

32nd Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 20th June 2019

This is my Thirty-Second Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 3rd May – 6th June 2019.

Executive Summary

Third round of Good Growth Fund to open in the Autumn

On 6 June, I announced, as part of the third round of the Good Growth Fund, a further £20 million in funding to help London's town centres, high streets and local regeneration projects. I am determined to address some of the big challenges facing our communities and ensure Londoners have a big say in the future of their city.

Volunteers' Week 2019 – Poppy Appeal and 75th anniversary of D-Day landings

On 5 June, I joined staff at City Hall using one of their annual days of volunteering leave to help create over 750 boxes for this year's Poppy Appeal, in support of the Royal British Legion and to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day landings. The day of action coincided with Volunteers' Week 2019 to recognise the invaluable and diverse contribution volunteers make.

Increased investment to track knife crime offenders

On 31 May, I announced a programme to tag knife crime offenders with a tracking device on release from prison. This includes an increased investment of more than £700,000 to expand the programme to 20 boroughs across the capital to cut reoffending.

New London Housing Panel

On 30 May, I announced the 15 leading organisations from across the voluntary and community sectors which will form the new independent London Housing Panel and help shape my housing policies for the capital. The panel has been established jointly with Trust for London, an independent charity which aims to tackle poverty and inequality in London.

Largest ever fund invested in small and medium businesses

I promised to be the most pro-business Mayor that London has ever had and that's why on 30 May we allocated a record amount (over £100 million) to SMEs who can create jobs and play a crucial role in our economy. The Greater London Investment Fund specifically targets businesses which have had difficulties in securing investment. As well as investing in 170 companies, the fund will secure at least another £103 million in private sector investment and create 3,500 new jobs in the capital.

The bulk of the money for the new fund comes from European Union sources, which the Government is yet to give any assurances about replacing post-Brexit

Africa in London

On 24 May, I launched the new Africa in London events programme at City Hall attended by over 150 creatives and influencers of African heritage who work in music, art, film and publishing in London.

The Africa In London programme is a showcase for African creativity and culture in London. The programme consists of four key events and hundreds of smaller events that celebrate African heritage and culture in London this summer. Londoners can find out about events and share their events via a listings page on London.gov. We are also providing funding for African cultural projects through our Culture Seeds programme, and a mentorship scheme for 18 to 35-year-old Londoners in partnership with British Council.

Protected cycle routes have doubled

On 24 May, I was proud to announce that in just three years since becoming Mayor I have doubled the amount of protected cycling infrastructure built in London. This is a major delivery milestone which will be enabling more cycling in the capital.

I want to go further and deliver even more high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure across all parts of the capital, but even with record investment from the Transport for London we can't achieve that on our own. Boroughs across London must recognise the huge benefits of getting more people out of their cars and cycling as part of their everyday routine – getting more people active, improving their health, and reducing the air pollution on our streets which causes so much harm.

'Tessa Jowell Boulevard' unveiled in Olympic Park

I was proud to join the family of the late Tessa Jowell in the unveiling of the new Tessa Jowell Boulevard on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 18 May. The renamed walkway - in one of the most popular areas of the Park - is a fitting memorial to Tessa and the enormous part she played in bringing the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to London.

Central London Ultra Low Emission Zone – one month on report

On 16 May, I published a report evaluating the first month's performance of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London. This report showed that the ULEZ is already having a significant impact on reducing the number of older, more polluting vehicles in the zone.

In its first month of operation, excluding 'non-typical' days such as Easter bank holidays, 74 per cent of vehicles driving in the ULEZ over a 24-hour period were compliant with the new standards. This is a significant increase from 39 per cent during Congestion Charging hours in February 2017, when I first confirmed my plans for the T-charge, an important 'stepping stone' to the ULEZ, and 61 per cent in March 2019. Compared to March 2019, April saw around 9,400 fewer non-compliant vehicles detected in the zone on an average day, excluding non-typical days.

£15 million invested in activities for young Londoners

On 15 May, I announced £15 million of new investment in youth projects and programmes through the second round of my Young Londoners Fund. These projects are informed by local need and demand and shaped by those closest to the community. They support young people

facing the biggest challenges, including those from areas with high levels of deprivation and high incidents of serious youth violence.

Over the last year I've seen first-hand the difference that organisations are already making to thousands of young people in our city and we must continue to provide positive, meaningful activities to help them make the right choices in life.

Council homebuilding at its highest level in 34 years

On 10 May, figures were released to show a record-breaking number of affordable homes were started with City Hall's support last year – including the highest number of new council homes in London in 34 years. The new statistics show 14,544 affordable homes were started in the year 2018/19 – more than in any year since City Hall took control of housing investment in the capital and exceeding the target of 14,000 agreed with Government ministers.

My Building Council Homes for Londoners programme has made huge progress already – with more council homes started than in any year since 1985. Councils are beginning to build again after decades of their hands being tied behind their backs – but national Government needs to match our ambition and determination to deliver the homes Londoners so urgently need.

City Hall help small businesses harness the power of AI

London is a leading hub for innovation in artificial intelligence and some of the advances being made right here in the capital are revolutionising how business is done. Larger companies have an advantage in accessing AI due to greater reserves of funding and resources, while smaller businesses are often unable to take advantage of the benefits these innovations can bring. That is why, on 7 May, I committed funding and support to my Technology for Business scheme to tackle this head-on.

The first phase of the project will see 200 small retailers and hospitality companies offered access to a total pot of £200,000 to help them grow and develop using these advanced tools, including a consultation with a dedicated caseworker who will help identify how AI can help meet their needs.

UK's first LGBTIQ+ homelessness shelter

On 3 May, I visited the Outside Project's LGBTIQ+ homeless shelter, run in partnership with Stonewall Housing, in its new home in the former Clerkenwell Fire Station. The fire station should never have been closed by the previous Mayor, but I am pleased that, whilst its long-term future is decided, we have been able to use the building to host the first LGBTIQ+ shelter in the country.

Following my visit, I called on private developers and businesses across London to offer up any empty buildings they own as locations for City Hall-run extra shelters and services for rough sleepers too. We know there are more than 22,000 commercial properties that have been out of use for at least six months in London; it is wrong that so many buildings across London stand empty when there's a housing crisis and when they could be used to help homeless Londoners.

Policing, Crime and Security

Fast-tracking vital funding to services for victims of violence against women and girls.

On 9 May, I announced the first allocations of funding from the additional £15m I allocated in this year's budget for vital services for victims of violence against women and girls. The first allocation of £1.3million will provide urgent help to domestic abuse services that have been left struggling and under increased pressure due to years of Government funding cuts and the increased demand for support for women and girls who have been the victims of violence in the capital. Victim Support has now received £400,000 to help support victims of domestic abuse, while £760,000 has been invested in London's four Rape Crisis Centres and a further £190,000 will fund Sexual Assault Referral Centre services in the capital.

Fast-tracking this funding to the organisations that need it the most will allow an additional 235 women to access the support of an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate and 350 more women will get the support of an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate. Bespoke support for young women who are victims of sexual violence will increase by 62 per cent and 100 more women will be able to receive therapy sessions.

I am committed to allocating the remainder of the £15m fund by September 2019. Charities and organisations will be able to bid for a share of the additional funding in the coming months.

Marking the achievements of the Violent Crime Task Force

On 13 May, I was delighted to be able to attend a Commendation ceremony for the MPS Violent Crime Task Force. The Task Force, funded by City Hall and involving 272 dedicated officers, has been hard at work taking dangerous individuals and weapons off the streets of our city.

Since the Task Force was launched in April 2018, the command has: carried out 7375 weapons sweeps; recovered 782 knives, 560 offensive weapons and 268 firearms; and arrested 4,109 suspects. This is hard and often dangerous work, and it was an honour to be able to recognise the achievements and contribution of the Task Force.

Celebrating 100 years of women in the Met

On 17 May, I attended a special ceremony at Westminster Abbey as part of the continued commemoration of 100 years of women in the Metropolitan Police Service, and the great service they have provided to London. I'm delighted that today, women are represented at every rank in the Metropolitan Police Service, and that we continue to make progress towards a police service that is truly representative of our capital. To mark the anniversary City Hall also hosted an exhibition highlighting women in the Metropolitan Police in the Map Area

Facial recognition technology and policing – the London Policing Ethics Panel issues its report

On 29 May, I welcomed the publication of the London Policing Ethics Panel's report into the use of facial recognition technology by the Metropolitan Police. The Panel exists to provide

independent expert advice on issues with particularly complex ethical considerations, such as the use of digital facial recognition technology as a means of preventing and detecting crime.

This has been a subject that has been under significant scrutiny, and while the safety of Londoners is my first priority as Mayor, I'm clear that this should not come at the cost of our values as an open and free society.

Their report recommends that live facial recognition software should only be deployed by police if the following five conditions can be met:

1. The overall benefits to public safety must be great enough to outweigh any potential public distrust in the technology
2. It can be evidenced that using the technology will not generate gender or racial bias in policing operations
3. Each deployment must be assessed and authorised to ensure that it is both necessary and proportionate for a specific policing purpose
4. Operators are trained to understand the risks associated with use of the software and understand they are accountable
5. Both the Met and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime develop strict guidelines to ensure that deployments balance the benefits of this technology with the potential intrusion on the public

We will continue to work closely with the Met and ensure the panel's recommendations are addressed before any further deployment can take place.

Increased investment in tracking knife crime offenders

On 31 May I announced the expansion of our innovative tracking pilot, under which offenders who have served a custodial sentence for knife crimes – such as possession of a knife, robbery, aggravated burglary and GBH – wear GPS tags after release from prison as part of strict new licence conditions.

The initial pilot has been operating in Lewisham, Croydon, Southwark and Lambeth, and I have announced increased investment of more than £700,000 to expand the programme to 20 boroughs across the capital.

The increased investment will provide up to 300 GPS tags as part of the one-year pilot which is designed to reduce reoffending, improve rehabilitation and act as a deterrent from further offending. It will also allow for location data to be shared with the Met Police and Probation services to improve crime detection and help to enforce restrictions on the movements of offenders such as exclusion zones linked to a risk of re-offending, as well as monitor their attendance at locations linked to rehabilitation.

Transport

World-first hydrogen double decker buses to help tackle London's toxic air

The world's first hydrogen double decker buses are to be introduced on three London bus routes next year, helping tackle the capital's air quality crisis.

Transport for London's (TfL) order for 20 of these green buses – which produce no pollution from their exhausts – forms part of its drive to make London's transport zero-emission. It follows the introduction of the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in April. The environment-friendly vehicles will be introduced on routes 245, 7 and N7, with people traveling to Wembley Stadium, or from West London to the West End, able to hop on the new green buses for a smoother and quieter journey. The new, modern buses will also enhance the customer experience, with on-board USB charging points making bus travel even more attractive.

We all have a role to play in cleaning up London's toxic air and I've always said that TfL should lead from the front. We are investing a record £85 million in cleaning up our bus fleet, and I am proud that London now has the largest zero-emission bus fleet in Europe.

Transport for London sets out proposals for major new Cycleway in east London

On 9 May, Transport for London (TfL) asked Londoners to have their say on plans to transform neighbourhoods between Hackney and the Isle of Dogs, creating streets that are much more welcoming to people walking and cycling, including improved pedestrian crossings and a major new Cycleway.

The proposed 7.5km Cycleway is the first new cycling route to be consulted on from TfL's Strategic Cycling Analysis, which used data to identify 25 areas which showed the best potential for growing cycling numbers. The route would connect Hackney to the Isle of Dogs, including 5.6km of segregated cycle lanes. Neighbourhoods including Victoria Park, Mile End and Limehouse would also see improved public and green spaces, including new trees, with new pedestrian crossings making walking easier and safer.

The new Cycleway would be a major boost to London's growing cycle network, connecting to a number of other major routes including CS2, CS3 and Q2, and significantly increasing the number of journeys that can easily be made by bike in the capital. The consultation is now open for people to have their say and is available on the TfL website at tfl.gov.uk/cycleway until 21 June.

Bus network in the Hammersmith Bridge area improved to reduce impact of bridge restoration

A new bus route and changes to six others have been implemented to reduce the impact of the Hammersmith Bridge closure. Bus services were immediately rerouted after the Grade II* listed Hammersmith Bridge was closed on safety grounds in April. As buses will not use Hammersmith Bridge until major safety-critical strengthening work is completed, Transport for London (TfL) has made improvements to local bus services. The changes were introduced on Saturday 18 May and will be kept under close review.

TfL is also working to manage the impact that the closure is having on the road network. Changes to traffic signal timings in the area are already being made to help the flow of traffic and will continue to monitor the situation to determine whether further changes are required.

Keeping local authority infrastructure in good condition is essential to ensure the wider road network stays safe and efficient and helps the economy grow. Certainty of a long-term steady and sustained Government funding arrangement is needed to allow London to cover the costs of its own infrastructure maintenance.

Transformation of Old Street roundabout reaches major milestone

The transformation of the Old Street roundabout, which had one of the worst safety records in London, has now reached a major milestone with roads being switched to two-way traffic over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Signed cycle routes will help guide people cycling through the area during construction work, including segregated cycle lanes and dedicated cycle signals for people cycling east-west through Old Street.

TfL's work at Old Street will transform journeys for thousands of people in the area and will make it much easier and safer to walk, cycle and use public transport.

Using technology to give customers better, more accurate information about their Tube journeys

Transport for London (TfL), from 8 July, will look to harness existing Wi-Fi connection data from more than 260 Wi-Fi enabled London Underground stations to understand how people navigate the network. This will then provide better, more targeted information to our customers as they move around London, helping them better plan their route to avoid congestion and delays. The new system, developed in-house by TfL, will automatically depersonalise data, with no browsing or historical data collected from any devices.

The benefits this new depersonalised dataset could unlock across our network—from providing customers with better alerts about overcrowding to helping station staff have a better understanding of the network in near-real time — are enormous. By better understanding overall patterns and flows, we can provide better information to our customers and help us plan and operate our transport network more easily.

While I am excited about the potential of this new dataset, I am equally mindful of the responsibility that comes with it. TfL takes its customers' privacy extremely seriously and will not identify individuals from the Wi-Fi data collected. Transparency, privacy and ethics need to be at the forefront of data work in society and TfL recognises the trust that our customers place in it and safeguarding customers' data is absolutely fundamental.

New London Overground electric trains enter service on the Gospel Oak to Barking line

After more than a year of delays while the manufacturer resolved software issues, I'm pleased to say that the first of the new London Overground electric four-car trains have now been put into passenger service on the Gospel Oak to Barking line. This marks the first step in returning this busy North London line to a regular four trains per hour service, boosting capacity and delivering greater reliability. The new trains can carry nearly 700 people, double the capacity of the old diesel trains, and will be much better for air quality.

The first two trains are being monitored closely for any further software or reliability issues, and once satisfied they are operating as they should, more will be put into service. Our frustrations at the delays have been made clear to the manufacturer, Bombardier Transportation, and I have negotiated that they will fund a month of free travel for customers on the line in September.

Eight of the 54 state-of-the-art trains on order from Bombardier are being put into use on the London Overground Gospel Oak to Barking line first; the remaining will then be used on the

Watford Junction to Euston route and on London Overground services out of Liverpool Street to Cheshunt and Chingford

Bus network helping patients at St George's Hospital

A traditional bus stop has been installed in the Dalby Ward at St George's Hospital in Tooting, providing a point of familiar recognition for patients feeling lost or disorientated. It helps those with dementia connect with old memories, creating a calm place to sit down and take a break. The wording on the stop was developed in partnership with clinicians at the Trust and from suggestions by hospital staff.

We want to make London the first dementia-friendly capital. As part of this commitment, all 26,000 bus drivers across the network will be trained as Dementia Friends by 2022. Around 300 bus drivers have already been trained, meaning they are able to spot someone with the condition, see the person rather than the disease and give them the help they need to get from A to B.

Transport for London (TfL) has a duty of care to passengers on the transport network, particularly those who are vulnerable. I'm pleased that after an initial pilot we will be able to give all bus drivers the confidence to support those who need an extra bit of help when out and about.

New 'on-demand' bus trial launches in Sutton

A brand-new form of public transport has been launched in Sutton, with the start of a 12-month 'on-demand' bus trial. Using mobile and predictive technology, GoSutton is aimed at finding out whether flexible demand responsive transport services can play a role in boosting public transport use.

Sutton was chosen as the trial location as it has high car use and has been difficult to serve with traditional public transport. The borough has 24 well-used bus routes and nine railway stations. However, due to its relatively low housing density and its historic development planned around people using private transport, it has not always been practical to run a dedicated bus service in certain areas.

Increasing public transport use, walking and cycling to 80 per cent of journeys by 2041 is a key aim of my Transport Strategy, which aims to make London's streets safer, more inviting and less polluted places.

South Bank entrance reopens at Waterloo Underground station

On 29 May, Transport for London announced the reopening of the York Road entrance at Waterloo Tube station. The entrance had been closed for three years to facilitate the redevelopment of the station entrance and the construction of a new oversite development. The entrance will again provide access to the bustling South Bank and help ease congestion at one of the Tube's busiest stations, improving journeys for millions of customers every year.

Shoppers, workers and visitors to the South Bank, one of London's most popular tourist destinations, will experience quicker and easier journeys through the station as they will no longer have to exit into the Network Rail station and cross roads to reach the South Bank. The entrance will provide direct access to the Northern and Bakerloo lines, with interchanges to other lines also available.

Transport for London nominates the Riverlinx consortium as preferred bidder to design, build, finance and maintain Silvertown Tunnel

Transport for London (TfL) has confirmed that the Riverlinx consortium, comprising of Aberdeen Standard Investments, BAM PPP PGGM, Cintra, Macquarie Capital and SK E+C, has been nominated as the preferred bidder to build the Silvertown Tunnel – a new river crossing under the Thames in east London.

The tunnel, which is set to be open in 2025, will link the Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks together and effectively eliminate the serious congestion and reduce the associated environmental impacts caused by miles of standing traffic around the Blackwall Tunnel area. It will remove barriers for people in east London needing to cross the river for work or leisure as well as improve the reliability and resilience of the road network for local residents, commuters and businesses. It is also the first permanent road crossing to be constructed across the River Thames east of Tower Bridge since the QE2 Bridge at Dartford opened in October 1991. The Blackwall Tunnel is the least reliable of London's crossings and was closed more than 700 times in 2017/18. The lack of alternative crossings east of Tower Bridge has resulted in almost constant congestion and the approach roads having some of the highest levels of air pollution in London.

By effectively eliminating congestion, the new tunnel will deliver an overall improvement in air quality. A user charge at both the new tunnel and the existing Blackwall tunnel will ensure overall traffic volumes and associated carbon emissions do not increase. At locations where TfL's air quality modelling showed that there may be a small localised impact, mitigation will be delivered further to ensure any increase is minimised. Both tunnels and the surrounding area will also fall within the expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone which will do more to improve air quality across all of inner London ahead of the new tunnel opening in 2025.

Fire and Resilience

Summer Preparedness Briefing

On 5 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, attended Summer Preparedness talks to plan for the seasonal risks to resilience in London and discuss the preparations being made by the London Resilience Partnership. The talks brought together representatives from the Met Office, the Environment Agency, utilities, Transport for London, Network Rail, Public Health England, local authorities and London's emergency services for a wide-ranging planning discussion of the possible risks to London over the summer months.

Tidal Thames Royal visit

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, joined HRH Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, for the launch of the Tidal Thames Water Safety Forum Drowning Prevention Strategy. Every year the emergency services respond to almost 700 incidents involving people in crisis along the tidal Thames. The Tidal Thames Water Safety Forum (comprising the Port of London Authority, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Met Police Marine Unit, London Fire Brigade, HM Coastguard and London Ambulance Service NHS Trust) has developed a strategy to address this significant problem.

Cyber Resilience Summit

On 16 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, spoke at the London Resilience Partnership's Strategic Coordination Summit, which focused on cyber resilience. The event convened cyber security experts, senior leaders from across the London Resilience Partnership, central Government representatives and key private sector stakeholders to explore London's response to a significant cyber incident. This work will inform the ongoing development of London's strategic response arrangements.

Local Resilience and Borough Resilience Chairs Forums

On 15 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, held a briefing for the Resilience Forum chairs, bringing together London's 33 Borough Resilience Forums and the London Resilience Forum. The event provided an opportunity to explain the work of the Resilience Partnership and to share best practice and learning.

Corrosive Substance Attack Demonstration

On 12 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, attended an exercise led by the London Fire Brigade to test London's multi-agency response to a corrosive substance attack. Following the rise in acid attacks in East London, the London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service and the Metropolitan Police Service have again demonstrated their ability to keep Londoners safe. Our firefighters are specialists in dealing with a full range of incidents, involving those hazardous materials. If called to the scene of a corrosive substance attack, firefighter crews work with their Emergency Services colleagues to treat the casualty, primarily by helping to flush the affected area with water.

Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 9 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, chaired a meeting of the London Resilience Partnership's Brexit Contingency Planning Group. The Group continues to oversee the Partnership's preparedness for EU Exit.

Fire Safety Summit

On 8 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM, organised an event that promoted wider fire safety messages, following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower. This event highlighted the need for better regulation of white goods and more skilled fire engineers and called on the Government to amend building regulations to reflect the need for sprinklers in a wider range of buildings.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

The 10th International Public Markets Conference

On 6 June, I was delighted to join my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, at Southwark Cathedral to open the 10th International Public Markets Conference.

I welcomed hundreds of public market leaders, advocates and representatives from London and around the world for the three-day conference, showcasing the capital and the astonishing range of goods and experiences offered across almost 300 London markets. Centred on the themes of inclusion, innovation and impact, the conference gave delegates an insight into the vibrancy and diversity of London's street markets. It also examined how London's markets are responding to technological, social and economic change and explored international best practice models. The programme included over 20 tours of London's markets, mobile workshops across the city and presentations from leading experts.

Retail and wholesale markets are an essential part of Londoners' everyday experience of the city, as well as London's international identity. Since coming to office, I have announced a series of measures to support these vital public spaces and committed to working with the markets sector to address key challenges faced by markets in the capital.

Through Tomorrow's Market, a targeted business support programme, I am proud to be supporting a new generation of market traders into the sector and building on the entrepreneurial spirit of markets. At the Conference, I was pleased to announce that in the coming months, thanks to investment from the London Economic Action Partnership, Tomorrow's Market will scale up from a £75k pilot to a £250k programme. I have also invested £12.4 million in 15 markets so far through my Good Growth Fund and Crowdfund London programmes, which will be boosted again in autumn when the third round of the Good Growth Fund launches.

Launch of the Mayor's Construction Academy Quality Mark Round 2

My Mayor's Construction Academy (MCA) programme is bringing together training providers, businesses and other organisations to make sure Londoners have the skills to help build the housing our city needs. A central pillar of that programme is my MCA Quality Mark, which promotes the best in construction training provision in London. This Quality Mark gives Londoners and businesses confidence in the high standard and industry-relevance of the construction skills training that our Quality Marked providers offer.

I reopened the Quality Mark process on Monday 13 May, offering more providers the opportunity to gain the Quality Mark and join the ranks of the best in training provision for construction skills.

New accredited providers will add to the 21 awarded in May 2018; these providers have gone on to play a key role in leading and developing my MCA Hubs and winning millions of pounds from my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund to ensure the training provision available in London keeps up with the most recent developments in training and learning for the sector.

Celebrating Richmond upon Thames College's Topping Out Ceremony

On 24 May, my Regeneration and Economic Development team attended the Topping Out Ceremony at Richmond upon Thames College. Funded with £30.6 million from my Skills for Londoners Capital Fund and supported through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the two-phased project will create an outstanding new campus for education, skills and enterprise. It will create a completely new further education facility alongside a new school, a school for learners with special educational needs and disabilities and a 'technology hub' operated by a global media company.

Over the next five years, investment will support over 24,000 learners, 4,700 apprenticeships and 790 learners with disabilities and learning difficulties.

New funding opportunity launched - Head 2Work

On 24 May, I launched a new funding opportunity, Head 2Work. This £794,000 project co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) will reduce barriers to social mobility faced by disadvantaged young Londoners who are Not in Employment, Education or Training. It will support them to get into and stay in jobs, education or training. Applications are open until 19 July and I will announce the successful delivery organisation(s) in the Autumn.

You can find out more here <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/funding/european-social-fund/gla-co-financing-organisation/funding-opportunities/head-2work>

Boosting local innovation and opportunities with crowdfunding

On 15 May, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal spoke at an event celebrating the impact of my Crowdfund London programme, which promotes community-led innovation and creativity. The event also highlighted several London crowdfunding initiatives and demonstrated their power to create local opportunities and unite and empower communities.

The Deputy Mayor also reiterated my call for more London businesses to get behind crowdfunding and the Crowdfund London programme, setting out ways in which they can provide support.

Adult Education budget procured providers

Following the procurement of £130 million of devolved adult education funding, over 200 bids were received to deliver education and training provision for low skilled Londoners aged 19 and over, offering to deliver more than six times the available budget. This demonstrates the significant demand to deliver adult skills provision in the capital.

In late May, bidding organisations were notified of whether they had been successful. The successful providers will deliver a variety of education and training services to some of London's most disadvantaged adults over a four-year period. For the first time, this will include free skills training for Londoners earning below the London Living Wage as well as adults whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL). I will be publishing the list of successful bidders in due course.

Housing

An end to unfair rental fees – saving Londoners £300 per move

On 1 June, I welcomed the implementation of the Tenants Fees Act 2019 which has finally banned letting agent fees for tenants. I have long campaigned for this change to the law alongside private renting groups like Generation Rent and the London Renters Union, who deserve huge credit for putting pressure on the Government to act. At City Hall we will now be working hard to make sure renters in London know their rights and report any letting agents not following the new law.

London Housing Panel Chair announced.

On 30 May, I was delighted to confirm the appointment of Raji Hunjan as the Chair of my new London Housing Panel. The involvement of tenants and other Londoners has been vital in developing my housing policies over the last three years – this panel will build on that work by bringing together voluntary and community organisations with a particular interest in housing in London.

Raji is currently Chief Executive of the anti-poverty charity Z2K and previously sat on Shelter's social housing commission, and she will be joined on the panel by 15 other member organisations including London Tenants Federation, Solace Women's Aid, and Disability Advice Service Lambeth. The appointments were made by four independent selectors following an open recruitment process, and their first formal meeting is at the end of June.

Learning from German cities

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and residential development, James Murray, gave the opening remarks at a roundtable with leading housing experts from London and politicians from cities across Germany.

The roundtable, which was hosted by Peabody, explored best practice from London, Berlin, Munich, and Hamburg and what our sibling cities can learn from each other. Despite the national Government's focus on Brexit, events like this remind us how much common cause we have with, and how much we can learn from, our cousins in mainland Europe.

Calling for an end to discrimination against private renters on benefits

On 14 May, my Deputy Mayor for Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development James Murray, set out our response to an ITV London investigation into discrimination against people trying to rent privately who receive housing benefit. As part of their investigation, ITV London called 50 agents across London, of which only four offered homes whose landlords would even consider letting to a tenant dependant on benefits.

Investing in Community Land Trusts

On 10 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, gave the opening speech at a conference hosted by the National Community Land Trust (CLT) Network, which brought together CLTs from across cities in the North-West Europe. The conference, under the banner of 'Sustainable Housing for Inclusive and Cohesive Cities' (SHICC), was an opportunity for those interested in CLTs from across the region to learn from each other.

James set out what City Hall is doing to support CLTs in the capital, including through our new Community Housing Fund that comprises £38 million of capital investment and revenue support for emerging community housing projects.

Council homebuilding in London beats 34-year record

On 10 May, I was pleased to announce how many homes had been started in 2018 -19 through my Homes for Londoners program: a record 14,544 new affordable homes, which is double the number in the previous Mayor's last year in office, and more than in any year since City Hall took control of housing investment.

The record-breaking total exceeds the target agreed with Government ministers and includes almost 4,000 homes for social rent – up from zero in the final year of the previous Mayor’s program. Crucially, it also includes nearly 2,000 council homes – more than in any year since 1984/85, and testament to councils’ ambitious responses to my billion-pound Building Council Homes for Londoners program.

Fire Safety Summit

On 8 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, spoke at the London Fire Safety Summit. This was hosted by my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr. Fiona Twycross AM.

James set out the work the GLA is doing to incorporate fire safety in London’s planning processes, whilst making clear our concerns that, nearly two years on from the fire at Grenfell Tower, the Building Regulations remain largely unchanged and the Government has not been clear about its timing for reform and when the new regime will be in place.

The following day, 9 May, ministers announced they would make £200 million available to pay for the removal of unsafe ACM cladding from privately-owned residential blocks. Whilst any new funding from the Government is welcome, we need to keep pushing them as we still have many questions – such as how ministers will ensure leaseholders are protected from high costs of interim fire safety measures, and how dangerous non-ACM cladding not covered by this fund will be remediated.

Homes for Londoners Board and ‘End Our Cladding Scandal’ campaign

On 8 May, I chaired the Homes for Londoners board at which I announced that, alongside Grenfell United, the National Housing Federation, and many council leaders, I would be wholeheartedly supporting Inside Housing’s #EndOurCladdingScandal campaign.

The campaign calls for the Government to provide a fund to pay for all unsafe residential homes to be made safe; to set out a firm timescale of no more than two years for the work to be carried out; and to reimburse residents for interim fire safety costs incurred.

Engaging with London’s Communities

On 7 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, attended a South London Citizens Assembly at Southwark Cathedral. He updated members on our progress in building more council housing in the capital, and in working with London Citizens to build genuinely affordable homes through community land trusts on TfL sites.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Engagement with business leaders at home and abroad

Over the last month, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with businesses from London, the UK and abroad, helping to strengthen business ties with our city.

On a recent trip to Birmingham, Rajesh met with businesses and local government representatives, discussing shared experiences in supporting businesses, upskilling the workforce and promoting our respective cities internationally.

The Deputy Mayor also recently travelled to China with a delegation of 14 creative tech entrepreneurs as part of my International Business Programme run by London & Partners. Over five days, Rajesh and the delegates met with industry leaders and businesses in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Shanghai to promote trade and investment between London and China and reinforce that London is open to business.

Investing to grow London's businesses

On 30 May, I launched the Greater London Investment Fund, which will see over £100 million invested in London businesses that are ready for their next stages of growth but have experienced difficulty securing funding through traditional processes. The fund is expected to support investment in 170 companies and lead to the creation of 3,500 new jobs.

The bulk of funding comes from European Union sources, further underlining the need to continue working closely with our European partners. Of the £100 million, £35 million has come from the European Regional Development Fund programme, overseen by City Hall and the London Economic Action Partnership, and £50 million from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The fund will focus on industries identified as important for the capital's economy in my Economic Development Strategy. These include cultural and creative industries, financial and business services, life sciences, low carbon and environmental goods and services, tech and digital, and tourism. There is also a focus on supporting London's transition to a circular economy, keeping resources in use for longer.

Meeting of the Living Wage Commission considering the 2019/20 rates.

On 21 May, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, represented the GLA at a meeting of the Living Wage Commission. The Commission is a decision-making forum considering how to incorporate policy changes and new sources of data into the calculation of the real Living Wage, including the London Living Wage.

Meeting with Mayor of Shenzhen

On 10 May, I met with Mr Chen Rugui, the Mayor of Shenzhen, to discuss how our great cities could continue to increase business links and learn from each other. I reassured Mayor Chen that London remains open for business and trade, to visitors and students.

Technology for Business

I am committed to ensuring all companies across London – not just those with the deepest pockets – can access technologies that can help them to grow and improve their productivity. To that end, I have launched the Mayor of London's Business for Technology Service – a new portal on the London Growth Hub aimed at giving SMEs in London's 'everyday economy' access to information and funding to test the latest technologies. The first phase of the project, announced on 7 May, will see 200 small retailers and hospitality companies offered access to a total pot of £200,000 to help them grow and develop using these advanced tools, including a consultation with a dedicated caseworker who will help identify how AI can meet their needs.

Environment

London Climate Action Week – 1 to 8 July

On 31 May, as part of my commitment to addressing the climate emergency, I announced plans for the first ever London Climate Action Week which will be held from 1-8 July 2019. It will bring together London's climate expertise and talent from across sectors to run events across the city focused on taking local, national and international action. These events will highlight the scaling up of practical solutions and identifying new solutions to help cut our carbon emissions to keep global temperature increases within 1.5C degrees and support the Paris Agreement.

Key events include: a Green Schools Summit bringing together London school children with experts to discuss the climate crisis, sculptor Olafur Eliasson will lead a discussion exploring how art can address global sustainability challenges and the City of London will host a Green Finance Summit with 900 businesses discussing ways to expand London's thriving green finance sector.

Details of all events and full listings are available at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/LDN-climate-action>

National Park City Festival – 20 to 28 July

On 31 May, I announced plans for my National Park City Festival which will include hundreds of free outdoor events across the capital from 20-28 July. This is part of my plans to make London a National Park City, giving all Londoners more opportunities to experience and enjoy the outdoors. Highlights include outdoor theatre, an audio installation in Epping Forest and free access to some of London's green rooftops.

I have also provided over £75,000 of small grant funding to support community groups and charities to organise activities as part of the festival. Details of events are available at: www.london.gov.uk/national-park-city

As part of the festival, the National Park City Wildlife photography competition launched on 28 May in partnership with the London Wildlife Trust and Museum of London. The competition is open to all and invites Londoners to capture what wildlife means to them. The best images will be part of an exhibition during the festival.

Participants can enter at: www.wildlondonphoto.org.uk

Opposition to incineration facility in Bexley

On 20 May, I submitted my opposition to a proposed energy-from-waste incinerator in Bexley. London has the highest incineration rate (54 per cent) in the UK for management of local authority waste, yet the lowest recycling rate (30 per cent). I strongly believe burning waste in incinerators worsens London's already toxic air quality and hinders boroughs from reaching recycling and waste reduction targets. The focus must be on reducing waste, particularly plastic, and protecting residents from pollution.

I do not have the power to stop the incinerator. Due to the large size and scale of the facility, the Government, will determine the planning application as a national infrastructure project.

As a statutory consultee, I have set out my reasons for opposing this facility in a report which can be found at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/london/riverside-energy-park/?ipcsection=docs&stage=4&filter1=Deadline+2>.

Central London Ultra Low Emission Zone – one month on report

On 16 May, I published a report evaluating the first month's performance of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London. This report showed that the ULEZ is already having a significant impact on reducing the number of older, more polluting vehicles in the zone.

Fuel Poverty Partnership meeting

On 16 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard co-chaired a meeting of my Fuel Poverty Partnership.

The group meets quarterly to guide London's work on tackling fuel poverty. The meeting was attended by representatives from the health sector, energy industry, NGOs, central Government and the energy regulator. Outcomes included agreement on shared input into the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation and consensus on an approach to work with industry to simplify access to support services and reduce self-disconnection.

Education and Youth

London History Schools Day

On 24 May, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Willow Brook Primary School in Leyton to celebrate London History Schools Day. Joanne was joined by Cllr Grace Williams, Waltham Forest Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families.

This is the third year we have celebrated London History Schools Day, which encourages children to dress up as and learn about inspiring historical Londoners, such as David Bowie, Bernie Grant and Millicent Fawcett. It's a companion event to London History Day, led by Historic England to celebrate our city's unique history and heritage.

The Museum of London led some fun activities during assembly, as children and teachers showed off costumes portraying their favourite Londoners. The theme for this year's event was 'celebration and local culture', supporting my #LondonisOpen campaign, as well as our first London Borough of Culture, Waltham Forest.

Hearing the voices of young people in alternative provision

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, spoke at a youth led event at City Hall entitled, 'Hearing the Voices of Young People in PRUs and APs'.

The event was led by my Peer Outreach Team who, in preparation, had visited 10 different Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and settings providing alternative provision (APs) across London. They listened to the concerns of the young people in these settings, including thoughts on how they want their city to be policed and the help they feel they need to improve their lives. At the

event, 100 staff and young people from London PRUs and APs came together with the police, boroughs and GLA teams to share these perspectives, plan better provision and discuss increased collaboration. Attendees were also updated on opportunities for funding through round two of my Young Londoners Fund.

Launch of round two of the Young Londoners Fund at Football Beyond Borders

On 15 May, I announced £15 million of new investment in youth projects and programmes, in a move which will provide positive opportunities for tens of thousands of young Londoners.

I have already invested £20.5 million through the Young Londoners Fund, to support 66,000 young Londoners. One project that received funding was Football Beyond Borders in West Norwood, which I visited to mark the launch of round two of the Fund. I was able to see first-hand how they engage teenagers of diverse backgrounds through football, developing their skills and inspiring them.

My Young Londoners Fund can be accessed by community groups and projects, as well as schools and boroughs. Over 35 information sessions to support those looking to apply, are being held across the capital in conjunction with the Young Londoners Fund Local Networks, including a session held in City Hall on 28 May.

The deadline to apply is 12 July. For more information visit: www.london.gov.uk/young-londoners-fund.

Communities and Social Policy

Ramadan

This Ramadan, I joined communities across London at a number of Iftar events. On 7 May, I was welcomed to St. Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of London who hosted the Cathedral's very first Interfaith Iftar, organised by the Naz Legacy Foundation. This event brought together young people of all faiths and none. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, joined the Muslim Women of Merton for their Interfaith Iftar on 13 May.

I also broke my fast with the Grenfell community on 15 May at a 'Street Iftar' organised by Al Manaar Mosque and Muslim Aid, remembering those who died in the tragic fire in June 2017.

On 30 May, I supported and spoke alongside Lord Afraid Dubs at the first ever Iftar to be held in Trafalgar Square. The event was organised by the Ramadan Tent Project in partnership with the House of Lords and was part of a series of 'Open Iftars' taking place in iconic London locations.

Africa in London Launch

On 24 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard announced and launched a brand-new summer-long, London-wide celebration of African culture and creativity at City Hall. Africa in London will celebrate the diversity of the continent, as well as the rich cultural contribution Londoners of African heritage make to the life of our city, by highlighting and supporting events across the capital from June to September this year.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group round table event on London's local industrial strategy and hate crime

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted my Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group round table event on London's local industrial strategy and hate crime. This gave the group members an opportunity to hear about and feed directly into GLA work on employment and skills. Representatives of the Community Alliance To Combat Hate Crime (CATCH) also spoke to the advisory group about their work.

25th Anniversary of the genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda

On 20 May, I hosted and spoke at an event to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The event was organised in partnership with the Ishami Foundation. This commemoration was designed to bring together London schools with Rwandans and friends of Rwanda to remember the dead; recognise the resilience of survivors and achievements of Rwandans today; and explore the ongoing connections between Rwanda and the UK.

London Family Fund

On 15 May, I launched the second round of the London Family Fund. This year City Hall will be offering £130,000 worth of grants to support new approaches that help families build relationships across difference, bringing them together to improve social networks and reduce social isolation. Bids will be encouraged from parenting organisations, local community groups, early years providers, family services and others who want to promote greater social integration among parents and families. Over the next few weeks, my team will be running community workshops to support small charities applying for the fund. The primary focus of the Fund will be on family support that takes place outside of formal childcare provision.

Making London age-friendly conference

On 10 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, launched my Older Londoners Stakeholder Network.

Its inaugural meeting was co-organised by members of my new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group and Positive Ageing in London and took forward my commitment to London becoming a more age-friendly city in line with the World Health Organisation's framework for age-friendly cities.

All parties parliamentary committee for Romanian communities living abroad and the Romanian embassy meeting

On 9 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, met representatives from the All Parties Parliamentary Committee for Romanian Communities Living Abroad and the Romanian Embassy in London.

The meeting was an opportunity to hear their concerns about Brexit related issues, understand how we can work together to support the social integration and community engagement of Romanian Londoners, to reaffirm my message that #LondonIsOpen and to follow up after the April roundtable with representatives of the Romanian London community.

South London Citizens Assembly

On 7 May, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, and Violence Reduction Unit Director, Lib Peck, joined the South London Citizens Assembly at Southwark Cathedral. The event was an opportunity for members of South London Citizens to ask questions to local leaders about topics including sanctuary and welcome, housing, and safety and youth violence.

During the Assembly my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, specifically highlighted my work and priority focus on ESOL and my ambition to make sure that all Londoners have the opportunity to reach the level of English they need.

Seminar on student retention and inclusion in London higher education

On 2 May, my Deputy Mayors for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, co-chaired a seminar on student retention and inclusion in London higher education.

This followed the publication of research we commissioned: *Building on success: increasing higher education retention in London*. The seminar also covered other areas affecting inclusion: such as admissions, student employability/labour market experience, degree outcomes and graduate destinations (occupations and earnings).

Health

Healthy Schools London

On 22 May, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, visited Beaconsfield Primary School in the London Borough of Ealing to congratulate them on achieving all 3 Healthy Schools London Awards; Bronze, Silver and Gold as well as being part of the Mayor's Schools for Success programme. Joanne saw the work the school has undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of pupils through their work as part of Healthy Schools London. Joanne was able to participate in school-based physical activities including the Daily Mile, attend healthy eating and cookery sessions and observe Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons as well as having conversations with pupils and staff.

Opening of the Reuben Maternity Centre at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital

On 8 May, I was pleased to be able to visit Chelsea and Westminster hospital for the official opening of their new maternity centre. I was able to meet some of the incredible midwives, nurses, doctors and other staff who care for babies and their families at such an important time. These new and improved facilities will help them continue to provide world leading care.

The Moonwalk London

I was honoured to be able to join walkers as they began this year's The Moonwalk London. Cancer, including breast cancer, is a disease that devastates the lives of many Londoners, and Walk the Walk do an incredible job of raising money for such an important job. To date they

have raised over £128 million for breast cancer support and treatment. I was pleased to be there to show my support for all the incredible walkers and to thank them on behalf of London.

London Healthy Workplace Award

I have refreshed the content and structure of my programme to support employers with the health and wellbeing of their workforce, with the launch of the new London Healthy Workplace Award (formally known as the London Healthy Workplace Charter). My new Award incorporates the latest evidence on workplace health and wellbeing and is organised under a framework of three key “pillars” to guide employers to create healthy workplaces: Corporate support for wellbeing; Mental health and wellbeing; and promoting healthy living.

My new Award has three core Award levels that businesses can work through: Foundation, Achievement and Excellence – with two new bespoke awards: the Micro Award (for businesses with less than 10 employees) and Communal Workspaces (for organisations that host business with no fixed office space). In particular, the micro and communal workspaces award reflect how business and employment has changed in London over the last few years. This coincides with the launch of a new Mayoral initiative, the Good Work Standard. This sits alongside the Award and the London Living Wage as one of a suite of standards the Mayor is encouraging employers to meet.

To sign-up to the London Healthy Workplace Award please [click here](#)

Dementia Action Week - Harmony Army choir

On 20 May, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM welcomed the Harmony Army choir to City Hall to mark the start of this year’s Dementia Action Week. The choir is made up of pupils aged 11 to 15 from Hurstmere School for Boys in Sidcup who performed their charity single ‘Here I am’ which highlights living with dementia.

I want London to be the first Dementia Friendly capital city in the world and we can all play our part. I am proud to be a Dementia Friend and as part of marking Dementia Action Week, the Alzheimer’s Society ran Dementia Friends sessions staff. We now have over 260 Dementia Friends at City Hall and my Chief Officer Mary Harpley is overseeing the plans.

Health Inequalities Strategy Stakeholder Guides

In October 2018, I published my London Health Inequalities Strategy, which outlines action that London needs to take to improve health and reduce health inequalities. I have now developed a series of five brief guides on the Strategy, aimed at healthcare providers, local authorities, businesses, the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector and groups working with children and young people. These guides provide key messages from the Strategy, and examples of both what I am doing and what partners are doing to address our city’s health inequalities - including case studies from across sectors.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Reward and recognition of volunteering during Volunteers' Week 2019

Team London, in conjunction with London Plus, launched a £20,000 funding round for groups to undertake activities to recognise and celebrate volunteers. Twenty organisations have received funding through these grants and activities will take place starting in Volunteers' Week 2019 (w/c 1 June) and lasting until the end of June 2019. The groups range from local volunteer centres to grassroots organisations and local / regional networks. These grants will enable activities that help to celebrate volunteers and raise the profile of volunteering locally.

Stronger Communities Fund

On 21 May, I launched my new Stronger Communities Fund, a key part of Sport Unites. This new one-year rolling programme will award micro grants between £2,000 and £5,000 for sport and physical activities that increase social integration in London. The funding will be allocated to projects which bring Londoners from different backgrounds together, as well as help lonely and socially isolated Londoners feel better connected in their communities.

SportsAid athletes awarded £1,000

In partnership with SportsAid, I awarded 79 young athletes £1,000 each as part of my Sport Unites Performance Pathways. The financial support will help with training and competition costs as the young athletes bid to become the next generation of sporting heroes. All athletes attended a celebratory event at the London Stadium. This included a number of workshops to help them with mentoring and nutrition. Additional workshops also helped them to recognise their position as role models to others, and how their stories may help to increase community pride and engagement across London.

Culture and Events

London Borough of Culture: Chingford May Day Fayre

On 4 May, Waltham Forest, my first London Borough of Culture, welcomed thousands of visitors to Chingford May Day Fayre, which celebrated the invention of the modern bicycle by local John Kemp Starley and International Workers' Day. People walked or cycled along a route to Chingford Plains for a day of community feasting, family friendly activities, music and dance performances on bicycles. Throughout April, artist-led workshops were organised for residents to make decorations, masks, placards and kindling for the event, which culminated in a ceremonial bonfire to banish winter and welcome in the spring. Participants included local playschemes, youth centres, faith groups, a community kitchen, walking and running clubs as well as forestry volunteers.

Opening of 85 affordable studios in Deptford's Creative Enterprise Zone

On 15 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, opened Deptford Foundry, 85 new artist studios run by Second Floor Studios. I have funded these studios with £660,000 from my Strategic Investment Fund and they will be affordable in perpetuity. Deptford Foundry is one of London's largest purpose-built affordable artists' studios, supporting more than 100 creatives, with a third let to local residents.

Justine also announced a new Enterprise Hub at Goldsmiths University, supported by £1 million from my Good Growth Fund. It will provide affordable workspace for up to 100 local businesses, creating 80 new jobs.

Culture Seeds Awards

On 16 May, I hosted the first annual Culture Seeds Awards at City Hall with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE. We presented ten awards to some of the best leaders of creative community projects funded through my £1 million grassroots micro-grants programme, Culture Seeds. From a visual arts summer school on a housing estate in Camden to a performance project for refugee women in Greenwich, Culture Seeds Awards celebrated small projects making a big difference in London's communities. To date, I have awarded £418,397 to 96 projects in 30 London boroughs.

European Museum Directors Event at Tate Britain

On 17 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a keynote speech at the annual gathering of directors of European museums with major global collections including leaders from Louvre (Paris), the Met and MOMA (New York), State Hermitage (St. Petersburg), Pushkin (Moscow) and Prado (Madrid). It was hosted by Tate, V&A, British Museum and National Gallery.

The event coincided with the exhibition 'Van Gogh and Britain' at Tate Britain, which was made possible thanks to extensive loans from European museums. The event was an opportunity to remind our European museum partners that London is open and continues to collaborate with museums and cultural organisations around the world. Justine spoke about my investment in culture, including at East Bank, the most significant cultural and education district being developed in Europe.

London Music Fund Mayfair lunch

On 20 May, I attended the annual Fundraising Lunch in aid of the London Music Fund, with my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE. The London Music Fund, of which I am the Patron, supports young people from low income families with instrumental tuition and the chance to learn and perform with top professional musicians.

I spoke about the importance of music education and the impact that getting involved in arts and culture at a young age can have. Learning a musical instrument builds confidence, helps to support literacy and numeracy, and increases social networks. The Fund announced a long-term partnership with Simon Cowell, Lauren Silverman and Syco Entertainment, which will have wide-reaching impact on its work. The charity is doing fantastic work supporting thousands of young people across London. In 2018/2019 62 per cent of London Music Fund Scholars were from BAME backgrounds.

London Borough of Culture: Legacy projects announced

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, joined Cllr Clare Coghill, Leader of Waltham Forest Council to announce a series of legacy projects for my first London Borough of Culture award.

As part of the legacy commitments they announced a partnership with Soho Theatre to restore the former EMD Cinema in Walthamstow to create a new 1,000-seater local theatre for the

community, with a national profile; the continuation of Make it Happen grants programme and Legends of the Forest volunteer programme beyond 2019 as part of the council's strategy for social integration; a £250,000 Schools Culture Capital Fund to produce permanent artworks at 15 schools; and a new Welcome to the Forest Bursary Programme offering bursaries to young people who want to have a career in the arts.

Film Merton, Cultural Impact Award Winner

On 6 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, opened Film Merton, a Cultural Impact Award as part of my London Borough of Culture programme. Film Merton is creating pop-up cinemas across the local area and showing films curated by the community and by guest curators. Three short films are also being created by early career filmmakers, together with the community.

As the first guest curator, Justine chose the theme Radical Women for her season, and introduced the first film, RBC, about the life of U.S Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The other two films in the season are Widows, a heist film directed by Steve McQueen and Wajdja, about a spirited 10-year-old Saudi girl. All three films are being shown in a pop-up cinema at Mitcham Fire Station. Other guest curators will include tennis player Jamie Murray, comedians Jo Brand and Francesca Martinez and artist Alison Lapper.

Major exhibition of Fourth Plinth artist

On 4 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the opening of the first major London exhibition of Michael Rakowitz, the Iraqi-American artist whose sculpture is currently on Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth.

The exhibition is taking place at Whitechapel Gallery in East London and will feature work from Rakowitz's project to recreate all 7,000 objects looted from the Iraq Museum in 2003. His current Fourth Plinth work, The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist, is part of this project, which is a reconstruction of the mythological winged bull which once guarded the gates of Nineveh in Iraq, made using date syrup cans.

Migration Museum

On 4 June, I visited the Migration Museum in Lambeth. The museum celebrates the contribution migrants have made to London and why the capital's rich diversity of communities makes the city such a global success. The museum is an important community resource and demonstrates why London remains open to the world.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Neighbourhood Priorities Fund

The London Legacy Development Corporation launched its 2019 bidding round for the Neighbourhood Priorities Fund on 3 June. Running for two months, the bidding round will welcome applications for funding towards a local project; ensuring the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy truly benefits local groups. Last year, £472,644 in funding was awarded to nine local community projects.

Events in the Olympic Park

The Early May Bank Holiday weekend kicked off with the Copper Box Arena hosting the Call of Duty World League on 3-5 May.

Elsewhere on the Park, West Ham United celebrated the end of the Premier League season with a 3-0 win over Southampton at the London Stadium (4 May) while the Vitality Netball Super League season closed with the Grand Final held at the Copper Box Arena on 18 May. The London Aquatics Centre also drew crowds to the FINA World Diving Series as Tom Daley and Grace Reid won gold in the mixed 3m synchro dive.

The Copper Box Arena held the Street League Skateboarding World Tour 2019 on 25-26 May, complemented by the seventh Innoskate festival at Here East (25 May), while the London Stadium welcomed tens of thousands of concert goers to Muse's Stimulation Theory World Tour on 1 June.

Hackney Wick Station and Here East

I was pleased to see both Hackney Wick Station and Here East awarded a RIBA London Award 2019 on 20 May. The station's award is a clear recognition of the integral role it plays in the regeneration of Hackney Wick and the surrounding area while Here East's accolade is testament to the successful transformation of the former Olympic Press and Broadcast Centres into a world-class venue for the creative tech community in London.

New walking and cycling bridge opens

On 17 May, marked the official opening of a new walking and cycling bridge connecting Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Hackney Wick. Situated next to Bobby Moore Academy, the bridge will make it easier for local residents to get to schools, health centres and jobs around the Park while delivering on my Healthy Streets policies to encourage walking and cycling.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 24th April 2019 – 20th May 2019

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Former Biscuit Factory and LeSoCo Campus, Bermondsey, LB Southwark

I have written to the London Borough of Southwark giving an updated direction that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Welbeck Street Car Park, Welbeck Street, Bond Street, LB Westminster

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

73-77 Commercial Road, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Alperton House, Bridgewater Road, Wembley, 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.

Seal House, Swan Lane, Cannon Street, City of London Corporation

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

Footzie Social Club, Lower Sydenham, LB Bromley

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Alperton Manufacturing Estate, Mount Pleasant, Alperton, LB Brent
- Portal West, 6 Portal Way, North Acton, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- 100 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, LB Barnet
- Bermondsey and Snowsfields, LB Southwark
- Sun Wharf- Creekside, Deptford, LB Lewisham
- Durston House School, Castlebar Road, Ealing, LB Ealing
- 102-106 & 128 The Highway, Wapping, LB Tower Hamlets
- Landmark Court, Southwark Street, LB Southwark
- Leon Quarter, High Street, LB Croydon
- 1 Bradfield Road, Silvertown, LB Newham
- 8-14 Grafton Street, Mayfair, City of Westminster
- 12 Hartfield Road, Wimbledon, LB Merton

Key Engagements

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

- I visited the LGBTIQ+ Homeless Shelter and Community Centre, which has been set up in the former Clerkenwell Fire Station by the Outside Project and Stonewall Housing, on 3 May
- I addressed the Annual Ceremony of Yom HaShoah taking place this year in Hyde Park on 5 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 7 May
- I attended the City of London Iftar and Interfaith Gathering in St Paul's Cathedral on 7 May
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 8 May
- I attended the opening of the Reuben Maternity Centre at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital on 8 May
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 9 May
- I met with Sian Berry AM on 9 May to discuss policy issues in London
- I met with Steve Parish, Chairman of Crystal Palace FC, on 9 May to discuss Palace for Life, the club's official charity

- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on 9 May
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 10 May
- I had an introductory meeting with Mayor Chen Rugui of Shenzhen on 10 May
- I met with Dr Aseem Malhotra on 10 May to discuss tackling obesity among Londoners
- I attended the start of MoonwalkLondon taking place on Clapham Common on 11 May
- I attended the Violent Crime Taskforce Commendation Ceremony on 13 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 13 May
- I chaired the Crossrail High Level Forum on 14 May
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Peter John, Chair of London Councils, on 14 May
- I visited the Football Beyond Borders Project at the Elmgreen School, West Norwood, on 15 May to announce the opening of the next round of applications for the Young Londoners Fund
- I had my regular meeting with Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 15 May
- I attended the 'Street Iftar' organised jointly by Muslim Aid and the Al-Manaar Mosque, to mark the second anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, on 15 May
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 16 May
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 16 May
- I had my regular meeting with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 16 May to discuss policing and security
- I attended the Culture Seeds Annual Awards Ceremony on 16 May
- I attended the Service of Thanksgiving taking place at Westminster Abbey on 17 May to mark the Centenary of Metropolitan Police Women
- I attended the Asian Voice Charity Awards on 17 May
- I attended the official dedication of the Tessa Jowell Boulevard in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 18 May
- I addressed the London Music Fund fundraising lunch at the Mayfair Hotel on 20 May
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 20 May
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 20 May ahead of the Transport for London Board Meeting
- I attended the Ishami Foundation event at City Hall on 20 May to mark the 25th Anniversary of the 1994 Rwanda genocide
- I attended the London Councils Congress Executive on 21 May
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 21 May
- I chaired the Transport for London Board Meeting on 22 May
- I attended the Serious Violence Taskforce at the Home Office on 22 May
- I visited Thames House on 22 May
- I addressed the Walking & Cycling Conference at the Guildhall on 24 May
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board on 29 May
- I visited the Liverpool Street Crossrail Station on 29 May
- I launched the Greater London Investment Fund on 30 May
- I attended the Ramadan Tent Project Open Iftar taking place on Trafalgar Square on 30 May
- I visited the Croydon Mosque & Islamic Centre on 31 May
- I attended the Champions League Final in Madrid on 1 June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 3 June

- I attended the Memorial Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on 3 June on the 2nd Anniversary of the London Bridge Terrorist attack
- I visited the Migration Museum in Lambeth on 4 June
- I attended the Great Get Together Reception taking place at City Hall on 4 June
- I met with Dr Roland Busch, Chief Operating Officer, Siemens on 5 June to discuss their critical role in ensuring the successful delivery of the Crossrail project
- I attended the GLA Staff volunteering event, as part of Volunteering Week, on 5 June in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- I met with the Rt Hon Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, at the Canadian High Commission on 5 June
- I attended the opening of the 10th International Public Markets Conference on 6 June
- I met with representatives of the UK and Changing Europe think tank on 6 June to discuss the current relationship between the UK and the European Union
- I had my regular meeting with Sir Stephen House, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on 6 June

Ends