Sipson, LB Hillingdon
- Land at Riverhill Yard, Old Malden Lane, Old Malden, RB Kingston Upon Thames
- 20-24a Popes Road, Brixton, LB Lambeth
- Land at Montfort Place, LB Lambeth
- Plot S10 International Quarter Stratford, London Legacy Development Corporation
- 46-76 Summerstown, Wimbledon, LB Merton
- Unit 3, Thames Road, Silvertown, LB Newham
- Land bounded by 2-10 Bethnal Green Road, 1-5 Chance Street and 30-32 Redchurch Street, Bethnal Green, LB Newham
- Boundary Close and Former Hyleford School site, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- Children and Young Peoples Unit, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, LB Southwark
- Southwark Underground Station, LB Southwark
- Bellamy Close and Byng Street, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets
- Lea Bridge Gasworks, LB Waltham Forest
- 90 Long Acre, Covent Garden, City of Westminster
- Land adjoining 139 North Cray Road, Sidcup, LB Bexley
- 241 Green Street, LB Enfield

Planning Decisions (Stopping Up Order)

I have sent a letter giving comments about the following stopping up order referral:

- Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre, LB Southwark

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director – Planning

- Gascoigne Estate East, King Edwards Road, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Tesco Stores, 275 Kennington Lane, LB Lambeth
- 45-53 Putney High Street & 327-339 Putney Bridge Road, LB Wandsworth
- Development Site at 117-125 Bayswater Road, 2-6 Queensway, Consort House and 7, Fosbury Mews, City of Westminster
- Local Plan Examination Matters, LB Brent
- Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Plan Consultation (Submission Version Regulation 16), Westminster City Council

Key Engagements

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

- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 3 July
- I visited the Central West BCU's Violence Suppression Unit on 3 July
- I attended the 7/7 Wreath Laying Ceremony in Hyde Park on 7 July to mark the 15th anniversary of the London Bombings
- I attended the Assembly Budget and Performance Committee on 7 July
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 7 July
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 8 July
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 9 July
- I addressed the GLA All Staff meeting on 9 July
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 9 July
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London and Public Health England on 10 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, and Sir Patrick Vallance, Chief Scientific Officer, on 10 July to discuss a number of issues relating to the Covid-19 response in London, including the disproportionate impact on BAME communities, access to testing and the approach to local lockdowns
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 13 July
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 14 July
- I hosted a conference call with Sally Bolton OBE, the incoming Chief Executive of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, on 15 July to hear her vision for the club's Estate Development Master Plan
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 July
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 16 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Virtual Summer Reception on 16 July
- I visited Mossbourne Riverside Academy in Hackney on 17 July to announce new £2.1m investment to support positive activities for young people this summer and autumn
- I joined a meeting for all GLA Staff hosted by the GLA BAME Network on 20 July
- I joined a meeting of London Black MPs hosted by Marsha de Cordova MP on 20 July to discuss issues primarily around policing and BAME disproportionality
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 21 July
- I appeared before the Transport Select Committee on 22 July
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 22 July
- I chaired the London Transition Board meeting on 22 July
- I visited Pimlico on 23 July to see a section of CS8 which has been upgraded to make it segregated from traffic as part of the Streetspace for London Plan and to launch TfL's online cycle training - Cycle Skills
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 23 July

- I hosted my regular meeting with representatives of the Black Majority Churches on 23 July
- I hosted a conference call with London Councils and Sir David Sloman, NHS Regional Director for London, on 23 July to discuss how the lessons from COVID-19 can be built into future work between the NHS and local government and the involvement of borough council leaders in recovery planning
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London and Public Health England on 23 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 23 July to discuss Crossrail
- I joined a meeting hosted by Mirca Morera, Chair of the Save Latin Village campaign, and representatives of the Seven Sisters Market Traders Association on 24 July to discuss the future of Seven Sisters Market
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 27 July ahead of the Transport for London Board meeting
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 27 July
- I visited Haringey on 26 July to attend a community meeting organised to address ongoing issues in Haringey
- I chaired the London Recovery Board on 26 July
- I joined a meeting of the East Bank Board on 28 July to reassure partners that this ambitious development remains a priority and will play a key role in London's recovery
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 29 July
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 29 July to discuss policing and security
- I visited Paper Dress Vintage, a vintage clothing shop, bar and music venue in Hackney, on 30 July to discuss the support being provided by the GLA to London's struggling small businesses, and to announce £1m of match funding investment through the Pay It Forward London Crowdfunding scheme
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 30 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 30 July
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP. Secretary of State for Health, on 31 July to discuss the latest public health picture in London
- I visited the Natural History Museum on 5 August on the morning of its reopening to visitors after nearly five months
- I visited Grenfell victim Khadija Saye's art exhibition at Westbourne Grove on 5 August
- I chaired the London Transition Board Meeting on 12 August
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 13 August
- I visited the West End on 13 August to meet with businesses in the heart of London's West End to highlight the urgent action needed to protect its future in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 13 August to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 13 August

- I visited Dagenham on 14 August along with Cllr Darren Rodwell, Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council, to see the development site of London's largest film and television studios that will be built on the former industrial land in Yewtree Avenue in Dagenham East
- I visited Barking on 14 August to open the London Ambulance Service's new training centre
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 17 August
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 18 August
- I joined a conference call with Baroness Harding, Chair of NHS Test and Trace, on 18 August to discuss the creation of the new National Institute of Health Protection and delivery of the NHS Test and Trace programme.
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 20 August to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 20 August to discuss Crossrail
- I hosted a conference call with John Allan CBE, Chair of the COVID Recovery Commission, on 21 August to discuss the work of the new Commission
- I hosted a conference call with Jamie Driscoll, Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) on 21 August to discuss fiscal devolution
- I joined a Ministerial Roundtable hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 1 September to discuss the reopening of the West End and to agree actions to 'tackle the underlying causes of stalled progress in reopening London's West End'.
- I visited the Master Brewer development site in Hillingdon on 2 September
- I had an introductory meeting with Emily Sheffield, the Editor of the Evening Standard, on 2 September
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 2 September to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired the London Transition Board meeting on 2 September
- I hosted a conference call with Paul Scully MP, the Minister for London, on 2 September to discuss London's recovery from Covid-19
- I visited the East Ham COVID-19 Testing Centre along with Rokhsana Fiaz, Mayor of Newham, on 3 September to see how the centre works and to discuss how the trial of the new COVID-19 contact tracing app is progressing
- I chaired the Master Brewer Representation Hearing on 3 September
- I joined a summit hosted by Lord Stephen Greenhalgh, the Minister for Building Safety, on 3 September to discuss the remediation of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding from residential tower blocks in London

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