

4th Mayor's Report to the Assembly Mayor's Question Time 9th September 2021

This is my fourth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 2nd July – 26th August 2021.

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

Executive Summary

Covid-19 and Recovery update

As restrictions have come to an end across the city, I have focused, alongside recovery partners, on supporting the reopening of our tourism, culture and hospitality businesses in central London. The £7m Let's Do London campaign, our largest ever domestic tourism campaign, has been encouraging Londoners and domestic UK tourists to enjoy what our city has to offer over the year. On 14 July I launched the Family Fun season, a series of events and activities aimed at bringing families back to central London, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE.

The London Recovery Board has come together to present a vision for the capital's future, focusing on its economic and social recovery. The Board met on 21 July and has endorsed a shared response to the Government's Levelling Up White Paper – supporting levelling up across the country, while recognising that parts of London require levelling up, and advocating for the capital and the country to work together.

The Board also endorsed an Economic Recovery Framework, a landmark document that brings together key voices, including local authorities, from across the city to express a shared vision for the economic recovery of the city. It highlights the important work that is already ongoing in boroughs and at a city-wide level, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parts of London's Government, as well as businesses, the voluntary sector, major institutions, Central Government and trade unions. It shows where further interventions and more collaboration and co-ordination are needed to tackle joint challenges of recovery.

As Londoners and businesses welcomed the lifting of restrictions on 19 July, I reminded Londoners that it remains vital that we all continue to wear a face covering for the duration of our journeys on TfL services, other than those who are exempt. Public transport is one of the best and most convenient ways to get around and enjoy our city, and keeping face masks mandatory is providing an extra layer of protection and reassurance on top of TfL's world-leading enhanced cleaning regime.

As part of the Reimagine London campaign, on 21 July, my team launched an interactive map that shows investment happening across the city related to recovery, as well as opportunities and ideas for more. This work currently reflects three recovery missions – High Streets for All, Green New Deal and Building Stronger Communities – and work is being undertaken to expand this to capture more place-based investment across more recovery missions.

The Building Stronger Communities Mission's Festival of Ideas came to an end on 28 July, with over 150 events held across 25 boroughs. Our team is currently analysing and compiling the evidence we've gathered, and will present key findings and outcomes.

Vaccines campaign

On 6 July I launched a new campaign to encourage young Londoners to get vaccinated. The "Vax Cam" campaign was inspired by the American style 'kiss cams' seen at sporting events, and builds on insights on how best to increase take-up of the vaccine in this demographic. The short videos feature young people celebrating after receiving their vaccines, with positive animated messages, such as 'Happy Jab Day', filling the screen. The campaign was delivered largely on a pro-bono basis, and has been displayed across the city at targeted venues like Vinegar Yard and Rooftop Cinemas, selected cinema screens, and on digital out-of-home screens, including the Oval and the world-famous Piccadilly screens. In addition to this, my vaccine campaign has partnered with influential podcasts, such as The Doctor's Kitchen and Growing up with Gal-dem, to help tackle vaccine hesitancy and engage hard to reach audiences. These podcasts feature healthcare professionals, offering a space for hesitant audiences to learn more about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Let's Do London

Throughout July and August, my domestic tourism campaign Let's Do London continued supporting jobs, increasing footfall, spend and consumer confidence in the capital. The programme continues to bring together the capital's world-leading hospitality, nightlife, culture and retail venues to attract Londoners and visitors from across the UK back to central London.

On 14 July, to mark the start of the summer school holidays, I launched the Family Fun Season and was joined by partners in Covent Garden, including Society of London Theatre, The National Gallery, Sadler's Wells, Somerset House and London Play representing the diverse range of free activities supported by my campaign. Activities include go-karting, freestyle dance sessions, outdoor art exhibitions, nature and heritage trails, theatrical storytelling and performances from top-class musicians, poets and dancers.

During July I appointed London's first Mayors of Play; a team of five young Londoners, aged 8-11, who selected their favourite family-friendly activities in London to feature on a reimagined tube map. I launched the new tube map on 10 August at London Zoo alongside my Mayors of Play. The map includes recommendations on London's best museums, outdoor spaces, and favourite places to eat and drink that will encourage families back into central London this summer and beyond.

On 11 August the 'Eyeconic London Art Trail' was launched. Large inflatable eyes have been placed in iconic spots around the city – such as St Paul's Cathedral, the Museum of London, the Old Vic Theatre, Portobello & Golborne Road Market. The trail brings fun and imagination to our wonderful city and encourages everyone to get out and explore.

On 12 August I invited Londoners 'Back to the Big Screen' with the release of a new trailer and free screenings on Trafalgar Square from 26-29 August. The screenings sold out within 24 hours, with 150 tickets reserved especially for key workers at four screenings in recognition of their work throughout the pandemic. The films have been curated by the Barbican, and screened in partnership with Luna Cinema, BAFTA, BFI, Film London and UK Cinema Association. 'Back to the Big Screen' is supported by stars including Dame Judi Dench, Richard Curtis and Simon Pegg.

On 13 August I announced a fund to support freelance artists to create projects across London to enjoy during October school half-term. In partnership with Battersea Arts Centre, I will award a total of £190,000 to fund fun, engaging and inspiring installations that will be shown in public spaces to encourage people back into the city centre. All London-based artists, working in disciplines across all the creative industries are invited to apply.

On 15 August I joined Londoners and visitors in Trafalgar Square for the annual free BMW Classics concert, performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. After a year without live music, it was a joy to welcome the musicians and audience back to central London. As well as playing pieces by some of the great composers, the orchestra was joined by 20 young musicians from east London who gave the first live performance of a piece by Londoner Ayanna Witter-Johnson.

Working together to tackle violence

We all have a stake and a part to play in the safety of our capital city, and I am absolutely clear that we must work across party lines and across all relevant organisations to tackle violence. On 23 July I brought together the Policing Minister, the Met Police Commissioner, cross-party London MPs and council leaders from across the city to ensure all partners are working as closely as possible together to tackle violence and provide positive opportunities for young Londoners this summer.

It is critical that the voices of young people are heard in these discussions, and I was delighted to welcome Tyrell Davis Douglin, a member of the Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) Young Person's Action Group, to give his perspective on perceptions of safety in the city and talk about how young Londoners are shaping the work of the VRU.

Throughout the summer we have continued to support partners' efforts to reduce violence, through the Hard Calls Save Lives campaign encouraging people to report information that could help to prevent violence; and Our London Map, through which we are promoting a wide range of positive and fun activities for young Londoners and their families across the city. I welcome the continued support of Assembly Members in sharing these with constituents.

Remembering Bibaa and Nicole

On 3 August I attended a moving vigil at Fryent Country Park to remember Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, tragically murdered last year. Bibaa and Nicole were both vibrant and wonderful women who cared passionately about social justice. I expressed my deepest sympathy to family and friends for their tragic loss.

The number of people at the vigil showed just how loved they were by friends and family, and that their lives touched many people. I pay tribute to Bibaa and Nicole's family and friends for the incredible strength they have shown and for bringing women and girls from across our city together. The vigil was an emotional and powerful moment to remember these two women – for who they were and what they meant to people.

Reissued TfL budget showing progress towards financial sustainability

On 26 July, TfL published its revised budget for 2021/22 for approval by the TfL Board. This version, which builds on the previous TfL budget published in March 2021, is both a legal requirement and a condition of TfL's funding agreement with Government.

It outlined how TfL remains on track to reduce its funding gap, deliver the recurring savings required as part of its business plan, and work towards becoming financially sustainable by April 2023.

Prior to the pandemic, TfL was on track to deliver an operating surplus by 2022/23, having reduced its net cost of operations by almost £1bn over the past four years and increased cash reserves to more than £2bn.

But TfL's finances have been decimated by the pandemic as ridership plummeted due to Londoners doing the right thing and staying at home.

This had a particularly catastrophic effect as TfL is one of the only major cities in Europe not to receive a regular Government grant to cover its day-to-day operations, and fares made up over 70% of its operating budget pre-pandemic.

Additional £5 million for scrappage scheme

On 16 July I announced an additional £5 million in funding for my scrappage schemes, bringing the total investment up to £61 million. This funding will help more disabled and low income Londoners scrap their older, more polluting vehicles and switch to cleaner models or greener forms of transport ahead of the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in October.

My scrappage schemes have been incredibly popular and have already helped replace or retrofit more than 10,000 vehicles since 2019. As well as low income and disabled Londoners, these schemes have also helped small businesses, sole traders and charities. Unlike Birmingham and Bath, the other cities that have introduced Clean Air Zones, my scrappage scheme has not received Government support. With more Clean Air Zones on the way the case has never been clearer for a targeted national scrappage fund to help more drivers across the UK scrap their polluting cars, and the Mayor continues to lobby Government for this.

City Hall analysis reveals the extend of air pollution affecting school children

On 16 August I released new City Hall analysis showing that more than 3.1 million children across England are going to schools in areas exceeding WHO limits on PM2.5, with children in London almost four times more likely to go to a school in an area where air pollution exceeds the World Health Organization limit. This poor air quality stunts the growth of children's lungs and worsens chronic illnesses, such as asthma, lung disease and heart disease.

World-leading measures, including the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), introduced in my first term as Mayor, had already cut the number of state schools located in areas with illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution by 97 per cent – from 455 schools in 2016 to just 14 in 2019.

I'm doing everything in my power to stop young Londoners breathing air so filthy that it damages their lungs and causes thousands of premature deaths every year. This is why I'm expanding the ULEZ later this year.

New Congestion Charge proposals for sustainable travel in central London

On 28 July, and in accordance with the condition in the Government's first emergency funding agreement, TfL brought forward proposals to temporarily widen the scope and level of the Congestion Charge in June 2020.

The main proposals include no charges in the evenings, operating between 12:00-18:00 on weekends and retaining the current charge level of £15.

These changes would ensure gains made in reducing car dependency over more than 15 years are not lost and the ambitions in my Transport Strategy can be met. They directly address the anticipated rise in traffic and congestion following the pandemic, whilst acknowledging the changing and uncertain nature of weekday travel patterns. They also take into account possible impacts to the evening economy in central London, and on those who need to carry heavy loads or drive in for shift work.

High levels of traffic make deliveries less reliable, delay bus journeys, worsen air pollution and make it less safe for people walking and cycling.

New modern ticket hall with step-free access opens at Moorgate as part of Elizabeth line improvements

On 5 July, Liverpool Street Elizabeth line station was officially transferred to London Underground, bringing immediate benefits to customers at Moorgate.

The new Elizabeth line stations are of such a scale, due to the new trains that are more than 200 metres in length, that many will have more than one station entrance. Customers at Liverpool Street will be able to use Moorgate, as well as the new entrance at Broadgate, to access Elizabeth line services.

As part of the work undertaken by Crossrail, a refurbished station entrance for Moorgate station on Moorfields is now open. Step-free access to the London Underground's Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines has been provided with new lifts serving the eastbound and westbound platforms.

The new entrance is more spacious at 65 metres wide, with a longer gateline, six new ticket vending machines and customer information screens providing an improved customer experience for those using the station.

The rest of the new Liverpool Street Elizabeth line station will open in the first half of 2022 when the central section of the Elizabeth line is expected to open for revenue service.

Surface water flooding roundtables

On 27 July, following flash flooding events, I convened key partners, including London Councils, Transport for London (TfL), the London Fire Brigade, water companies and the Environment Agency to ensure everything possible was being done to prevent and reduce the impact of surface water flooding in the capital. Unfortunately, the type of flooding we have seen in recent weeks will become more frequent and intense as a result of heavier rainfall due to climate change.

Despite having limited powers in the area, I wanted to bring together the key partners to see what more can be done, including the water companies. I continue to lobby the Government to devolve more funding and powers to local leaders to enable us deal with both flooding and the wider impacts of climate change.

Further meetings were hosted on 3 August and 20 August by my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross to agree actions in anticipation of likely further surface water flood events, and to ensure any gaps in response are being addressed by the appropriate organisations.

Letter to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the situation in Afghanistan

On 18 August I wrote to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to share my concern at the humanitarian crisis following the collapse of the Afghan government and takeover by the Taliban. I welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to resettle up to 20,000 Afghans, noting that the capital has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in need and calling on the Government to give London boroughs the support they need to welcome as many refugees as possible. My team have been actively working with government and London boroughs to support the resettlement of Afghan locally employed staff. London stands ready to help, but local authorities need resourcing now to act with urgency.

London Leaders meeting on Afghan resettlement

On 26 August I convened a meeting of London Leaders and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, which focused on what steps have been taken by London as part of the Afghanistan Locally Employed Staff resettlement scheme (ALES) and Afghan resettlement in London, and looked at what more boroughs, my team, the Government and other partners can do through working together to help address the situation.

Right to buy back fund and support to help house Afghan refugees

On 13 July I launched a new 'Right to Buy-back' fund. The fund will give boroughs the funds to purchase former council homes that have been lost through Right to Buy and will boost the overall stock of council housing in London. Since the Right to Buy was introduced more than 300,000 London council homes have been sold off, most of which were never replaced.

My new Right to Buy-back scheme will make money available to help councils and council-owned housing companies acquire homes that will then be let at social rent levels or used as accommodation for homeless families. All homes purchased through this scheme must meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard. The fund opened for bidding on 8 August 2021 and bidding will remain open until late-2022.

The Right to Buy-back scheme forms part of my wider Building Council Homes for Londoners programme, which was launched in 2018 and is on track help boroughs start 10,000 new homes across London by 2023. In 2019/20, councils across London started over 4,390 homes – the highest number of new council homes started since 1983.

On 26 August I announced that I am expanding the new Right to Buy-back fund to help councils buy homes that can be used to resettle families arriving from Afghanistan, and housing

associations are also being encouraged to apply for funding for suitable homes that can be delivered at pace.

London has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in need and we have made clear that we want to do everything in our power to support Afghan refugees to establish a long-term future in the city.

Rent control

On 7 July I released new analysis by City Hall showing that, if left unchecked, average asking rents in the capital's private rented sector could rise by an average of £370 a month to almost £2,300 over the next five years.

London has some of the highest private rental costs in the world and I want to redress this balance to make renting in the capital more accessible and affordable for Londoners. I was re-elected in May with a pledge to lobby the Government to give me the power to introduce rent controls in London to make private renting more affordable. More than two-thirds of Londoners are in favour of rent controls, and my proposed London Private Rent Commission would be responsible for designing and implementing them. In the meantime, I have called for powers to freeze private rents in the capital to protect renters from the ongoing financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have consistently been on the side of London's private renters, successfully campaigning for the Government to end unjust letting fees and, during the pandemic, to suspend evictions. I have continued to call on Government to introduce a package of grants to help keep renters in their homes. I have also secured a commitment that Ministers will end 'no-fault' evictions for good. My work to tackle poor standards and conditions faced by London's renters is also continuing, with my two online tools enabling Londoners to 'name and shame' rogue landlords and check whether their landlord has a property license. I am also working with Safer Renting to roll out training for Met Police officers on how to deal with illegal evictions, with 5,600 officers trained to date.

Mayoral Academies launch

On 2 August I launched the Mayoral Academies hub funding opportunity to address skills shortages in London's creative, digital, health, hospitality and green sectors. The programme will help to deliver key actions of the London Recovery Programme's Helping Londoners into Good Work Mission by ensuring that Londoners, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, are able to access the skills they need to secure sustainable employment in these sectors.

Up to £3m is available, and organisations can apply for up to £250,000 each towards establishing or scaling up a hub to support Londoners into good work through collaboration between employers, training providers and other bodies operating in the priority sectors. A further £6m is available to Adult Education Budget (AEB) training providers who are members of a hub to deliver additional employability support resulting in job outcomes. Two market launch events took place in early August.

Mayor's Resilience Fund winners announced

On 13th July I announced the ten winners of the Resilience Fund, my £1m innovation programme that incentivises innovators to address recovery and resilience challenges facing London, help businesses and civil society emerge stronger from COVID-19 and ensure the capital is prepared for future disruptive challenges. The winners were declared at the Resilience Fund Awards Ceremony, which convened experts, London city leaders, and representatives from each of the start-ups. The 10 challenges were identified by working closely with local authorities, public agencies, social enterprises, and community groups across the capital. These problems were then put to the city's greatest innovators, who were challenged to use new technologies and creative ways to solve them. The winners will receive £40,000 in funding to implement solutions to challenges such as diverting surplus food to community organisations helping those most in need, supporting high streets, integrating the latest Covid-19 data and travel information for Londoners, and making workspaces more flexible and affordable.

Good Work Standard

In July my Good Work Standard community reached a milestone of 100 accredited employers. Over 235,000 Londoners now work for a Good Work Standard employer, in sectors as diverse as retail, construction, transport, local government, design, media, charities, law, finance, football and social care. The Good Work Standard sets the benchmark for best employment practice. It recognises employers at the leading edge of pay and conditions, workplace wellbeing, diversity and recruitment, and skills and progression. New accreditations include NatWest Group, Standard Chartered, London Borough of Waltham Forest.

UNESCO Day for Remembering the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition

On Monday 23 August we remembered and honoured the millions of men, women and children who suffered and died as a result of the transatlantic slave trade – one of the most horrific chapters in human history, at our annual ceremony marking the UNESCO International Day for Remembering the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition. The ceremony, held as a digital event, provided a space for all people to remember the victims of the slave trade and reflect on its legacy, whilst pledging to work together untiringly for the elimination of racism in all its forms. The event was presented beautifully by Yvonne Field (The Ubele Initiative), with an opening speech by Assistant Director-General Gabriela Ramos (UNESCO) and a keynote speech by Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, to mark this important day.

UK Black Pride

I was proud to give support and solidarity to UK Black Pride, who delivered a weekend programme of digital and hybrid events from 2-4 July. London's diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and we must continue in our efforts for a fairer, more accepting, more equal society. I'm committed to making London a truly anti-racist city where Black lives matter and LGBTQ+ Londoners never have to live in fear or remain quiet about who they love.

EURO 2020

At the end of an amazing tournament, I was privileged to be at Wembley Stadium on 11 July to cheer England on in the final of EURO 2020. After a bravely fought match from both sides, extra time and a tense penalty shoot-out, Italy of course claimed the trophy, but despite the eventual result, I am so proud of the England team and their incredible efforts and achievements this summer – they are true heroes and an inspiration to all of us. It was a great

honour for London to be the Host City for eight EURO 2020 matches. I am very proud of the tournament we delivered and hope Londoners are inspired by the event.

On 13 July I was delighted to celebrate the success of the England Men's football team by unveiling a mural in Fenning Street, in South London. The mural, designed and completed pro-bono by Murwalls, highlighted key figures from the team – manager Gareth Southgate OBE, and two proud Londoners – captain Harry Kane MBE and Raheem Sterling MBE. As the primary host city of the tournament, I wanted to thank the England team who united the nation, for making us proud.

7/7 Anniversary

On 7 July I laid a wreath at the Hyde Park 7 July Memorial to honour the 52 innocent people killed and the 700 injured during the 2005 terrorist attack. I was joined by senior representatives from the emergency and transport services who responded so bravely on the day. I also gave my support to the bereaved families and survivors at their memorial service, held at the Hyde Park memorial.

LatinoLife in the Park 2021

I was delighted to again support LatinoLife in the Park, previously known as La Clave Fest, the UK's largest free Latin festival, which returned as an in-person event to Finsbury Park on Saturday 21 August. This free one-day multi-arts festival celebrates the on-going contribution of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese (Latin) culture to London life, through music, dance and food. Held over three stages, the event showcased the diversity and quality of Latin music and dance, and featured a fantastic line-up including Las Adelitas, Europe's only all-female seven-piece Mariachi band.

Policing, Crime and Security

Dream, Believe, Succeed project

On the 20 July I visited the Dream, Believe, Succeed project, delivered by Edmonton Community Partnership with funding through London's Violence Reduction Unit. The partnership is an alliance of 19 schools, community organisations and local young people. It provides prevention and intervention programmes to children and young people between 10 and 16 who are either at risk or involved in violence.

Meeting with the Violence Reduction Unit's Young People's Action Group meeting

On the 10 August I had the pleasure of meeting 9 members of the Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) Young People's Action Group in the London Living Room at City Hall. In the past 12 months they have been working closely with the VRU team and external partners to share their views and experiences of life in London and have helped to shape how programmes are funded and have led on a number of projects.

Visit to Newham MyEnds Programme consortium

On the 11 August I met with the Newham consortium at Fight For Peace Academy who are delivering local solutions to tackling violence using funding from the Violence Reduction Unit's 2 year MyEnds programme. I was shown around the neighbourhood by frontline practitioners and young people who also shared their experiences and insights. The Newham consortium is one of eight across the capital to have won a share of £6m (£750,000 each) to deliver locally designed interventions in areas of the capital that are affected by high and sustained levels of violence.

Supporting our police

On 2 July I joined neighbourhood officers and representatives from the local Council and Business Improvement District in Kentish Town to find out more about the work they are doing together to keep the area safe and drive down violence as part of a new multi-agency public space violence reduction strategy.

On 4 August, the Commissioner and I visited an operation in East London at which local officers, supported by specialist colleagues including firearms officers, were targeting those suspected of carrying firearms and being involved in street gangs. The operation was led by the Met's Viper teams which include specialist detectives who rapidly assess information to identify, arrest and disrupt those behind gun violence. The operation saw four men arrested and the seizure of three firearms, ammunition and drugs. A total of 450 firearms were seized in 2020/2021 compared to 366 recovered in the previous financial year and the Met have seized 98 firearms in the first quarter of this financial year compared to 92 for the same period the previous year.

I pay tribute to all of the officers, staff and volunteers of the Met as they continue their vital – and often dangerous – work to keep our city safe.

MOPAC secures new funding to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence

On 5 July I was pleased to announce a new £4.3 million investment package to provide vital one-to-one support for hundreds of victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse in the capital and improved help for rape victims throughout the criminal justice process.

This new investment, successfully secured by MOPAC from the Ministry of Justice, will fund the appointment of an additional 21 Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) and 23 new Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) in London to help victims understand the process from 'report to court' and receive ongoing practical and wellbeing support - building on the 88 specialist advisors already funded by City Hall. An additional fund of £850,000 from the Ministry of Justice will also be used by City Hall to increase counselling services for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Both sets of advisers are independent from the police and will enable victims to access housing advice, legal support, counselling, assistance within health services and provide vulnerable victims with phones, travel cards, food and medical supplies.

New investment to support young people out of county lines

On 8 July I announced a further £1.8m in the Rescue and Response service, which supports young people who are vulnerable and caught up in county lines drug distribution networks.

The Rescue and Response programme was developed and is led by a coalition of London boroughs, including Brent, Islington and Newham, that help coordinate support across London for young people up to the age of 25. They work side by side with three service delivery partners – St Giles Trust, Abiana and Safer London - who provide tailored support for young people referred to the project. To date, the City Hall-funded programme has worked with 430 young people, of which more than 80 per cent have either reduced or been supported away from county lines activity.

The service has also carried out 80 rescues, which involves collecting a young person from another county following arrest, ensuring their safe return home and the provision of ongoing support to help divert them away from criminal gangs. Figures show that county lines networks spread across 41 counties.

This new investment will mean an uplift in capacity to deal with the number of referrals into the programme – there have been more than 1,600 in the last three years - and to maintain the 'rescue' function to collect young Londoners found being exploited outside the capital.

The Rescue and Response programme sits alongside the work being carried out by the Met to dismantle county lines. The police have been targeting lineholders, who rarely leave the capital but are the ones dealing drugs and exploiting young people and vulnerable adults. Since November 2019, teams across the Met have closed 460 lines and arrested 960 county lines lineholders. Officers have charged 1,198 individuals with offences including drug supply and human trafficking. More than 400 individuals have been safeguarded. The Met continues to work in close partnership with forces across the United Kingdom to destroy the county lines business model.

Using technology to reduce reoffending

On 18 August I announced an additional £350,000 of funding to boost innovative programmes to tag knife crime and domestic abuse offenders with a GPS tracking device on release from prison in a drive to cut reoffending, improve rehabilitation and reduce the risk victims face when an offender is released.

Evidence shows that GPS tracking devices can play an important role in ensuring offenders comply with the conditions of their release, helping police and probation services to reduce the risk to the public, as well as ensuring that those who reoffend can be swiftly returned to prison. Of the 600 tags fitted to date, more than half of the offenders successfully completed their probation and 160 offenders fitted with GPS tracking devices were found to have breached the conditions of their release and were returned to prison.

Transport

West Drayton station transformed as extended ticket hall opens and step-free access introduced

On 21 July, West Drayton station opened a revamped ticket hall featuring a striking new glass and steel extension, alongside two new lifts enabling step-free access to the main platforms serving TfL Rail and Great Western Railway.

An additional lift at the station entrance connecting the low-level subway with the new concourse was also brought into use following the upgrades by Network Rail.

These new station lifts will be complemented by a new lift at Platform 1 by the end of the year, meaning four of the station's five platforms are step-free for current timetabled operations.

The station will be staffed at all times while trains are running with ramps available for those that need them to board trains, and all London Underground and TfL Rail stations operate a turn-up-and-go service for customers needing assistance.

Santander Cycles celebrates its eleventh birthday with record hires

On 30 July, TfL's pioneering cycle hire scheme marked its eleventh anniversary after an exciting year which has seen a record-breaking number of hires. In March, Santander Cycles reached a major milestone of 100 million hires and since then hires have soared in April and June.

The anniversary was marked with a weekly prize draw for users of the Santander Cycles app, where a lucky rider a week will win free annual membership and five free drinks at Caffé Nero

Daily hire figures have been very strong in the past year with 33 out of the 35 busiest days for the scheme being since March 2020. The week commencing Monday 7 June 2021 saw 324,000 hires, an average of over 46,000 each day, making it the third busiest week in the history of the scheme. June 2021 saw 650,000 hires from members, the highest monthly volume ever.

Applications open for funding to make walking and cycling more accessible to all

On 28 July, TfL opened applications for more than £500,000 of grants for community and not-for-profit groups seeking to encourage people to walk and cycle.

Walking and Cycling Grants London is aiming to address barriers to walking and cycling amongst traditionally underrepresented groups, helping to make London a more sustainable, inclusive and healthy city.

Funded by TfL in partnership with The London Marathon Charitable Trust and administered by Groundwork London, the programme provides grants of up to £10,000 over three years to successful applicants.

Applicants to this scheme will be judged on the potential of their idea to benefit the local community and boost walking and cycling levels.

New enforcement cameras set to cut road danger and congestion

On 26 July, Transport for London announced the award of a contract to P Ducker Systems (PDS) for at least 50 new enforcement cameras, which are hoping will play a vital part in helping TfL to meet its Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the road network.

Each year more than 4,000 people are killed or seriously injured on London's roads and 76 per cent of collisions happen at junctions - many of which involve moving vehicles contravening decriminalised road traffic rules.

The new cameras, which can be moved around the road network to where they are most needed, use cutting edge technology to enforce banned turns, bus lanes, yellow box junctions and weight restrictions. The deployable cameras can be adapted for each new location, ensuring that the rules for each particular junction can be enforced fairly and efficiently, with separate cameras for each traffic rule. A trial of the cameras carried out in 2020 saw an improvement in compliance of up to 60 per cent in six months.

The ability to relocate the cameras also means that they can be used to target non-compliance 'hot-spots'. This capability ensures that TfL can target junctions with the most dangerous driver behaviour and can remove cameras from locations where enforcement activity has been successful in cutting danger and making drivers' behaviour safer.

TfL sets out plans for the next stage of lowering speed limits on its roads in Westminster

On 7 July, TfL set out plans to make its roads in Westminster safer, which would see speed limits on almost all TfL roads in the borough reduced to 20mph. Data shows if you are hit by car at 20mph you are five times less likely to be fatally injured than at 30mph.

Reducing speed limits can make a real difference to cutting road danger and enabling more people to walk and cycle, with 59 per cent of people in an earlier consultation stating that reduced speed limits would encourage more cycling.

In March 2020, TfL introduced a 20mph speed limit on all of its roads within the central London congestion charging zone as part of its Vision Zero commitment to eliminate death and serious injury on London's roads.

This included a new 20mph limit on Victoria Embankment and along the Millbank. A 30mph speed limit was also introduced on the A40 Westway within the borough in June last year, which is proposed to be implemented permanently.

New data highlights success of trial Cycleway in Chiswick

On 9 July, Transport for London and Hounslow Council published new data suggesting a trial cycle lane in Chiswick has led to a significant increase in the number of people cycling in the area, while also leading to a reduction in the number of people being hurt while cycling.

In December 2020, Hounslow Council introduced trial changes in Chiswick, designed and delivered by TfL, to enable people to make journeys in a safe and sustainable way, including to the many businesses along the road.

These changes included a temporary protected cycle lane along Chiswick High Road. The trial cycling route is an amended version of earlier designs for the Cycleway 9 route that had been supported in consultation before the pandemic and were delivered as part of Hounslow Council and TfL's emergency response to coronavirus.

The new data clearly demonstrated that cycling continues to increase on the already-busy corridor and that there has been a significant fall in cyclist collisions since its installation. The data shows that cycling along the trial route has increased by 72 per cent on weekdays between February and April 2021. Up to 2,700 people a day are cycling along the route, including children and families. Cycling is now a major form of transport for people in the area and around 20 per cent of the 'vehicles' using the road during the day are bikes.

Trial operations get underway on the Northern Line Extension

On 8 July the Northern Line Extension reached a major milestone with the start of trial operations on the new 3km twin-tunnel railway between Kennington and Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms.

Transport for London is now running Northern line trains through the new tunnels every weekend to allow the railway and supporting systems to be run as close to an operational service as possible.

It comes ahead of the extension's planned opening in the autumn, helping support the capital's recovery at a critical time. Four trains per hour are currently being run through the extension at weekends as part of trial operations. Once the extension opens, there will be an initial peak time service of six trains per hour, increasing to 12 trains per hour by mid-2022. There will be five trains per hour during off-peak times, doubling to 10.

More boroughs to join London's rental e-scooter trial

On 5 July, Transport for London and London Councils announced the expansion of the capital's trial of rental e-scooters, with e-scooters available to rent in the City of London and northern parts of Lambeth and people able to ride them in Southwark.

Westminster City Council then joined London's e-scooter trial on the 2 August, which expanded the trial to a much wider area of central and inner London. Southwark also expanded its participation in the trial, with e-scooters now available to hire and park at more locations across the borough.

Following the government's decision to legalise rental trials of e-scooters last year, TfL and London Councils launched a trial of rental e-scooters in the capital. The trial initially covered a core area including Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Richmond, Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf. This expansion means that the e-scooters can be hired and used in a wider area of central and inner London.

TfL and London Councils are continuing discussions with boroughs about further expansions over the coming months.

Safety continues to be the top priority and TfL and London Councils' close monitoring of the trial will continue across the new areas.

TfL consulting on proposals to cut road danger and congestion by increasing fines on London's red routes

On 5 August, Transport for London invited people to have their say on proposals that aim to boost safety and cut congestion on London's network of red routes, by increasing the maximum penalty charge notice (PCN) for contraventions of the rules from £130 to £160.

Fines would be reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days. All income from PCNs is re-invested by TfL to cover the cost of enforcement and help fund schemes to reduce road danger.

London's red routes are roads managed by TfL. They make up five per cent of roads but carry 30 per cent of the traffic. Red routes exist to allow traffic to move safely and efficiently along some of the busiest roads in London. Stopping is generally prohibited on these roads outside of designated locations and times clearly marked by signs. Failing to follow the rules and signs at junctions creates safety risks, disrupts traffic and creates congestion for everyone.

Fire and Resilience

LFB Highgate Memorial Service

On 2 July my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, laid a wreath and gave a reading at the London Fire Brigade's Highgate Memorial service, commemorating London Firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Gillender Street Memorial

On 10 July my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, laid a wreath and gave a reading at an event arranged jointly by the London Fire Brigade and the Fire Brigades Union to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Gillender Street fire in Tower Hamlets, in which two firefighters, Terry Hunt and David Stokoe, died.

COVID-19 Assembly Member Leaders updates

On 2 and 16 July my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, held virtual meetings to update Leaders of the London Assembly's political groups on London's response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 MPs updates

On 9 and 23 July my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, held a virtual meeting on behalf of London's SCG to update London's MPs on the city's response to COVID-19.

London Strategic Coordinating Group

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

London COVID-19 Leaders Committee

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

PHE/NHS conference call

On 8 July, 22 July and 5 August, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, I attended virtual meetings with Regional Directors of Public Health England and NHS London to receive an update on London's response to COVID-19.

Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On the 8 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss progress on the London Fire Brigade's (LFB) Transformation Plan, delivery on the recommendations from

the Grenfell Phase 1 Report and HMICFRS inspection, and the continued impact of COVID-19 on LFB.

Planning for Step 4- Risks, Mitigations and Behaviours

On 13 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with the Cabinet Office task force to explore COVID-19 guidance, outbreak management, monitoring and surveillance.

Poplar Fire Station Visit

On 4 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited Poplar Fire Station to meet firefighters and discuss local issues, including the fire at New Providence Wharf in May.

Fire Brigades Union

On 10 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met Matt Wrack, General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union to discuss a range of issues affecting the fire sector nationally.

LFB Control Centre visit

On 18 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited LFB's Control Centre with the Chair of the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee, Cllr Susan Hall AM. They were given a tour of London Operations Centre (LOC) and an update on developments in the work of staff at the LOC including new technology and training.

Lambeth Fire Station visit

On 23 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and my Deputy Mayor for Housing, Tom Copley, visited Lambeth River Fire and were briefed on firefighting along the Thames and building safety issues faced by LFB on one of London Fire Brigade's fire boats.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

London Careers Hubs: Employer Support for Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

On 19 July I launched the grant award process for a £500k project to raise the aspirations of young Londoners with SEND and open pathways into London's growth sectors and its plethora of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Funded by my European Social Fund (ESF) programme and the Careers and Enterprise Company, the project will complement London's Careers Hubs. Responding to the high level of need, particularly in London's FE colleges, this project explores ways to ensure inclusivity and develop a dynamic careers programme that is essential to keep London thriving. Using careers education activities as a tool, I want to develop the capability of employers, specifically SMEs, to improve employer practices, attitudes and diversity in the workplace so that no young person is left behind.

Through this project, SMEs and FE colleges will learn how best to support and enable students with SEND to move from education to the world of work.

European Social Fund Programme Launch – Creative Enterprise Zone: Hounslow

On 29 July I launched a grant fund of £500,000 for a skills and employability project in Hounslow's Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ). This project is part-funded by the ESF via the GLA CFO, the GLA Creative Enterprise Zones Programme and The London Borough of Hounslow. This project will support Londoners to gain skills and find (or remain in) work, education or training particularly within the creative sector. It makes up a wider programme of creative sector skills projects in London's CEZs (within Lambeth, Croydon, Lewisham and Tottenham.)

Skills Adult Education Roadmap Consultation closes

On 8 August the public consultation on my draft Adult Education Roadmap for London concluded. The Roadmap will set out how we plan to build on the success of Adult Education Budget delegation and the work of London's skills providers to create an even more accessible, impactful and locally relevant system that can better serve London's communities and economies.

The consultation ran for 7 weeks from Monday 21 June 2021 to Sunday 8 August 2021 and saw participation from local authorities, colleges, independent training providers, employers and businesses, unions, higher education institutions and community organisations. The consultation also included funding for 'Community Conversations' to engage Londoners directly; these conversations will continue to take place until the end of August and are expected to engage hundreds of Londoners. The results of the consultation will help shape the proposals in my Adult Education Roadmap, and will be published alongside the final Roadmap in December 2021.

New cultural hub for south London launches

On 20 July Peveril Gardens opened its doors, providing a new community and cultural hub for local residents and affordable creative space for artists. With £200,000 in support from my Good Growth Fund, these disused garages on an estate in Southwark have been transformed into new sheltered garden above five affordable artist studios, a residency space for visiting international artists, an event space and room for a café and bookshop. Operated by creative

agency Forma, the project is an exemplar in partnership working between a cultural organisation, the council and local people to provide a new public space and creative enterprise in the area. I look forward to seeing the roll out of Forma's new programme of cultural events.

Funding to protect the future of high streets

On 21 July I announced funding through the High Streets for All Challenge totalling £700,000 for 35 innovative recovery projects across the capital aimed at ensuring London's high streets can flourish and thrive as we emerge from the pandemic. In partnership with London boroughs, business groups and other local organisations, one project or strategy in each borough received seed funding of £20,000 to address issues such as bringing vacant buildings into use, protecting cultural spaces, providing greater connectivity, boosting community business and supporting employment on the high street. Successful partnerships attended thematic workshops to develop proposals with the support of City Hall teams, Mayor's Design Advocates and the Mission Experts Panel.

Delivering on the London Recovery Board's High Streets for All mission objectives and working alongside London Councils and local businesses, the funding will help secure a thriving mix of high street and town centre activity within easy reach of all Londoners and at all times of day and night. In the autumn, I will make available up to £200,000 additional funding for 10 to 12 of the projects to help deliver the best proposals.

Celebration at Bermondsey town centre following marketplace transformation

On 31 July residents living in Bermondsey and beyond were invited to The Blue Market to celebrate the new and improved marketplace being back open for business. With more than £2m in support from my Good Growth Fund, the square has been completely transformed with new seating areas using re-purposed materials framed by clusters of trees and greenery, and an expanded new layout for market stalls. My investment is supporting local business, new social enterprise and community spaces. The redefined Blue Market will restore the heart of Bermondsey, provide a new public space that the community can feel proud of and put the Blue Market on the map as a new destination for Londoners to visit.

Housing

Subletting letters to partners/lenders

On 5 July my housing team wrote to partners asking them to take the impact of the building safety crisis into account when deciding whether shared owners should be allowed to sub-let their homes. The GLA has always restricted sub-letting to exceptional circumstances to protect much needed affordable homes. However, I know that we need to be flexible to respond to the rising number of shared owners who need to move but are unable to do so, due to difficulties in securing External Wall System (EWS1) forms. The revised approach offers partners more flexibility to consider how delays in securing a compliant EWS1 form can lead to exceptional circumstances which may justify a period of sub-letting.

The move to offer more flexibility when reviewing subletting requests is also being followed by Homes England (HE), and my housing team continues to raise the impact of the building safety crisis with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Meeting on waking watch with UKCAG and G15

On Tuesday 20 July my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, met with representatives of the G15 group of housing associations; UK Cladding Action Group; End Our Cladding Scandal Campaign; the National Fire Chiefs Council; and London Fire Brigade. At the meeting he heard about leaseholders' and housing associations' experiences of waking watches being implemented in buildings in London. My Deputy Mayor and I are keen to see what more can be done to ensure that leaseholders and others are not burdened with extortionate costs for interim safety measures such as waking watches, and I continue to urge the Government to fully fund these costs where they arise.

Meeting on public sector housing delivery

On 21 July my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development spoke at an event on public sector housing delivery alongside speakers including Pat Hayes of Be First and Peter Murray OBE of New London Architecture. Tom spoke about City Hall's strong support for council housebuilding during my mayoralty, which has helped spark a renaissance in municipal homebuilding with more new council homes starting to be built in 2019/20 than in any year since 1983.

The 2021 Global Mayors Challenge Ideas Camp

On 22 July my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development spoke at the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge Ideas Camp organised by Bloomberg Philanthropies and featuring Mayors and their representatives from cities around the world. London has been shortlisted as a Mayors Challenge 'Champion City' for our proposal to re-design the Mayor's current emergency rough sleeping services to form a network of inclusive 'turnaround hubs' which provide rapid assessment and act as a front door for COVID-secure accommodation, with people having their own room and supported by housing and health specialists to find longer-term housing.

Unveiling of Malcolm Wicks House

On 23 August, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Development spoke at the unveiling of Malcolm Wicks House in Croydon, named for the former Member of Parliament. Tom spoke about his pride in seeing these new council homes which have been part funded through my affordable homes programme.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

London Business Navigator Pilot

The London Business Navigator Pilot is about to commence delivery. It will provide the "one single door to business support" promised in my manifesto earlier this year. City Hall is partnering with the boroughs of Lambeth, Wandsworth, and Southwark to launch the pilot programme supported by Bloomberg Associates. The measures will support 1,200 businesses over the next 12 months providing a seamless Information, Diagnostic and Brokerage service to businesses by signposting SMEs to the appropriate support required.

London Anchor Institutions Steering Committee

On 19 August my Deputy Chief of Staff, Richard Watts, attended the first London Anchor Institutions Steering Committee, following an initial round of successful working groups on procurement, youth mentoring and measuring impact. This takes forward the commitments of London's first-ever city-wide Anchor Institutions' Charter, an initiative of the London Recovery Board signed by 14 organisations including the NHS, Metropolitan Police Service, University of London, and TfL.

CAZ Leaders Meeting

On 19 July I visited the Windrush Café and met with Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden, Cllr Rachel Rothan, Leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Leader of Kensington & Chelsea and a representative from the City of London to discuss the future of the Central Activity Zone (CAZ). This follows previous meetings with the leaders on 5 October and 17 February working to use our combined channels and contacts to aid the recovery of the CAZ. We discussed the lifting of the restrictions and encouraging people back to the centre this summer and the longer-term outlook for the CAZ.

London Covid Business Forum

On 21 July I convened a meeting of the London Covid Business Forum, through which we have been working with business to progress the 'Roadmap to the Safe and Full Reopening of London's Economy' and developing our plans for the 'Let's Do London' campaign.

Following the meeting I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister jointly signed by some members of the forum to propose a more considered approach from the Government on the rules for self-isolation for people alerted by the NHS Covid app.

Meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

On 3 August I met with Michael Lassman, London Regional Chair, Rowena Howie, London Policy Chair, and Matthew Jaffa, Senior External Affairs Manager at the Federation of Small Business (FSB). I took this opportunity to thank the FSB for their continuous support over the last 18 months as they have been extremely helpful in providing a steer on our various Covid response and recovery boards.

London Transition Board

On 15 July, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, co-chaired the London Transition Board with Paul Scully, the Minister for London. The Minister provided an update on the progress of the Government Roadmap and progress to removing the final pandemic-related restrictions on 19th July ('Step 4'). The Transition Board was always intended to be a time-limited body, during the transition from lockdown(s) to recovery. I have therefore agreed with the Minister and MHCLG Secretary of State that this Board should be the final one.

Engaging with Business

On 22 July Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal and Night Czar Amy Lamé visited independent hospitality businesses in Camden, including King's Cross and KERB Seven Dials Market in Covent Garden. Also, on 28 July Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal visited businesses in Greenwich, including the O2 and Greenwich Market, alongside the Leader of the

Royal Borough of Greenwich, Cllr Danny Thorpe. The purpose of these visits was to hear first-hand about businesses' re-opening plans, their challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, and to highlight City Hall's business support offer and to promote the Let's Do London campaign.

On the 29 July Rajesh visited the West End with a programme led by the Heart of London Business Improvement District (BID). Here he met with a cross section of local businesses including The Crown Estate's HQ, the English National Opera, the Londoner, the Odeon Luxe and LEGO, to discuss a range of issues facing businesses. These included skills and staff shortages, the challenge and importance of a return to the workplace, and the need to draw domestic and international visitors back to London.

On 7 July my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Jane Wood, Regional Director for BT, and discussed the impact and challenges of Covid-19 for BT, and an update on City Hall's priorities for Covid recovery and opportunities for collaboration.

On 8 July my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Julian Hall, CEO and his Ultra Education Team for a showcase of their 'Youth Entrepreneurship Project' and other initiatives promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Rajesh was joined by Assembly member Krupesh Hirani and Cllr Mohammed Butt.

On 3 August my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Mathieu Proust, General Manager, UK&I, WeWork and Christina Ferzli, Global Head of Public Affairs, WeWork. Topics covered included WeWork's and City Hall's priorities going forward, returning to work, workspace and access to TfL data.

Environment

Meeting with Syed Ahmed, Energy for London

On 8 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Syed Ahmed, the Chair of Community Energy London. They discussed retrofit in London, my accelerator programmes through my 'Retrofit Revolution', and my work on fuel poverty in London.

Meeting with Catherine McGuinness, City of London

On 9 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Catherine McGuinness, Chair of Policy at the City of London Corporation, to talk about climate change, air quality, transport and green finance issues in London. They discussed London's climate and transport policies, the City of London's Climate Action Plan and how we could work more closely together on programmes related to energy efficiency, district energy and zero emissions zones, as well as support the flow of private sector finance into related programmes and projects.

Royal Society of Chemists podcast, journey of recycled plastic

On 13 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry's new science podcast entitled "What happens to your recycled plastic?". Featuring experts from industry, science and policy, the discussion focussed on where our plastic ends up, how much actually gets recycled and what does it get turned into.

Deputy Mayor Rodrigues explained the policies we have in place in London to increase recycling rates, the challenges we face and the progress that we have made. She also explained how we are working through the Green New Deal recovery mission to continue to reduce plastic waste and increase recycling rates across the capital.

UK100 Net Zero Local Leadership Conference, Clean Air and Net Zero Panel

On 13 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, joined a virtual panel for UK100's Clean Air and Net Zero at the International Leadership Conference. The event provided local leaders with an opportunity to agree priorities for local climate action. Joined by Rebecca Pow MP; Helen Hayes MP and Jane Burston, Chief Executive of the Clean Air Fund; Deputy Mayor Rodrigues, gave a speech on the challenges and opportunities in reaching net zero. The speech highlighted the transformation ULEZ and my other policies has had on air quality in central London and my commitment to making London a net zero-carbon city by 2030. However, amongst the challenges, the Deputy Mayor highlighted that Government should provide cities with the powers necessary to meet the targets and set legally binding PM2.5 targets based on the World Health Organization guidelines.

UK100 Net Zero Leaders' Summit

On 13 July I spoke at the UK100 Net Zero Leaders' Summit alongside Alok Sharma MP, Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, and Lord Deben Chair of the Climate Change Committee. I used this event to highlight London's Net Zero 2030 ambition and the steps we are taking towards this goal. As part of this event I also signed up to a joint communiqué to the UK Government outlining shared asks around finance, transport, retrofit, energy and nature. I used this event to affirm my commitment to drive economic recovery through green growth and jobs, whilst supporting the UK's international position and ensuring the transition does not penalise the poorest.

Fleet electrification, Waste & Recycling Centre Islington

On 14 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, visited Islington's Waste and Recycling Centre (WRC) to see their new and recently delivered fully electric cage tippers. Islington's 'Fleet Electrification Infrastructure Development' project is funded through the Mayor's Good Growth Fund (GGF), a regeneration fund to support growth and community development in London, delivered in partnership with the London Economic Action Partnership. Islington was awarded around £1.5m through the GGF to deliver an onsite power upgrade and install up to 40 smart electric vehicle chargers at the centre. The council have leveraged over £4.2m in match funding to deliver the project. Each of the 7.5T electric cage tippers equates to an annual reduction of approximately 8 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide and 1.6 tonnes of toxic air pollutant Nitrogen Dioxide, with over 170 refuse vehicles in total being directly supported by the GGF project. More information can be found here:

<https://www.islington.media/news/islington-welcomes-first-fully-electric-cage-tippers-as-waste-and-recycling-centre-electrification-continues>

Redbridge council climate change meeting

On July 14 my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the launch of the London borough of Redbridge's climate action plan. At this event the Deputy Mayor gave a speech outlining how the plan aligns with my climate priorities at the regional level and where we can best work together as we tackle the climate emergency together. It was also discussed how, in the year of COP26 and as we recover from the pandemic, we have a

unique opportunity to work together in setting high ambition and powering forward the decade of climate action we now need to see.

Release of new asthma data

On 15 July I met with children from Christ Church Streatham Primary School in Lambeth to discuss their experiences of living with air pollution. Their school will be inside the Ultra Low Emission Zone when it expands on 25 October. Their visit coincided with the publication of new data from Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation which found poor air quality is responsible for triggering asthma attacks in around 337,500 Londoners registered with asthma. More information about this data can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/londons-toxic-air-is-triggering-asthma-attacks>

London Council's Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) Executive Meeting

On July 15 my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended London Council's Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) Executive Meeting to provide an update on our delivery on the environmental priorities of my administration. The discussion focused on the delivery of the Green New Deal mission, to improve the built environment, green the public realm, and support the foundations of green jobs and businesses. It also focussed on the importance of continued collaboration and support between City Hall, boroughs and London Councils especially in the year of COP26, ULEZ expansion, and at the start of the decade of action needed to truly tackle climate change.

Meeting with Water Advisory Group

On 15 July Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, chaired the Water Advisory Group, bringing together London's water companies, London Councils, the Environment Agency, Water Resources South East, Ofwat, London Resilience, Water Plus and Thames 21. The meeting discussed the flooding on the 12 July as well as activity underway across the group to support the Mayor's Green New Deal mission as part of London's recovery from the pandemic. The group also discussed the recent Climate Change Committee's (CCC) report on climate adaptation and the widening gap between action required and being taken at the national level.

Reopening Mayor of London Drinking Fountains

On 21 July my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, joined Paralympian David Weir to mark the reopening of London's drinking fountains at one of the fountains located in Russell Square to encourage Londoners to join the fight against plastic pollution by making the most of the newly reopened network of drinking fountains across the city and switch to reusable water bottles. Advice from the NHS and the World Health Organization is that COVID-19 is not a waterborne virus and I have obtained advice from the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee that the fountains (specifically, water refill stations) are safe to use, as is refilling your bottle or coffee cup at participating businesses mapped on the Refill London app. Through my partnerships with the Zoological Society of London and Thames Water we have already installed 82 drinking fountains across London and are restarting the programme with Thames Water which will deliver over 100 in total. In addition to the fountains, there are now over 4,000 shops, cafes and restaurants offering free refills across the city through Refill London.

C40 Mayoral webinar: jobs, equity, action

On 22 July I spoke at the C40 and Glasgow City Council webinar: Jobs, Equity, Action alongside fellow international city mayors who are implementing equitable climate actions in their cities. This included Eric Garcetti, C40 Chair and Mayor of Los Angeles; Ada Colau, C40 Vice-Chair and Mayor of Barcelona; Mohammed Adjei Sowah, Mayor of Accra; Ricardo Nunes, Mayor of Sao Paulo; Rafał Trzaskowski, Mayor of Warsaw and Randall Williams, Mayor of Tshwane. I used this event to outline London's commitment and action on delivering a Green New Deal for the capital, as well as to learn from partner cities on their approaches to an inclusive, green recoveries. In the lead up, I signed up to C40's call to action for A Decade of Good Jobs and Climate Ambition, outlining the ambition of a 'just transition' to tackle existing inequalities and providing green skills and training to aid with the shift to zero carbon. See C40's press release here: https://www.c40.org/press_releases/mayors-unions-cop26

Meeting with Robin Mortimer, London Port Authority

On July 26 my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Robin Mortimer, Chief Executive of the Port of London Authority (PLA), to discuss Thames Vision 2050 – the PLA's framework for developing a zero emission river Thames. The meeting focused on the role the river will play in London's social and economic recovery from the pandemic and my plans to create a fairer, greener, healthier and more prosperous city. At the meeting Deputy Mayor Rodrigues highlighted the opportunity for the priorities of my Green New Deal to feature in the refreshed plans, particularly around maximising carbon and wider air pollution reductions from river-based activity, facilitating the leisure and wellbeing benefits of the river through safe access for all.

North London District Energy Network site visit

On 28 July Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, visited the site of one of the projects funded through my Green New Deal Fund to see progress so far. I have provided £1.2 million of my Green New Deal Fund to the London Borough of Enfield, and its heat network company Energetik. This included £750,000 of funding to super-size the heat distribution pipework from the Edmonton Eco Park so that it would be able to supply heat to buildings in Enfield as well as providing at least 20MW of heat to buildings in Haringey and Hackney. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues met with Enfield Council Chief Executive, Ian Davis and colleagues who provided a tour of this important development which will provide low carbon, low cost heat to thousands of homes, creating new green jobs and tackling fuel poverty and the climate emergency.

Green and Resilient Spaces Fund opened

On 30 July I opened my Green and Resilient Spaces Fund for expressions of interest. As part of my Green New Deal Fund, I am investing in projects that create and improve green and blue spaces across the capital and that enhance our resilience to the impacts of climate change. This £4m fund will support large-scale, enhancements to green and blue spaces, and the wider public realm that will strengthen climate resilience, increase biodiversity, improve accessibility, build green skills and help reduce health inequalities. Grants from £250,000 to £750,000 are available. Applications are open to local authorities and other public sector and civil society organisations. Details of the fund and how to apply can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-and-resilient-spaces-fund>

Meeting with Charlotte Wood, Environment agency

On 3 August my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Charlotte Wood, the Environment Agency's new London Area Director. Given the flash flooding events of the 12 and 25 July the meeting focussed on the Environment Agency's strategic role in relation to surface water flooding and how London's approach could be improved. The discussion included focussing on the better coordination of activities across London's flood authorities, the Environment Agency and other relevant stakeholders such as Thames Water. The importance of developing an effective warning system for Londoners, development of the detailed business case for investing in surface water flooding across all the London boroughs and improved access to national flood funding for urban surface water flooding were discussed.

Surface water flooding roundtables

On 27 July, following flash flooding events, I convened key partners, including London Councils, Transport for London (TfL), the London Fire Brigade, water companies and the Environment Agency to ensure everything possible was being done to prevent and reduce the impact of surface water flooding in the capital. Unfortunately, the type of flooding we have seen in recent weeks will become more frequent and intense as a result of heavier rainfall due to climate change.

Despite having limited powers in the area, I wanted to bring together the key partners to see what more can be done, including the water companies. I continue to lobby the Government to devolve more funding and powers to local leaders to enable us deal with both flooding and the wider impacts of climate change.

On 3 August my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, hosted a follow up meeting to the surface water flooding roundtable I convened on 27 July. The purpose was to agree further actions in anticipation of likely further surface water flood events, and to ensure any gaps in response are being addressed by the appropriate organisations. Issues covered included improving the coordination and consistency of inter-agency and public communications, the feasibility of the development of an effective early warning/alert system for surface water flood risk, and asks of Government on longer-term adaptation- as heavy rainstorms are expected to increase in frequency and intensity with climate change.

On 20 August, Shirley and Fiona led a third roundtable with key partners in response to the flooding. The London Resilience Partnership provided an incident debrief and there was a discussion of how to improve longer-term resilience and adaptation of the city in light of climate change, which will increase the frequency and severity of the storms we saw last month.

Meeting with Ben Travis, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

On 16 August my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Ben Travis, Chief Executive of the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust to discuss the upcoming expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in October and the support available for NHS staff and patients. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues highlighted why the ULEZ expansion is vital to protect the health of all Londoners and visitors and noted the already high levels of compliance with the emission standards.

Meeting with Ed Sellwood, Volunteer It Yourself

On 18 August Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Ed Sellwood to discuss the work that Volunteer It Yourself do with young people around the development of construction skills and volunteering opportunities. The meeting followed a recent visit I took to a VIY Project at St Ann's Library in Tottenham which provided apprenticeship opportunities for local young people in developing an edible garden at the library. The project was funded through my Grow Back Greener fund.

Education and Youth

Future Shapers' Network

This summer, the GLA launched its new Future Shapers' Network - providing a direct link between policy teams and the real-life experience of young Londoners.

Engaging with young people can be one of the most persistent challenges to creating truly holistic and citizen-centred policy. The Future Shapers' Network builds on the success of my fantastic Peer Outreach Team which, over the last decade, has offered opportunities to hundreds of young Londoners from diverse backgrounds. The chance to speak directly to those in power, organise events and network with one another has provided many of these young people with the skills and confidence they need to thrive. There are now hundreds of former members of the Peer Outreach Team, who not only have a clear view of what life is like for young Londoners, but also have the skills to translate these real experiences into a language that policy makers can understand.

The Future Shapers' Network will bring together around 300 former Peer Outreach Team members, alongside other young people who are engaged with the GLA's work, giving them access to news, opportunities, and events. We hope that numbers will keep growing too, with partner organisations helping to expand our reach to more young people across the city. For policy teams at the GLA, this will guarantee a group of knowledgeable, outspoken, and diverse young Londoners, who are ready to contribute to future events and policy making.

Teaching Black History

On 7 July my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, welcomed teachers to my follow-up CPD webinar in collaboration with The Black Curriculum. This supported teachers to build on my London Curriculum's history resources by developing a racially literate mindset with practical application in real-life situations.

The webinar recordings and resources can be viewed on my Inclusive Education webpage: www.london.gov.uk/inclusive-education

Young Londoners Fund: Targeted Summer Autumn Uplift Funding

This summer, I set out a significant multi-agency plan to tackle violence in London. In addition to robust enforcement and convening partners to co-ordinate effective activity, a comprehensive package of measures has been created to support communities by funding hundreds of positive activities and opportunities for young Londoners in the capital this summer.

My Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is providing just over £170,000 to uplift selected Young Londoners Fund projects and increase the capacity of these projects to support additional young people until the end of December 2021.

My Young Londoners Fund projects already engage significant numbers of young Londoners at risk of, or involved in, crime. They deliver in many of the communities that are most affected by violence. This vital funding will boost the delivery of positive activities throughout summer and into the autumn.

Communities and Social Policy

Meeting with Hackney Chinese Community

On 22 July my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted a roundtable with Hackney Chinese Community Services to share a message of welcome to new arrivals from Hong Kong and to support the launch of new funding to support their social integration. The event was an opportunity to meet with and listen to the views of Hongkongers so they can help shape initiatives to support Hongkongers to thrive in London.

Launch of London Festival of Ideas

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice launched the London Festival of Ideas, which ran from June 28 – July 23. 104 events took place across London, all exploring our individual and collective visions and plans for strong and bring Londoners together. Of the 104 events, I provided funding to 56 through my Access Grants programme, to ensure all Londoners were able to contribute to the conversation to help shape the Building Strong Communities Mission as part of the London Recovery Board.

Recruitment drive for young Black men

On 5 July my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard opened a 3-day recruitment drive for young Black men. The event was run as part of my Workforce Integration Network (WIN) programme and involved 11 businesses on the Design Lab programme with over 300 young Black men in attendance across the three days. The companies involved were:

- SGN
- J Murphy & Sons Ltd
- Wates Ltd
- UK Power Networks
- Balfour Beatty
- Mott MacDonald
- Ferrovial Construction UK
- Laing O'Rourke
- Hyperoptic
- Balfour Beatty Vinci Systra JV – HS2 OOC Station Partner
- Thames Water

Letter to the Minister for the Constitution and Devolution

On 16 August I wrote to the Minister for the Constitution and Devolution, the Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP, raising several concerns regarding the provisions in the Elections Bill. The Bill in its current form has the potential to impose further barriers to democratic participation for already under-registered and under-represented Londoners, many of whom have already been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Specifically, I raised the measures that will further disenfranchise European Londoners and I provided evidence of the negative impact the introduction of voting photo IDs is likely to have on Black, Asian, ethnic minority and migrant, young, female and disabled Londoners. I stressed my commitment to encourage active civic and democratic participation – key pillars of social integration – and called again for votes for all London residents aged 16 years and older, irrespective of nationality, in line with democratic reforms already implemented in Scotland and Wales.

Advice in community setting grants awarded

On 13 August I published details of the 11 partnerships that have been awarded funding through the Advice in Community Settings grant scheme. The successful bids involve a diverse range of partners from across the city, including schools, emergency food settings, grass roots community organisations, specialist advice providers, and local authorities. They will be working together over the coming months to finalise plans to connect the most disadvantaged Londoners with the advice and support they need to avoid or escape financial hardship.

More information about the programme and the partnerships involved can be viewed at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/civil-society/advice-community-settings-grant-programme>

Health

Water only school's competition

On the 16 July London's Child Obesity Taskforce launched a competition encouraging London's primary and secondary school children to help develop an advertising campaign, inspiring everyone between the ages of 4 - 18 in London to drink only water in school. I have supported the competition by recording a video message encouraging young people to get involved. This supports my manifesto commitment to lead the drive to expand the number of water-only schools and to continue work to support children's health and weight. This competition will continue to be promoted over the summer with the video appearing on taskforce social media channels.

London Region Programme Board for Flu & Covid-19 Vaccination Delivery Programme

On 11 August I attended the London COVID and Flu Vaccination Board to offer my gratitude for the dedication and hard work of everyone working to deliver London's COVID vaccination programme. I celebrated the remarkable achievement that the NHS has delivered over 10 million vaccines to Londoners and acknowledged the challenges that London faces as a global city with a younger, more diverse, more mobile population, and less likely to be registered with a GP. I thanked members for the great innovation demonstrated in London's choice of

vaccination venues: from football stadiums and cricket clubs to places of worship, nightclubs and cultural venues, as well as pop-up clinics being held across London in parks, music venues, supermarket car parks, galleries and vaccinations in community pharmacies. I reflected that the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated some of the structural inequalities, structural racism and socioeconomic challenges in London, and that partnership working must continue following the end of the pandemic.

Pandemic Response

I have continued to meet weekly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the COVID-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with COVID-19 and other health needs. During this period, key topics discussed have also included progress in roll out of the vaccine programme, planning for removal of restrictions through the Government's Roadmap, priorities for outbreak control, testing and Variants of Concern. Sir David Sloman commented that the joint work undertaken in partnership with the Greater London Authority, London Councils and PHE had been exemplary.

Supporting Young Londoners to discuss health issues important to them and the COVID 19 vaccine

On 23 August I was pleased to be able to join with PHE and the NHS to help community groups across London to host a week of health and wellbeing events for young people focusing on the impact of COVID-19 and the vaccine. We have supported 31 community organisations to give diverse groups of young Londoners the space to talk about the health issues that matter to them. This funding is bringing young Londoners together through music, sport, film, dance, and a range of other activities. From shopping centres to community festivals, and church halls to parks, the events will see young Londoners unite in their local community to share their stories and learn more about the vaccine from NHS and health professionals. We hope these discussions will help young people to explore their experiences of COVID-19 and the impact the pandemic has had on their lives and wellbeing, as well as encouraging them to take up the offer of the vaccine.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

London Enterprise Advisor Network Careers Booster Fund

19 July saw the completion of my Careers Booster Fund, which ran as part of my London Enterprise Advisor Network. This fund awarded grants of up to £1,000 to over 130 London schools, FE colleges, specials schools and APs to support employer-led careers activities for their students. This funding allowed Career Leaders to provide creative and Covid-19 safe ways to prepare students for their career transitions and to make informed decisions about their future.

London Squad - EURO 2020 volunteering

From 11 June – 11 July I deployed 1,200 volunteers across London to help football fans enjoy the EURO 2020 tournament. London Squad volunteers were located at popular tourist attractions, travel hubs and Fan Zones, and provided information about the tournament, and

advice for enjoying our city to tourists and Londoners. They helped to create a welcoming family-friendly atmosphere.

One of the events they supported was the Inside Out project, with street artist JR. The art installation closed Tower Bridge on the day of the England team's first game and turned it into a unique outdoor art gallery. Volunteers helped to print over 1,200 portraits and paste them onto the bridge. These portraits were of keyworkers, community champions, school children, grassroots footballers and members of the England teams, as well as passers-by on the day.

Funding to support disability sport networks across London

On 20 August I awarded a total of £75,000 to three disability sport networks in the boroughs of Bexley, Southwark, and Sutton, under my London Together Fund, in partnership with Comic Relief.

These networks will deliver projects that use sport and physical activity to reduce social isolation and improve mental health outcomes of deaf and disabled Londoners. The three projects will be led by Bexley Voluntary Service Council, Access Sport, and Volunteer Centre Sutton. The funding will support the development of the three disability sport networks, as well as upskilling and supporting the community organisations within them to provide sport and physical activity opportunities for deaf and disabled Londoners.

Team London Young Ambassadors Youth Summit - Climate Action

On 2 July over 900 students from across 17 London schools took part in the Team London Young Ambassador Youth Summit. The summit focussed on the theme of Climate Action and connected with London-wide events happening as part of London Climate Action Week. Speakers at the summit included Zack Polanski, Chair of London's Environment Committee, Zamzam Ibrahim, Co-Founder of Students Organising for Sustainability UK, and Vice-Chair Muslim Leadership Foundation, and Louis VI, a music artist, film composer, and climate activist. The summit collected 180 suggestions from young people on how London can help tackle the climate emergency. The event was delivered by Big Ideas as part of Team London Young Ambassadors.

Sport Unites Fund

On 12 July I launched my new Sport Unites Fund which will support community sport initiatives that use sport and physical activity to make London the most active and socially integrated capital in the world.

Grants of up to £50,000 are available for community sport projects taking place between summer 2021 and June 2022 across two grant streams: New Ideas, and Tried & Tested. Up to £535,000 in total will be distributed through regular, "rolling" decision panels, making it easier for community groups to apply.

Grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded to community sport projects testing new and exciting ideas and to those who haven't previously received funding under the 'New Ideas' strand. The 'Tried and Tested' strand will distribute grants between £10,000 and £50,000 to successful existing initiatives looking to expand their work.

Sport Unites - Ideas Incubator

On 5 August my Community Sport team launched the Sport Unites Ideas Incubator: a programme of workshops, supporting individuals and community sport groups to develop their Sport for Change project ideas, a programme which accompanies the Sport Unites Fund. These small group workshops will allow participants to define, refine, and understand what is needed to help their sport and physical activity project ideas come to life. The Ideas Incubator workshops will be tailored to the participants' needs and will be followed by short one-to-one conversations identifying further areas of support.

Community Sport Organisational Development

On 12 August my Community Sport Team awarded Sported Foundation funding of £75,000 for the Sport Unites organisational development programme, to support the community sport sector, particularly in the context of responding to, transitioning out of, and recovering from the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The understanding that community sport organisations need more than just financial resource has become particularly pertinent, and therefore as well as providing grants for projects which support Londoners, non-financial support to the community sport sector is being made available. Through this grant, every Sport Unites grantee will be supported to be stronger and more resilient over a 3-9 month period through mentoring, training, the joining together of organisations and receiving tools, and resources.

Team London Ambassadors

On 29 July I launched my annual Team London Ambassador programme to welcome visitors to the capital, following a pause in service in 2020. This year's programme is running for six weeks. Volunteers are assisting tourists in major tourist attractions around London. These include Piccadilly Circus, St James Park, Exhibition Road and Greenwich Cutty Sark. Around 400 Ambassadors are doing volunteer shifts, helping domestic and any international visitors enjoy the city and ensure they receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Culture and Events

Liberty Festival

On 7 July I announced the nine members of the first Liberty Advisory Group who will put diverse leadership at the centre of my flagship Liberty Festival celebrating D/deaf and disabled artists. This group brings together leading experts from the cultural sector and London's disabled communities who will advise the commissioning, audience and stakeholder development and steer the future of the festival as part of my London Borough of Culture award. The Liberty Advisory Group inaugural meeting was held on 31 July.

Creative Enterprise Zones programme extended

On 29 July I announced an investment of nearly £3 million to grow my Creative Enterprise Zone programme and help London's creative sector recover from the pandemic. The funding will support the accreditation of up to six new Creative Enterprise Zones over the next two years with the first zone accredited in Blackhorse Lane, Waltham Forest. The new zones will deliver

skills and job opportunities and support the recovery of London's creative by supporting affordable workspace for artists and developing pro-culture local policies. I have written to all borough leaders and elected Mayors to encourage them to apply for a Creative Enterprise Zone in their borough.

Creative Freelancers: Shaping London's Recovery

On 14 July, fifty performing arts freelancers were appointed to the Creative Freelancers: Shaping London's Recovery initiative, a City Hall project to improve conditions for Londoners working in the creative sector. The programme will improve working conditions, establish skills and training opportunities and advocate for improved rights for creative freelancers. Since the start of the pandemic, up to 60 per cent of the city's creative freelancers have lost their income streams. The programme is delivered in partnership with leading arts organisations such as Talawa Theatre Company, Royal Opera House and Studio Wayne McGregor.

Heaven Nightclub Pop-up Vaccination Centre

On 8 August my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, attended the first vaccination centre to be held in a nightclub at Heaven, one of London's best known LGBTQ+ venues. The event was organised by City Hall, Heaven nightclub, NHS London and Westminster City Council. The centre had capacity to deliver 1,200 doses across the day along with free sexual health advice for everyone who got the vaccine. Following the success of this event, City Hall is working with other venues to host pop-up clinics. This is part of London's commitment to find innovative ways to support the vaccine rollout.

World Cities Culture Forum

On 3 August my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE met with Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs, San Francisco. They discussed COVID-19 recovery measures for culture and public realm initiatives in our two cities, including San Francisco's innovative ways to support artists and increasing diversity in the public realm in cities.

Culture at Risk Office delivers Community Spaces at Risk Fund and expands remit

On 20 August I announced £369,591 towards 30 grassroots community organisations, with a further 31 groups receiving advice and business support. This takes the total amount of my Community Spaces at Risk Fund to nearly £600,000 and supported more than 100 at-risk community organisations since it was launched in November. The fund is focused on protecting diverse-led grassroots community organisations, with 75 per cent led by underrepresented groups, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ communities, D/deaf and disabled people, and women's-led groups, and 46 per cent operating in the most deprived areas in England.

The Fund is delivered by my Culture at Risk Office which has taken on an expanded remit to become the Culture and Community Spaces at Risk programme. This programme will work to safeguard London's most-loved world-leading and grassroots cultural and community infrastructure.

International

Meeting with Yael Lempert, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the United States

On 28 July I met with Yael Lempert, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the United States, at her official residence of Wychwood House. We discussed the common priorities which the USA and London share – from making sure that our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is equitable for all, to placing the climate emergency at the forefront all that we do, especially in the run up to COP26. We also discussed the deep trade and investment connections between London and the USA, which I look forward to strengthening in the months and years ahead. After our meeting, Chargé Lempert hosted myself, my team, London Assembly Members and colleagues from across the Greater London Authority for a reception to celebrate the friendship between London and the USA.

Meeting with Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE

On 4 August I hosted the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE, for a meeting in City Hall. We were able to discuss our shared commitment to the work of C40, of which both London and Freetown are active members. We also spoke about our cities’ involvement in CHANGE, the international gender equity network, which both myself and Mayor Aki-Sawyerr co-founded alongside the cities of Barcelona, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Tokyo.

‘Metropolis: The New Now’ event with Governing Mayor Michael Müller of Berlin

On 11 August at the invitation of Governing Mayor Michael Müller of Berlin, I spoke virtually at the ‘Metropolis: The New Now’ event hosted by Berlin speaks. I spoke of the tragic recent flooding in Germany – and extreme weather events around the world – that no city or country is immune to the devastating consequences of the climate crisis, and how in London we’re putting a Green New Deal at the centre of our recovery efforts. I also highlighted the Global Innovation Collaborative, which we recently launched with Berlin, New York and Paris to help our creative and cultural sectors bounce back from the toughest eighteen months they’ve ever had to endure and that by working collectively in this way we can build a better, brighter and greener future for all of our citizens.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Strategy to 2025

In July, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) published the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Strategy to 2025 – an important document that will help guide the Corporation over the coming years as it works with partners to deliver a bold vision for the Park and surrounding areas. The strategy sets out LLDC’s vision of the Park’s role in London’s post-pandemic recovery, how it will support local communities and businesses, drive innovation and investment, and maintain its status as a world class destination.

The strategy can be viewed online here:

https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/-/media/geop_strategy_to_2025_final_version.ashx?la=en

East Summer School

LLDC's annual East Summer School was held from 26 July to 6 August on the Park, with local young people attending in-person for the first time in two years after last year's offering was held virtually.

More than 300 young east Londoners took part in the programme, which offered 35 different interactive courses ranging from fashion, engineering and dance to horticulture and coding.

The programme was supported by all East Bank partners - BBC, Sadler's Wells, UAL's London College of Fashion, University College London (UCL) and the V&A - as well as local partners including Here East, Foundation for Future London, City of London, Culture Mile Learning, Mace, LMA, Staffordshire University and Bloom.

East Wick

On 27 July LLDC's independent Planning Decisions Committee approved the Reserved Matters Applications for Phases 2, 3 and 7 of East Wick which are set to deliver 785 homes. This is another step forward in the delivery of this new Park neighbourhood, with all 302 homes under Phase 1 of the scheme due to complete by the end of August, and residents beginning to settle in to their new homes. In total, East Wick and Sweetwater neighbourhoods will deliver approximately 1,850 new homes on the Park, which was increased from 31% to 34% affordable under my Mayoralty.

The Line

At the end of July, The Line – an outdoor public art trail running between the Park and the O2 – unveiled two new additions. 'Untitled (Juniper)' by acclaimed American artist Virginia Overton joins a new work by Tracey Emin named 'A Moment Without You', both of which have been supported through LLDC's Neighbourhood Priorities Fund. Located at Three Mills, Emin's piece is the only public sculpture by the artist currently on display in London, and LLDC's funding has supported not only the installation but supporting engagement activities including workshops in local schools.

Get Together

On Sunday 8 August more than 3,000 people attended the Get Together – a free, family-focused community event based at Timber Lodge offering a variety of activities and entertainment. The LLDC put on the event with support from its East Bank partners, including the BBC, Sadler's Wells, UAL's London College of Fashion, University College London (UCL) and the V&A, as well as Foundation for Future London.

I am Team GB Event

Following the end of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the Park hosted an #IamTeamGB homecoming event (14 August) to celebrate the incredible achievements of Team GB athletes. Over 5,000 people joined the event to run a 'lap of honour' around London Stadium and meet some of their Olympic heroes.

Alongside the main event on the Stadium Island, a variety of supporting community events took place across the Park, with attendees able to pre-book a range of taster sport sessions at London Aquatics Centre and Copper Box Arena.

London Stadium

West Ham United returned to London Stadium for their first home match of the 2021-22 Premier League season, facing Leicester City in front of a full crowd on 23 August.

On 17 August, London Stadium announced that Foo Fighters would return to the venue for a two-night residency in summer 2022, following on from two sold-out performances in 2018. It's great to see the return of live music at the Stadium.

People's Pavilion at Here East

The People's Pavilion was unveiled at Here East on 21 August, celebrated with an accompanying Envision East Festival. The People's Pavilion is a physical space designed and curated exclusively by young East Londoners, in collaboration with social enterprise Beyond the Box. The 10-day Envision East Festival will feature a variety of themed events including workshops from the Royal Drawing School and a photography exhibition in collaboration with V&A East Storehouse and V&A East Museum which are coming to the Park as part of East Bank.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Planning Committee appointments

On 11 August I approved the appointment of Steve Quartermain CBE and Gary Rice as OPDC's new independent Planning Committee members. Steve Quartermain CBE, the government's former Chief Planner, and Gary Rice, who previously led development at Southwark Council, will join the committee with immediate effect, bringing additional senior level experience to support the Corporation's statutory planning responsibilities.

Planning approvals

On 15 July the Chair of OPDC's Planning Committee, following consultation with the Advisory Panel, approved the planning application for new 60,000 sqm. data centre on Bashley Road in Park Royal and OPDC's revised application for new and improved towpath access to the Grand Union Canal Towpath. The towpath will be wheelchair accessible and include new landscaping and planting, encouraging more people to use and enjoy the canal.

Members also agreed for OPDC to begin consultation on the Old Oak Neighbourhood Plan boundary changes, proposed by the Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum, and this will begin in September.

Local Plan consultation

OPDC's public consultation to modify its Local Plan closed on 5 July 2021. The consultation received 142 pieces of feedback, with 1,400 individual comments. Officers are currently finalising responses to these comments. Any final amends to the plan as a result of public feedback will go to OPDC Planning Committee for consideration and to OPDC Board for decision prior to submission to the Planning Inspector.

High Speed 2, Old Oak Common Station

On 26 July, Liz Peace CBE, Chair, and David Lunts, CEO, met with Mark Thurston, HS2's CEO and Matthew Botelle, Stations Client Director, to discuss progress with the construction of Old Oak Common Station and agreed a number of measures to further support local residents.

Planning

Local Plans

London Borough of Bexley – Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation

On 23 July 2021 the GLA responded on my behalf stating that the local plan is in general conformity with the London Plan, and making suggestions on a range of issues for the borough's consideration

London Borough of Barnet – Local Plan regulation 19 consultation

On 9 August 2021 the GLA responded on my behalf stating that the local plan is in general conformity with the London Plan, and making suggestions on a range of issues for the borough's consideration.

London Borough of Brent – Neasden SPD

On 11 August 2021 the GLA responded on my behalf providing guidance to ensure that the SPD is consistent with the London Plan.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Stolthaven Dagenham Ltd, Hindmans Way, Dagenham, LB Barking & Dagenham

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

Surrey House Island, RB Kingston (2020/6920)

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

Surrey House Island, RB Kingston (2020/6923)

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

Lea Bridge Gas Works, LB Waltham Forest

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

Land To The East Of Montford Place, LB Lambeth

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

2 Portal Way, 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.

330 Ealing 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.

Macbean Street, RB Greenwich

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

Elephant And Castle Shopping Centre, 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.

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

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

Project 100 development, Technico House, 4 Christopher Street, 56 & 58 Wilson Street and 1,3 & 5 Earl Street, LB Hackney

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

19 Great Eastern Street and 9 Hewett Street, LB Hackney

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

West London Film Studios Extension, LB Hillingdon

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

105 Victoria Street, City of Westminster

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

Chandos Road Trading Estate, LB Ealing

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

Unit 3, Thames Road, LB Newham

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

Heston Sports Ground Crane Lodge Road, LB Hounslow

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

Former Civic Centre and Livesey Place, LB Southwark

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

Plots B1 and C, Harrow View East, LB Harrow

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

Bellerive House, 3 Muirfield Crescent, London, LB Tower Hamlets

The 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.

Land To The East Of Montford Place, LB Lambeth

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

Poland House, LB Newham

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

Barking Power Station, LB Barking and Dagenham

The 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.

Albert Memorial, Kensington Gore, City of Westminster

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

Wembley Park Station Car Park and Train Crew Centre, LB Brent

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

Southernwood Retail Park, 2 Humphrey Street

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

Land on corner of Briant and Besson Street

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- 100 Fetter Lane, City of London
- Gallions View, RB Greenwich
- Lesnes Estate, LB Bexley
- Land at Crabtree Manorway South, LB Bexley
- 100 Fetter Lane (Option B), City of London
- Former Wyevale Garden Centre, LB Hillingdon
- Temporary Hammersmith Ferry Service, LB Richmond
- Whipps Cross University Hospital, LB Waltham Forest (2021/0614)
- Whipps Cross University Hospital, LB Waltham Forest (2021/0616)
- Ensign House, 17 Admirals Way, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets
- Eastgate Business Park, LB Waltham Forest
- Station Tavern, LB Enfield

- 17-21 Dingwall Road, Croydon, LB Croydon
- Plot H1 Elephant Park, LB Southwark
- Olympic House and Novotel, LB Brent
- land at Surrey Canal Road, Stockholm Road, Bolina Road and Rollins Street, London SE15 and SE16, LB Lewisham
- Hammersmith Ferry – LBHF, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- 52-54 New Cross Road, SE14, LB Lewisham
- 15-17 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- 88 Green Lanes, LB Enfield
- Development At Car Park North Of Roding Court, Mill Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge
- Nightingale Estate Regeneration, LB Hackney
- former car parks, Tesco Store, 209 Conington Road SE13, LB Lewisham
- Eastbrook Studios, LB Barking and Dagenham
- 96-98 George Street, LB Croydon
- Burgess Industrial Park, Parkhouse Street, LB Southwark
- 120 Fleet Street, City of London
- Wickway Community Centre, St Georges Way, LB Southwark
- Land at former St Georges Hospital, Hornchurch, LB Havering
- Highview Farm, New Years Green Lane, LB Hillingdon
- Former Rexel Site, 33 Rainham Riad South, LB Barking & Dagenham
- 149 Harrow Road, City of Westminster
- Park View Place, Greenford Road, LB Ealing
- St Edwards Academy, London Road, LB Havering
- Land at Evelyn Street, LB Lewisham
- 36 and 44-52 White Hart Lane (The Goods Yard) and 867-879 High Road (The Depot), LB Haringey

Key Engagements

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

- I joined a police walkabout in Kentish Town on 2 July
- I visited the London Survivors Gateway Hub in Shepherd's Bush on 5 July
- I met with the Rt Hon George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 5 July to discuss air pollution, the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and food waste recycling
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 6 July
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 6 July
- I attended the 7/7 Wreath Laying Ceremony in Hyde Park on 7 July to mark the 16th anniversary of the London Bombings
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 7 July
- I addressed the Metropolitan Police Service Senior Leaders event at the Kia Oval on 7 July
- I attended the England v Denmark EUROs 2020 Semi Final at Wembley on 7 July
- I visited the Rescue & Response Charity at the Rose Bowl Youth Centre, Islington, on 8 July
- I chaired the AEB Mayoral Board on 8 July
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 8 July to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I had my regular meeting with GLA Unison on 8 July
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 8 July to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended the Wimbledon Ladies Final on 10 July
- I attended the England v Italy EUROS 2020 Final at Wembley on 11 July
- I met with Mark Watts, C40, on 12 July to discuss the work of C40
- I attended the UK100 International Net Zero Local Leadership Summit on 13 July
- I met with the Rt Hon Priti Patel, Home Secretary on 13 July to discuss the Daniel Morgan Report
- I joined the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm Meeting at City Hall on 13 July
- I met with representatives of Grenfell Utd on 13 July
- I visited the London Transport Museum and Covent Garden Piazza on 14 July to launch the Let's Do London Family Fun summer season
- I attended the British-American Project Nominees Reception on 14 July
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 July
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 15 July to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 16 July
- I met with the Mayor of Freetown on 16 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I attended the NHS & Tate Late Vaccine Pop up at Tate Modern on 16 July
- I visited John Lewis in Oxford Street on 19 July to launch Transport for London's new campaign 'Welcome back London' to encourage people to return to the public transport network responsibly

- I met with the Leaders of Camden, Westminster City Council, and Kensington & Chelsea and a representative from the City of London on 19 July to discuss the future of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ)
- I met with the Mayor of Buenos Aires on 19 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I attended the Serpentine Gallery Reception on 19 July
- I visited the Edmonton Community Partnership on 20 July to announce new investment in supporting communities and mentoring for young people
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 20 July
- I met with John Kerry, the United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, at Kew Gardens on 20 July
- I met with the Mayor of Sydney on 21 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I met with the Mayor of Tokyo on 21 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I chaired the London COVID Business Forum on 21 July
- I met with the Mayor of Barcelona on 21 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I chaired the London Recovery Board Meeting on 21 July
- I met with the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro on 21 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I met with the Mayor of Bogota on 21 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 22 July
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 22 July to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined the C40 Mayoral Webinar on "Jobs, Equity and Action: a Global Green New Deal for all urban residents" on 22 July
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 22 July to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I met with the Mayor of Seattle on 22 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I met with the Mayor of Accra on 22 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I hosted a Serious Youth Violence Summit on 23 July
- I visited the Stag Brewery planning development site in Mortlake on 26 July
- I met with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 26 July ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 26 July
- I hosted a Flooding Roundtable on 27 July
- I chaired the Stag Brewery Representation Hearing at City Hall on 27 July
- I met with the Mayor of Dubai on 28 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I met with the Mayor of Dhaka North on 28 July to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 28 July
- I attended the Play Summit at City Hall on 28 July
- I had my regular meeting with the TUC LESE on 28 July

- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 28 July
- I attended the reception hosted by the US Charge d’Affaire at Wychwood House on 28 July
- I met with the Mayor of Jakarta on 3 August to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 3 August
- I had an introductory meeting with Gary Smith, the new General Secretary of the GMB, on 3 August
- I met with Michael Lassman, London Regional Chair and Rowena Howie, London Policy Chair at the Federation of Small Business (FSB) on 3 August to discuss how small businesses in London can be supported
- I attended the vigil taking place at Fryent Country Park on 3 August for Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman
- I met with the Mayor of Freetown on 4 August to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I met with the Mayor of Stockholm on 4 August to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I joined Operation Viper and Gangs Unit officers for a ride-along in Stratford on 4 August to see the ongoing action being taken by the MPS and City Hall to tackle violence and keep Londoners safe
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 5 August to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 5 August to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I met with the Mayor of Durban on 5 August to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I visited ZSL London Zoo on 10 August to launch the ‘Kids TfL Tube Map’, as part of the next phase of the Family Fun summer season of our Let’s Do London programme
- I met with the VRU Young People Action Group on 10 August
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 10 August
- I visited the Newham consortium, which is delivering local solutions to tackling violence using funding from the Violence Reduction Unit’s MyEnds programme, on 11 August
- I attended the Regional Vaccine Programme Board on 11 August
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 11 August
- I met with the Mayor of Milan on 11 August to discuss the continued pandemic, a green recovery and the work of C40
- I visited Bristol on 13 August to meet with Marvin Rees, the Mayor of Bristol, and to visit the Castle Park Energy Centre, M Shed Museum and the Clifton Suspension Bridge
- I attended the AFC Wimbledon v Bolton EFL match at Plough Lane on 14 August
- I attended the LSO BMW Classic Concert at Trafalgar Square on 15 August
- I attended the opening night of Cinderella at the Gillian Lynne Theatre on 18 August
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 26 August to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I met with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on 26 August to discuss the Extinction Rebellion demonstrations

Ends