

# **43<sup>rd</sup> Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

## **Mayor's Question Time – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

This is my forty-third report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 5<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

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

## **Executive Summary**

### **COVID-19 Update**

Thanks to the efforts and sacrifice of the overwhelming majority of Londoners and the dedication of London's key workers, the prevalence of the virus in our city has continued to fall in the last few weeks. I am proud of what London has achieved, and especially thankful to the workers who have protected us and kept our city going through this difficult period.

Significant steps are now being taken across the country to ease the lockdown, including the reopening of many more businesses on 4 July. This will be welcomed by Londoners and London businesses alike, many of which I know have really strong measures in place to help keep people safe.

We have structures in London to help make sure these latest steps run smoothly. The Strategic Coordination Group continues its work across London's response agencies, the London Transition Board has now met twice, and the London Recovery Board is also now established, to look at the medium and long-term recovery.

But it's now more important than ever that we remain vigilant to the threat of a second wave that could be so damaging to Londoners' health and London's economy. With the extension of lockdown measures in Leicester, we have seen the impact the virus can have on communities not unlike our own, and it is clear that even with much lower levels of the virus than a few weeks ago, we cannot afford to be complacent.

At this pivotal stage in the easing of lockdown measures, with people beginning to come into closer contact with one another, it's vital that we have an effective Test and Trace system in place to help contain the risk of the virus taking hold again.

While it is encouraging that the vast majority of people are participating and playing their part, it is extremely concerning that a quarter of people who are testing positive still aren't being contacted properly. The Government needs to follow through with its promises and get the app up and running to ensure we are fully prepared as lockdown eases further.

What's happened in Leicester has also raised questions about the Government's plans for mobilising and delivering the response to local outbreaks. London's size and geography makes this especially complex, and coordination across agencies and across borough boundaries will be vital. Questions remain about the powers, resources and data involved, and I am concerned that we do not yet have the information we need from Government to work effectively.

I have written to the Health and Social Care Secretary to ask for clarification on these important matters.

Meanwhile I know that Londoners will continue to do all they can to prevent the spread of infection, helping to ensure that London's businesses can get back up and running for the benefit of us all.

### **Black Lives Matter protests**

I stand with the millions of people around the world who are saying loud and clear that Black Lives Matter. Over the last few weeks, Londoners from all ages, races and backgrounds have been coming together to protest racial injustice and structural racism. While I condemn absolutely those who sought to hijack these protests as an excuse for violence and disorder, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of the protestors have been peaceful. This moment must be a catalyst for systemic, lasting change to tackle the racism and inequalities that Black people still face today, in this country and elsewhere.

Rooting out racism, discrimination and inequality from our public institutions and from our society takes time, commitment and is an ongoing process. We have come a long way in London, but I am not complacent, and I know we need to go further.

On 5 June, I held an urgent community meeting with the police. This rightfully brought up some serious concerns and allowed my Deputy Mayors and I to hear the strength of feeling arising from the issues impacting upon our Black communities in relation to the death of George Floyd, and policing in the UK, including with regard to the use of force.

I am working closely with the Met Commissioner, taking a zero-tolerance approach to racism and discrimination, and striving to ensure the Met's workforce is truly representative of our city at all levels.

I have commissioned my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, to work with the police and our communities to draw up an action plan for improving trust and confidence, transparency and accountability and will be looking at enacting it as quickly as possible - while understanding we are dealing with very deep-rooted issues. I know Sophie has already spoken with you about this work and we will continue to update Assembly Members on progress as it develops.

### **Grenfell Tower fire anniversary**

The Grenfell Tower fire was a national tragedy in which 72 innocent Londoners lost their lives. Three years on, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and Grenfell community as they grieve and remember their loved ones.

I know the bereaved, survivors, residents and wider community are understandably frustrated at the lack of meaningful change and they are fearful that a similar tragedy could happen again. I too share their concerns. While struggling with their own personal grief and recovery, they have continued to campaign for building safety and are demanding change to keep others safe in their homes.

I will continue to be relentless in holding those responsible to account and doing everything within my power to ensure the Grenfell community gets the justice they deserve, and all Londoners can feel safe again in their homes.

### **Finsbury Park attack anniversary**

On 19 June, we marked the third anniversary of the Finsbury Park terror attack. We remember Makram Ali and the innocent people who were injured as a result of this mindless attack.

We are all entitled to feel safe in our place of worship, and I know I speak for all Londoners when I say that the reaction of the community to this horrific act inspired us all. Terrorists seek to divide us and to fuel fear. I have been so proud to see how our great city has shown time and time again that we stand united in defiance of these attacks.

London will always celebrate the diversity that some seek to destroy, and our values will always be stronger than the hatred of extremists.

### **The cost of COVID-19 and a new era of austerity**

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on London's public finances which were in great shape before the pandemic. Overall, the GLA Group faces a forecast £500 million budget shortfall over the next two years as a result of an unprecedented loss of business rates and council tax income, caused by COVID-19, that is hitting every local authority in the country. This is in addition to significant emergency costs already incurred by the GLA Group through schemes to support Londoners during the pandemic.

On 26 June, I published my Budget Guidance, which provides a breakdown of the savings that will be required across the GLA Group over the next two years if Ministers fail to act. A number of different scenarios are set out, with savings targets given for each organisation: The Greater London Authority (including the separate budget for the London Assembly), London Fire Commissioner, London Legacy Development Corporation, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (including the Metropolitan Police Service), Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation and Transport for London.

On 17 June, I volunteered for an immediate 10 per cent pay cut and continue not to take any pension contributions. In addition, I have taken the decision to freeze the salaries of my political appointments at City Hall.

Whatever happens I will protect the frontline services that Londoners depend on as much as possible. I didn't enter politics to administer Government austerity, and I will do everything in my power to persuade ministers not to force another era of austerity on local and regional government.

### **Consultation on plans to relocate City Hall**

On 24 June, I announced a consultation on plans for the Greater London Authority (GLA) to leave the current City Hall building next year and move its headquarters to The Crystal building in the Royal Docks. The move would save the GLA Group £55 million over five years and would help to protect front-line services as much as possible from cuts and to invest in jobs, skills provision and other initiatives to aid the economic recovery from COVID-19.

The Crystal is a highly sustainable building on the site of London's most ambitious regeneration project, where the GLA and Newham Council are working together to create a new commercial district and visitor destination with thousands of new homes and jobs.

In normal times, it would be standard practice for any Mayor to consider utilising the lease 'break' clause on the City Hall building that becomes possible this year, and to view it as an opportunity to ensure Londoners were getting the best value for money. In the current financial context, and with the looming black hole in London's public finances, it would be negligent not to do so.

### **Pride Virtual Events**

Earlier this year, after careful consideration, the organisers of Pride in London announced that the annual Parade and associated live events were to be postponed until next summer due to COVID-19.

To mark this important moment in our cultural calendar, a series of digital events were delivered on their listings platform, Coming Out and a campaign entitled You!Me!Us!We! was launched, aimed at driving real acts of support and allyship between communities. I was delighted to contribute to these activities as well as raising the Rainbow flag outside City Hall.

Supporting our LGBT+ communities and standing in solidarity with them on issues such as the Gender Recognition Act, is important in our efforts to create a city that stands united against hate crime, homophobia and intolerance.

In this difficult time, we're more determined than ever to continue bringing people together, to support our communities and celebrate our diversity.

### **Call for a targeted extension to the furlough scheme**

On 23 June, I called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) beyond the end of the lockdown – rather than risk a sudden surge in unemployment later in the summer and the subsequent poverty and homelessness this could cause.

Data for the CJRS scheme, published by the Government and analysed by the Greater London Authority (GLA), shows 1.07 million workers across London have been furloughed – with a disproportionately high number in areas that have seen the greatest rise in the benefit claimant count. It also shows the number of furloughed workers in the capital is higher than any other region of the UK and accounted for 12 per cent of the national total.

Ministers must urgently extend the help on offer to avoid the looming unemployment crisis which will hit the most disadvantaged and BAME Londoners hardest. In the longer term, we will need more devolved skills funding and new job creation schemes to ensure these communities are not left behind by the recovery.

## **Armed Forces Day**

I was honoured to hold an Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony at City Hall on Monday 22 June 2020.

I was joined by Wing Commander Chris Owen who this year represented all of the Armed Forces, Chair of the London Assembly, Navin Shah AM, Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney AM, and Len Duvall AM OBE, my Armed Forces champion and advisor on the Armed Forces Covenant.

Armed Forces Day is a time to reflect on the immense contribution made by the men and women who serve and protect our country. We must never underestimate the sacrifice they make to keep us safe, and although we were not able to gather together in our usual numbers for the event due to COVID-19, we were still able to reflect and pay tribute to the courage and commitment of our service personnel, past and present.

## **Lessons of the Windrush scandal**

On 22 June, I urged the Government to deliver justice for the Windrush generation, cut the extortionate immigration and citizenship fees, and improve funding for the advice and support sector.

Many of the Windrush Generation - who came to Britain in the 1940s and 1950s are still struggling to access the support and compensation they need, while the Government's policies continue to exclude many others from their rights to residency and citizenship.

An estimated 107,000 children and 26,000 18-24 year olds are living in London without secure immigration status, but despite more than half being born in the UK, the high cost of immigration and citizenships fees mean that they are unable to access higher education, open a bank account, apply for a driving licence, or secure housing or employment.

I'm proud that our funding is helping Londoners of all backgrounds to get the legal advice and support they need, but the Government must end its hostile immigration policies now to ensure these Londoners can secure their future in our city.

## **Call for face coverings to be mandatory in shops**

On 18 June, I wrote to the Government calling on them to make the wearing of face coverings mandatory for customers in shops and other confined public spaces.

It is increasingly clear that face coverings will play a key role in our efforts to stop the further spread of the virus and they need to become a more regular part of our day-to-day life. The high level of use on our public transport network has again shown that Londoners are willing to act to protect their community, but the Government's current rules are lagging behind other countries.

With non-essential shops now opening and the public returning to our high streets, I urge the Government to follow WHO guidance and make these coverings mandatory for those shopping in retail outlets and in other spaces where it is impossible to keep a safe distance.

## **New arrangements for the transition from lockdown and London's longer-term recovery**

The London Transition Board, set up in the short term to coordinate London's transition from lockdown to recovery from COVID-19, met for the first time on 10 June. I jointly chaired the first meeting with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Discussion at the meeting focused on infection control and testing and how the capital is responding to the biggest challenges relating to COVID-19. Key themes the Board will focus on over the coming months, including the safe reopening of businesses, transport and the use of public space, and the challenges faced in health and social care were also discussed.

The London Transition Board then met again on 1 July to discuss the planning and licencing issues associated with the next phase of reopening on 4 July, and the measures and communications we need in place to ensure the public can have confidence in the easing of lockdown.

Separately, the London Recovery Board, set up for the medium and long term to coordinate planning for, and oversee, London's long-term recovery efforts, met for the first time on 4 June. I jointly chaired this meeting with Peter John, Chair of London Councils.

Discussion at this meeting focused on agreeing the objectives, outcomes and principles for the recovery programme and its overall structures, which will consist of a Taskforce (which met for the first time on 19 June) and two main work strands covering the economic and social aspects of recovery.

## **Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm**

On 9 June, I announced a commission to review and improve diversity across London's public realm to ensure our street names, squares, statues and monuments reflect London's achievements and rich diversity. The Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, the LGBTQ+ community, disability groups and people from a broader range of socio-economic backgrounds. It will work in partnership with boroughs, community groups and other key stakeholders.

The terms of reference for the Commission will: review what currently makes up London's public realm; progress the discussion into what legacies should be celebrated; and make recommendations to establish best practice and standards. There will be open call for independent members of the Commission and as a first step my teams will bring borough leaders together for a roundtable to consider the draft terms of reference and hear wider thinking on how to develop this work.

Our capital's diversity is our greatest strength, yet our statues, road names and public spaces reflect a bygone era. It is an uncomfortable truth that our nation and city owes a large part of its wealth to its role in the slave trade and while this is reflected in our public realm, the contribution of many of our communities to life in our capital has been wilfully ignored. In order to celebrate the achievements and diversity of all in our city, we must also commemorate those who have made London what it is – that includes questioning which legacies are being celebrated.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **Funding for Youth Practitioners**

On 5 June, through my Violence Reduction budget, we announced an investment of £1 million across two innovative programmes.

£550,000 was committed to fund a new intensive leadership programme for 100 youth practitioners who are actively supporting young people directly affected by violence. A further £457,000 was invested into building on an already-successful diversion programme which deploys specialist coaches to provide support and guidance for young people who are in police custody, and offer them opportunities to plan a future away from crime.

These two programmes recognise the vital work that London's youth practitioners do to reach, guide, and encourage young people, helping them to reach their potential.

### **Ensuring victims' data is used in a reasonable and proportionate way**

Claire Waxman, independent Victims' Commissioner for London, has long campaigned on the use of victims' personal data by police and prosecutors, writing to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) about the serious concerns victims have had about excessive requests and processing of data from their mobile phones, and the fact they feel coerced into consenting to sharing sensitive and personal information, at a time of trauma, if they hope to ever access justice.

On 18 June, we welcomed the findings of the ICO's investigation into how the police use the mobile phone data of victims of crime. They echoed the serious concerns Claire has raised around how the impact of current practices on victim confidence. This report should be a catalyst for real change, and I support Claire's calls for clarity on how much data from a mobile phone is needed to help an investigation and secure justice, and for urgent changes to the law to ensure police practice keeps pace with technology and uses data in a reasonable and proportionate way.

# Transport

## COVID-19 Transport update

I want to thank Londoners who have made monumental sacrifices over recent months, stuck to the rules and adhered to the guidance. I urge them to continue to do so to help save lives.

TfL continues to work hard to maximise services despite staff being ill, shielding or self-isolating. The reality is that due to social distancing the effective capacity of public transport services has been dramatically reduced. It's clear life simply won't return to how it was before. Even when public transport returns to a full pre-pandemic service it will still only be able to carry 13-15 per cent of the typical number of Tube passengers to enable social distancing

We all must play our part by working from home if we can and making journeys on foot or by bike if at all possible, in order to keep the service safe for those who really need it.

I am pleased that our efforts to persuade Government to make it mandatory for people to wear face coverings on public transport has paid off. This is something I and others have been calling on ministers to do for some time. The latest scientific advice suggests that, although face coverings are unlikely to prevent an individual from catching the COVID-19, they can help prevent someone who is infected from infecting others and therefore help control the virus.

TfL has been helping Londoners adjust to the new rules by piloting the temporary distribution of face coverings at targeted Tube and bus stations, as well as providing advice on how to make your own and encouraging in-station retailers to make them available.

Making face coverings mandatory comes in addition to other measures designed to maintain social distancing, such as stickers and signage, limits on the number of people carried by buses, hand sanitisers and extensive and enhanced cleaning of all vehicles.

It's really positive that construction work can now safely resume on key transport infrastructure projects, which will help to kickstart London's economic recovery. These include major capacity improvements and extensions for Tube and rail, such as the Northern Line Extension to Battersea, the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade and the extension of London Overground to the new housing development at Barking Riverside. They also include the transformation of Old Street Roundabout, Cycleways, safety improvements to some key road junctions and new walking and cycling infrastructure to support social distancing by encouraging active travel.

Opportunities to restart work on other projects continue to be reviewed across TfL's capital delivery programme. Meanwhile, essential and business critical work has been continuing across the Crossrail programme. In line with the latest government guidance, physical work at sites has also resumed. All Crossrail sites continue to observe strict social distancing protocols with the numbers of people at each location strictly limited at all times.

In accordance with its funding agreement with Government, TfL has urgently brought forward proposals to widen the scope and level of the Congestion Charge. COVID-19 continues to present our city with unprecedented challenges but I am determined to ensure that we emerge from this pandemic with a cleaner, greener and more sustainable transport system. While capacity on the network needs to be preserved for those people who need it most, we can't allow journeys that were previously taken on public transport to be replaced with car trips.

I am proud that our world-leading Streetspace for London plans continue to move forward at pace - making it safer and easier to cycle in our city, and freeing up space on public transport for people who have no alternative. I'm determined that our city's recovery from coronavirus will be clean, green and sustainable.

More than 30 Streetspace schemes have now been completed, including expanded footways outside busy commuter hubs such as London Bridge, Victoria and Waterloo stations and a new cycle lane on Park Lane. The speed limit on Park Lane has been reduced from 40mph to 20mph to reduce road danger further, and TfL plans to introduce 20mph speed limits on more main roads across the capital as part of the Streetspace plans.

Plans to boost walking and cycling are helping to ensure London can re-open carefully, safely and sustainably. I'm delighted by the unprecedented demand for cycling over the past few months. We've seen three times the number of people cycling in some parts of our city compared to before the crisis, huge demand for our free cycle hire scheme for NHS staff and carers, and multiple Santander Cycles records being broken. TfL has set out plans to expand the Santander Cycles scheme to keep up with this unprecedented demand and by adding new docking stations, cycle hire hubs and bikes we are making it even more convenient to take to two wheels.

### **Face masks mandatory on public transport**

On 5 June, Transport for London (TfL) confirmed that, in line with new Government guidance on the wearing of face coverings on public transport, all customers travelling on the TfL transport network must wear face coverings for the duration of their journeys starting from Monday 15 June.

In support of this, on Monday 8 June, TfL began distributing face coverings to be used over a single journey. To help customers adjust to the new requirement, TfL piloted the temporary distribution of free face coverings at a selection of Tube and bus stations that have typically seen higher numbers of customers travelling throughout the lockdown period.

In addition, TfL has been providing advice on how to make your own as well as working with retail tenants on the transport network to help make more face coverings available to people who are travelling.

The introduction of the new requirement on face coverings does not alter the existing guidance from the Government and City Hall that the most important thing Londoners can do to keep themselves and each other safe is to continue to work from home where possible and to only use public transport for essential journeys that cannot be made by other means such as walking and cycling.

Customers must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth for their entire journey, including in stations, unless they are exempt. These include people who have trouble breathing, children and anyone who finds it difficult to manage them correctly. Additionally, face coverings should be worn by everyone in taxi and private hire vehicles for the duration of their journey.

Hundreds of officers from the Met and British Transport Police, as well TfL's own enforcement officers are helping customers to comply with the new requirement, explaining what they are and helping them to access one of the free face coverings TfL is providing during the introductory period. They will also explain to customers how everyone on the network benefits

from the widespread use of face coverings. Once TfL is confident customers understand the new requirements, enforcement, which may include being refused entry or being fined, will start. This is expected to be a last resort as Londoners will want to do the right thing and keep themselves and others safe.

### **Construction projects to commence phased restart**

On 9 June, Transport for London (TfL) announced that work on a number of its key construction projects had resumed with more restarting in the coming weeks, in line with the Government's announcement in early May easing lockdown measures for those who could not work from home.

Construction at around 300 TfL sites was brought to a Safe Stop in late March to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since then design and other preparatory work on many of these projects has continued, with staff and many of TfL's contractors working from home.

During the next few weeks, site preparation to accommodate social distancing and construction work will safely begin in a phased way on a number of projects vital to supporting jobs and homes, or providing essential transport infrastructure, across the capital.

### **TfL urges all Londoners to drive safely and watch out for new road layouts**

Transport for London (TfL) is reminding Londoners to drive safely as more people are taking up walking and cycling, and to watch out as significant temporary infrastructure changes are being made across London to protect them.

The changes are being rolled out at pace through the Streetspace for London plan. Footways and bus platforms have been extended across the capital, creating an additional 19,000m<sup>2</sup> of space for people walking and cycling during May.

In total, more than 30 Streetspace schemes have been completed, including expanded footways outside busy commuter hubs such as London Bridge, Victoria and Waterloo stations and a new cycle lane on Park Lane. The speed limit on Park Lane has been reduced from 40mph to 20mph to reduce road danger further, and TfL plans to introduce 20mph speed limits on more main roads across the capital as part of the Streetspace plans.

Plans to boost walking and cycling are helping to ensure London can re-open carefully, safely and sustainably as more people returned to work from 15 June. TfL and the Government are encouraging everyone who can to walk or cycle for all or part of their journeys as lockdown measures are eased. With more people across London choosing to walk and cycle, including young schoolchildren, drivers are reminded to slow down, to obey the rules of the road and to be extra vigilant for other road users.

### **Temporary changes to Older Person's Freedom Pass and 60-plus Oyster card**

On 15 June, temporary changes affecting users of the Older Person's Freedom Pass, 60+ Oyster photocard and English National Concessionary Scheme in London as part of the response to the pandemic came into effect. These were introduced as part of the recent funding and finance agreement with Government.

At present, all passengers with an Older Person's Freedom Pass, 60+ Oyster photocard or English National Concessionary Scheme pass will not be able to use those passes during

morning peak hours in order to help support social distancing on the public transport network and help control the coronavirus.

These cards will be automatically recognised by the system to be not valid during the morning peak period (04:30 to 09:00) Monday to Friday. They will continue to be valid at all other times on weekdays and all day on weekends and Bank Holidays.

Passengers are being advised, where possible, not to travel immediately after 09:00 to help reduce potential crowding on buses and trains where effective capacity has been hugely reduced as a result of the requirement to observe two-metres social distancing wherever possible.

Passengers with a Disabled Freedom Pass are unaffected and will, as usual, still be able to travel at all times using their Pass if they have to use public transport for their journey.

These temporary arrangements will help reduce the risk of crowding at the busiest times, which would mean that social distancing would be more difficult to maintain.

### **Temporary changes to the Congestion Charge vital to secure safe and green recovery**

At the Government's request, TfL has urgently brought forward proposals to temporarily widen the scope and level of the Congestion Charge. The proposed wider support measures are being introduced as part of the package of changes demonstrate how we have listened carefully to stakeholders and the public, and examined what further changes can be made to ensure the scheme is fair in the current circumstances for people who need to travel to central London.

Since 22 June, the Congestion Charge has temporarily increased to £15, operating 07:00-22:00 seven days a week and the residents' discount will be closed to new applicants on 1 August. These temporary changes are aimed at reducing traffic in central London and enabling more journeys to be made safely by foot or by bike while keeping the bus network reliable for those making essential journeys

After inviting people to share their views on the proposed changes, the Congestion Charge reimbursement schemes will be extended to support those who could be most affected by the coronavirus pandemic and are at the heart of the response to the crisis.

## **Fire and Resilience**

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

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

### **Meeting with Major General Christopher John Ghika CBE**

On 8 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Major General C.J. Ghika CBE to discuss the part the British military are playing in London's response to COVID-19.

### **City Hall Council Leaders Update**

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

### **Call with Lord Greenhalgh**

On 9 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government, to discuss the work of London Fire Brigade.

### **London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee**

On 11 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, attended a virtual meeting with members of London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to brief them on the response to COVID-19.

### **London Resilience Forum**

On 11 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting of the London Resilience Forum. The forum discussed some of the initial learning from COVID 19 in relation to future protracted incidents and received updates from members with regard to their ongoing preparedness for COVID 19 and other incidents.

### **London Fire Commissioner**

On 12 and 22 June, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

### **London Strategic Coordinating Group**

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend regular meetings of London's Strategic Coordinating Group, which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19 throughout the month.

### **Strategic Coordination Group Update call for London MP's**

On 12 and 25 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting to update London MPs on London's response to COVID-19.

### **COVID-19 Interim Operational Review**

On 17 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, as Chair of the London Resilience Forum, took part in a COVID-19 Interim National Review. Consisting of partner agencies and cross government departments, the group was tasked to seek a shared understanding of the COVID-19 emergency so as to make timely recommendations to strategic governance, prioritising actions which may help communities and Local Resilience Forums.

### **Internal Transition Group**

On 18 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, began chairing weekly virtual Internal Transition Group meetings. These meetings were arranged to coordinate and oversee the development of internal operational arrangements for the transition period between response and recovery of COVID-19.

### **London Regional Fire Brigades Union meeting**

On 23 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with representatives from the London Regional Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade firefighters.

### **Summer Preparedness**

On 25 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting of London Resilience Partners on Summer Preparedness.

### **Grenfell Response Steering Group**

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, alongside my Chief of Staff David Bellamy, attended a virtual meeting of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Steering Group to oversee the Greater London Authority's work in implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 report and to prepare for Phase 2.

### **London Assembly plenary meeting on COVID-19**

On 2 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a London Assembly Plenary to answer Assembly Members questions on London's response to COVID-19.

### **The SCG, recovery, and transition stakeholder comms**

The Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) have been proactively engaging with London politicians to ensure they are receiving accurate and timely information about London's response to COVID-19 and are able to raise and resolve any issues in their constituencies. From next week, 6 July, the SCG will be standing down its communications with political stakeholders, and London's politicians will instead be briefed by the GLA on London's Recovery and Transition work. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Asif Hussain, Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer ([Asif.Hussain@london.gov.uk](mailto:Asif.Hussain@london.gov.uk))

## **Growth, Skills and Regeneration**

### **Metro Mayors' M9 Group meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer**

On 18 June, I met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, alongside the M9 group of Mayors. I urged the Chancellor to empower us all with the necessary skills and employment powers, as well as the funding, to support our recovery from the pandemic. This includes the devolution of flexible, multi-year skills and employment funding alongside increased investment in the Adult Education Budget and skills infrastructure, and a regional approach to supporting apprenticeship creation.

### **Good Growth by Design Recovery Roundtables**

As part of my Good Growth by Design programme, I am engaging my Mayor's Design Advocates and Advocate Organisations into our recovery response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic impacts, focusing on London's built environment and the topics that the Good Growth by Design programme has covered to date.

My Deputy Mayors and the Executive Director for Good Growth are hosting a series of Good Growth by Design Recovery Roundtables throughout June and July. The sessions will draw Mayor's Design Advocates, Advocate Organisations and other external expert views and perspectives into the wider City Hall recovery response. The Roundtables will cover the most pertinent topics facing our built environment including ecological urbanism, public realm, equality in the built environment sector, child-friendly cities, housing design and social infrastructure.

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, will be chairing the first roundtable, on how we can respond to the threats and opportunities to our cities' high streets that the pandemic has forced.

## **Housing**

### **Deputy Mayor Tom Copley gives evidence to Housing, Communities and Local Government select committee**

On 8 June, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley appeared before the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee to give evidence to their inquiry into the long-term delivery of social and affordable rented housing. This follows submission of written evidence to the inquiry last year.

My Deputy Mayor was questioned by the Committee on the expected timescales for confirmation of the next Affordable Homes Programme, progress against our current affordable housing delivery targets, the new London Plan, TfL's housing programme and the Government's First Homes proposal.

## **Homes for Londoners Board**

On 11 June, I was pleased to chair the Homes for Londoners Board. The Board brings together London boroughs with the housing and voluntary sectors, and at this meeting we discussed the GLA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and heard from the Chair of the London Housing Panel about the Panel's first year in operation. We also discussed the next London Affordable Homes Programme, and received updates on housing delivery and the Land Fund Programmes.

## **Grenfell - Letter to the Prime Minister**

On the eve of the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, I wrote to the Prime Minister reminding him that even while in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Grenfell must not be forgotten.

I raised my concerns that the Government have not grasped the scale of the building safety crisis and highlighted the lack of meaningful change, amid fears that a similar tragedy could happen again. I urged the Prime Minister to publish regular updates on the implementation of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations, to continue to monitor the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's support to the community and to protect leaseholders from the extortionate costs of waking watch. Finally, I made it clear that the Government response to Grenfell has been too slow and the bereaved, survivors and residents deserve better.

## **Letter to the Minister for Rough Sleeping**

On 18 June, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, wrote jointly with Councillor Darren Rodwell – London Councils' Executive member for Housing and Planning - to the Government Minister with responsibility for rough sleeping, Luke Hall MP.

The letter set out the concern that there is insufficient Government support for those rough sleepers who are non-UK nationals and who have no or limited access to benefits and homelessness assistance. The letter urged clear and immediate guidance for local authorities, emphasising that they should continue to provide emergency accommodation for all those currently homeless, irrespective of their immigration status, with Government funding to cover the additional costs.

## **Housing Delivery Taskforce**

On 18 June, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, met with his Housing Delivery Taskforce to inform the development of a cross-sector post COVID-19 recovery plan. The meeting focused on policy interventions to address development viability challenges.

My Deputy Mayor convened the Housing Delivery Taskforce again on 2 July, to further develop the potential cross-sector response to COVID-19. The focus of the meeting was on interventions to support the identification of a healthy pipeline of developable land.

# The Economy, Business and Enterprise

## Reaching out to businesses

I continue to be in regular contact with business leaders to develop our understanding of what additional support London's business community will need through this crisis and the recovery from it.

Since the beginning of June, I have held virtual meetings with leaders of key business groups and trade bodies including the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), London First, and New West End Company to discuss ongoing responses to the pandemic, the impacts on businesses and recovery strategies.

On 16 June, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on economic recovery and Brexit.

On 23 June, I made a 'virtual visit' to Hygge Pygge Café in Camden and spoke to the owner about her business, her experience of having to furlough staff and her concerns about what will happen when the furlough scheme ends. I also spoke to a furloughed staff member about his experience of being furloughed and his concerns for the future. I have called for an extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme beyond the end of the lockdown to help mitigate the risk of a surge in unemployment later in the summer.

On 24 June, I chaired a meeting of the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) where we discussed plans to deploy London's Local Growth Fund in 2020/21, in order to meet Government expectations and support projects through and beyond the COVID-19 crisis. We also considered plans to provide £2 million of funding to support London SMEs and ensure our business support interventions are effective, well communicated and responding to businesses that are most in need of support to start, sustain and grow.

## London Tech Week Connects

From 9 - 12 June, I welcomed London Tech Week Connects, a series of virtual sessions tackling the most pressing topics facing the industry today within health, security, inclusivity, future of work, the investment landscape and more. Now in its 7th year, London Tech Week is an opportunity to bring the global tech community together to discuss these critical tasks as well as some of the most pressing issues facing the sector and the solutions that can be found.

## Promoting London at home and abroad

On 17 June, London & Partners launched 'Because I'm a Londoner', a campaign that brings together an alliance of more than 100 major London businesses to build consumer confidence and kickstart the economy.

My Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, continues to engage with start-ups, entrepreneurs and investors to promote London as the place to start and grow their business and help London recover. On 9 June he gave a keynote speech to Swedish start-ups interested in expanding to the UK at an event hosted by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce. On 10 June he also spoke at a virtual Tech Leaders event to discuss the current business climate, the tech sector and London's plan for recovery. He also spoke at a virtual event, hosted by The Financial

Times and The Next web, to launch Start-up Genome's annual Global Start-up Ecosystem Report 2020.

## **Supporting Workspace**

My Workspace Advisory Group (WAG) met on 23 June, for the first time since the lockdown began. As a result of COVID-19 and its impact on the co-working spaces, the group agreed that in the next six months they should focus on ensuring the sector can better network and coordinate on regular basis. The members also will work on identifying new patterns of working and impact on the co-working sector, particularly use of co-working space in outer vs central London.

Members of my Workspace Advisory Group will also research how to ensure the creation of more move on space for growing businesses, which is currently at a premium.

On 2 June, my Enterprise team launched the *Shared Workspace support programme*, which provides free advice and support to workspace providers and tenants on topics like business rates, accessing discretionary funding and negotiating with landlords.

## **Environment**

### **Temporary changes to NRMM**

Tackling emissions from London's construction sites is a key part of my plans to tackle London's toxic air. Machinery such as diggers and bulldozers are currently responsible for 15 per cent of local PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions in London and the fifth largest source of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

On 15 June, I announced that construction firms will be eligible for a six-month exemption from the new Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) Low Emission Zone standards in recognition of the challenges created by COVID-19.

New, tighter standards for construction machinery will be introduced on 1 September 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on supply chains, making it more difficult for construction companies to prepare their machinery for the new standards. Challenges include delays to the retrofitting of existing machinery and interruptions to the supply of new equipment. This six-month exemption period from the new LEZ standards will support companies as they work to comply with the standards. It will run from September 2020 - February 2021. The existing LEZ standards, in place since 2015, will continue to apply.

### **Zenobe electric bus charging**

My Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) is providing finance to Zenobe Energy to install charging infrastructure at Abellio's Walworth bus depot for the electric single decker P5 and new C10 bus routes. The innovative charging solutions include a static Battery Energy Storage system that ensures the bus charging requirements are met by the local grid infrastructure. This is an important step in tackling London's air pollution and the climate emergency and delivers on my vision for a zero-emission transport system in the capital.

## **Global Action Plan research published (Mayor mentioned in this article)**

On 16 June, Global Action Plan published results of a [study](#) undertaken for their Business for Clean Air Taskforce. This found that three quarters of British workers don't want firms to return to "business as usual" following lockdown, and almost nine in 10 are in favour of some form of remote working. I provided a supportive statement to this report agreeing that the changes in air quality we have seen during lockdown should not be temporary. As the government starts to ease lockdown measures, our challenge will be to eradicate air pollution permanently.

## **Victoria Forum Webinar**

On 11 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at the second Victoria Forum Webinar titled "Whither cities – addressing economic, social and environmental challenges during and beyond COVID-19". The session was co-hosted by C40 Cities and Victoria Foundation and was designed to explore the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequality in our cities and consider innovative solutions in response to it.

My Deputy Mayor outlined some of the environmental challenges London is facing in terms of inequalities and how we are tackling them. This contribution specifically focused on how we are looking to a green recovery following the pandemic, one that will lead to permanent improvements to our city, with a renewed drive to tackle the climate emergency and eradicate air pollution.

A recording of the webinar can be found here: <https://victoriaforum.ca/2020-forum/2020-webinar-2/>

## **A solution to build back better: the circular economy**

On 13 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, signed a joint statement from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation setting out how the circular economy provides solutions for how we can build back better in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statement was also signed by a number of other cities, businesses, public sector and charitable organisations. The statement was published in the Financial Times on Saturday 13 June.

A link to the full statement, along with the list of signatories is below:

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/emf-joint-statement.pdf>

## **Community Energy Fortnight (13-28 June)**

Community Energy Fortnight, organised by Community Energy England, celebrates the role that community energy projects have in growing resilience in cities and supporting a green recovery. To mark the fortnight of events, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a speech to the community energy sector, highlighting its importance to our ambitions to tackle the climate emergency as well as thanking those groups who have had a front line role in helping communities through the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 25 June, members of my Energy team alongside Community Energy London ran a webinar on how to scale-up urban community energy. The webinar looked at examples from my London Community Energy Fund, which has provided funding to 48 projects helping both new and existing community energy groups in the capital.

## **Air Quality News**

On 15 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, wrote an opinion editorial for Air Quality News. The article highlighted the incredible progress that has already been made in improving air quality over recent years, including the impact of bold policies like the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone which helped reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide by 44 per cent in central London from February 2017 to January 2020. My Deputy Mayor also highlighted the importance of avoiding London's roads becoming clogged with cars as the city begins to recover, and highlighted the importance of walking and cycling through my Streetspace programme.

Read the piece here: <https://airqualitynews.com/2020/06/15/londons-road-to-recovery-cannot-be-clogged-with-cars/>

## **Financial Times Interview/SR**

My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, was interviewed by the Financial Times' Leslie Hook for a short video about how Londoners' commutes are changing and what impact this has on air pollution. Representatives from TfL, City of London and officials from other cities around the world were also interviewed in including New York and Hong Kong.

The video will be published on the Financial Times' website and across its social media channels.

## **Chatham House Webinar**

On 17 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, was a panellist at a Chatham House webinar entitled 'Towards a More Resilient Future for Cities'. The event looked at the challenges arising from the pandemic and how to create cities more resilient to climate change, including how governments, businesses and citizens can work together to build more resilient cities. My Deputy Mayor also addressed the factors that are affecting London's ability to address the current pandemic and the lessons we are learn from the current crisis to build more resilient cities in the longer term.

## **Hubbub Workshop**

On 19 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed a workshop organises by Hubbub entitles 'How will COVID-19 change how we get around?'. The workshop was attended by senior stakeholders from business, local authorities and funding networks. My Deputy Mayor addressed how travel has changed in London during the pandemic and the changes that I have introduced, including Streetspace, to embed behaviour change and improve London's environment.

## **C40 Steering Committee**

On 22 June, my Deputy Mayor attended the C40 Steering Committee hosted by Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles, in my role as Vice Chair for Europe. The Steering Committee focussed on a high-level discussion on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the role that C40 Mayors can play in ensuring recovery tackles the climate emergency. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues updated the Committee on the work underway in London, including my Streetspace programme, the establishment of the London Recovery Board, and ensuring that a cleaner, greener London is

central to the capital's recovery. London has contributed to the work of C40's Recovery taskforce, including in the forthcoming progress report to be launched by C40 later this month.

More information about the C40 recovery taskforce can be found here:  
<https://www.c40.org/other/covid-task-force>

### **Meridian Water Heat Network in Enfield funding**

My Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) has provided the London Borough of Enfield with £15 million to part-finance the construction of their Meridian Water Heat Network. This new district energy project will supply over 10,000 new homes with better value, environmentally friendly energy as well as providing funding for the extension to some of Enfield's existing networks.

The MEEF is a £500 million investment fund established by City Hall with funding from the European Commission, which will help achieve London's ambition of being a zero carbon city with flexible and competitive finance for low carbon projects across London. Projects like Meridian Water will have a key role to play in London's green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19, as well as providing new job opportunities in the district energy sector.

### **Centre for London Event: London's Green Recovery and achieving net zero**

On 29 June, as part of London Climate Action Week, I provided a keynote speech at a green recovery event hosted by the Centre for London. The speech included my vision for London's green recovery and the importance of a renewed drive to tackle the climate emergency. I was clear that a recovery for London should ensure we are on course to becoming a zero carbon city, whilst delivering green jobs and skills and improved outcomes for all Londoners, especially the most vulnerable.

Following my keynote, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in the subsequent panel together with representatives from Business and Social sectors to discuss how London can maintain momentum and global leadership on climate action over the next year.

### **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Event**

On 1 July, as part of London Climate Action Week, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, provided the keynote speech at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) webinar on green recovery. The webinar focussed on how EBRD cities are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, their priorities for the future, and what the transition to recovery looks like. My Deputy Mayor shared, how we in London are approaching the recovery and steps we are taking to tackle the climate emergency with the other European cities and Mayors in attendance.

## Education and Youth

### **Schools and nurseries opening for more children**

Schools across every borough in the capital are now teaching more children and many nurseries are reopening. It is critical to have kids in school, but it's got to be safe to do so. Schools and nurseries across London are doing all they can to make their environments safe, and I want to salute our incredible teachers and early years practitioners who have been working hard to support children throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

### **London Learning at Home**

My London Learning at Home platform continues to expand, now listing free learning and cultural offers for young Londoners from over 50 organisations across the city. In its first two weeks, it was in the top 10 most visited pages on London.gov.uk and has since amassed 9000 page-views, demonstrating its continued value. My London Curriculum team will continue to add offers to the platform, helping to ensure that young Londoners still feel connected to the incredible people, places and culture of their city.

Our resources can be found at: [www.london.gov.uk/learning-at-home](http://www.london.gov.uk/learning-at-home)

### **Digital devices and data**

I continue to raise my concerns over the limitations of the Government's offer of devices and data for those children who are not in school. In London we need the digital access scheme to be rolled out across secondary school and beyond, so that the capital's children can access the tools they need to continue their education.

On 12 June, my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, and my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, met with Chief Information Officers from 20 boroughs. Many are reporting that the numbers of devices allocated to them does not meet demand.

Further issues have arisen relating to deployment and IT support with other significant concerns being length of licensing and data. In response to COVID-19, the London Grid for Learning, which was set up by London local authorities in 2001, has tendered for up to 2 million devices nationally to save schools money and ensure continuity of education provision. This process has secured device prices from the tech sector that represent a significant saving over current market prices. More information can be found at [www.devices.lgfl.net](http://www.devices.lgfl.net)

### **Supporting London's Care Leavers**

On 11 June, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, hosted an online meeting with staff from the Drive Forward Foundation, including some of their youth policy forum ambassadors. They explored how we can support young Londoners with experience of the care system, paying particular attention to careers, opportunities and travel. I am committed to supporting London's care leavers and continue to do so through my commitment to the National Care Leaver Covenant.

## **International Women in Engineering Day**

On 24 June the team hosted an [online STEM careers event](#) to celebrate International Women in Engineering Day. The event was delivered in partnership with STEM Learning and the Women's Engineering Society, helping support students who are missing out on work experience and industry visits because of lockdown restrictions. The event was very well attended, with between 200 - 300 London and other UK students participating and submitting questions to the all-female panel of engineers. In the feedback, 93 per cent of students said the event made them more interested in becoming an engineer.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **EU Settlement Scheme**

Last month, my Communities and Social Policies team launched a free training programme on the EU Settlement Scheme, developed by legal partners Here for Good. This capacity building training programme will help organisations and individuals effectively support and advise those with complex cases as we approach the EUSS application deadline. Over 330 advisers have signed up to attend training courses so far.

### **Radiate Festival (London's online Grassroots Windrush Festival)**

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, recorded a video message for the [Radiate Festival](#) (London's online Grassroots Windrush Festival). In the video, which was shown to the audience at events across the 19-21 June weekend and shared on social media, my Deputy Mayor spoke about the support we have given to the Windrush Justice Fund and funding provided to support those with insecure immigration status to access legal advice.

### **Windrush day**

On Windrush Day, I hosted a virtual event jointly with Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) - who coordinate the Windrush Justice Fund towards which my office has contributed a total of £40,000 of funding. The event celebrated the work that campaigners have been doing over the last few years to help the Windrush generation and their families to access their rights. The event also included insight about the ongoing struggles that the Windrush generation and their families are continuing to face. There was co-ordinated media and comms work around the event, with a number of outlets picking up my comments around Windrush – including the calls for the Government to end its discriminatory hostile environment policies and to support children and young people who are also struggling without status.

### **Faith Communities roundtables**

In June, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, held five roundtables with leaders from the following faith communities: Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh & Hindu. These meetings were organised with the following partner organisations: London Jewish Forum, London Church Leaders, Muslim Council of Britain, leaders of Sikh Gurdwaras and the Hindu Forum for Britain. The meetings are focused on the impact of COVID-19 on these communities in London, what lessons can be

learned and how these can inform the next phases of transition out of lockdown and into recovery.

### **Refugee Week 2020**

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, marked and celebrated Refugee Week by sharing a few case studies of Londoners from refugees' background who have gone above and beyond to support their communities.

On Refugee Week 2020, I recorded a video to celebrate refugees and asylum seekers in London who have stepped up and helped their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. I also thanked Londoners for creating a welcoming city for people seeking protection. I also wrote to Hassan Akkad, a Syrian refugee who has been working as a hospital cleaner in his neighbourhood. I recognised his contribution in sharing stories of his NHS colleagues from migrants' background and for advocating to extend the bereavement scheme

### **Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities**

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, has been hosting a series of closed conversations to discuss the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities. As part of these conversations, she met with the Bangladeshi Community on 23 June and is scheduled to meet the Pakistani and Latin American Community on 30 June and 2 July respectively.

### **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month**

I recorded a short video to mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. My Community Engagement Team also worked with the planning group to design and deliver an online event to celebrate the month. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, joined and made the closing remarks.

### **Justice Together**

City Hall has provided £310,000 to improve the capacity of London's immigration advice sector. The funding is being used by Justice Together, a collaboration of independent funders, to help widen access to free legal advice and strengthen the campaign for lawful and fair immigration and asylum processes.

You can find more information about the Justice Together initiative here:

<https://www.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/articles/justice-together-initiative-to-support-people-to-access-justice-in-the-uk-immigration-system-2>

## Health

### **Applying my six tests to the Improving Healthcare Together 2020-2030 proposals**

Over the last month I applied the first four of my six tests to the Improving Healthcare Together 2020-2030 proposals for hospital reconfiguration in South West London. My tests are a way for me to review and assess proposals, and to consider how they reflect my priorities.

I set out my consideration of the proposals in a letter to the programme's Accountable Officers. The letter draws attention to key assurances I would like to see in the forthcoming decision-making business case, e.g. that the proposals will not increase health inequalities or decrease access. I also requested further evidence for how they will achieve the planned efficiencies. I plan to share my final feedback against all six tests once I have reviewed the final consultation report and the revised proposals.

### **London Health Board Meeting**

On 30 June I chaired the first meeting of the London Health Board since the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting focused on London's recovery. After commemorating the people who have lost their lives to COVID, the Board received a presentation from the Regional Director of Public Health England, London Medical Director and lead council chief executive for social care, which described London's journey through the pandemic and the response of the health and care system. The Board considered how best to capture the learning and opportunities that have emerged from the crisis response. These included closer working across local health and care partners, innovations including digital and data sharing and whole system responses to key issues. I am particularly proud of London's response to protecting London's homeless which has been world-leading. The board expects to see a sustainable long-term response to meet the needs of this very vulnerable group as a key commitment across all the areas of the London Vision. The Board agreed that an implementation plan for the Vision describing delivery at local, sub-regional and London levels will be brought to the next meeting.

The Board went on to consider how health inequalities are made central to London's recovery efforts. Cllr Dombey, Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman have joined the London Recovery Board and will ensure strong links and consideration of public health, a strong contribution from the NHS and social care system and health inequalities across all aspects of the recovery. In addition, Cllr Dombey co-chairs the Social Recovery Board which will provide a further opportunity to strengthen links across the recovery structures. The Board agreed to quickly establish a dedicated Health Equity Group to spearhead the work and to support partners across the system to maximise the opportunities to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing and to mitigate potential negative impacts of the recovery proposals.

Mayor of Hackney, Phil Glanville, updated the board on Thrive LDN and other mental health work that has been undertaken since the last meeting and focused in particular on supporting Londoners during the pandemic. It was agreed that more time be given at the next meeting to mental health to reflect the good work being done at all levels. Mayor Glanville and the board committed to use their leadership to ensure that mental health is a 'golden thread' throughout the Health Inequalities strategy, the London Vision and the wider recovery work.

## **Meetings with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman**

I have continued to meet regularly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the COVID-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with COVID-19 and other health needs.

Areas for discussion have included: the development of the NHS Test and Trace programme; preparedness for any second wave of the pandemic; action in London in response to the findings of the PHE BAME inequalities report; action to support Londoners mental health in the context of COVID-19; and how the health of homeless Londoners can continue to be protected as London moves to recovery. I will continue to meet regularly with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman in the coming weeks.

## **Team London, Sports and Volunteering**

### **Team London mutual Aid research.**

For three weeks at the end of May and beginning of June I opened a survey through Team London to gather insights into the experience of Mutual Aid groups in London. We had 38 responses to the survey representing groups from seventeen different boroughs. Team London also held a round table conversation online with twenty individuals from mutual aid groups. This research will help us to understand more about the challenges to sustaining mutual aid and the support needed from the GLA and other strategic partners in London to support the conditions where support from neighbourhood level informal volunteers can thrive.

### **The London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN) Expansion**

In June, I committed to extend and expand the London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN). The LEAN is a national programme that supports social mobility through matching senior business volunteers with a school/college careers leader, to support them to increase business engagement and develop careers strategies.

Next academic year, the LEAN will expand its offer to all secondary schools, further education colleges and alternative provision institutions and for the first time, the LEAN will also be working with London's special schools. This means that schools and colleges across the capital will have the opportunity to be matched with a business volunteer who will aid them to develop a careers programme that supports all young people to make informed decisions about their futures. Delivery of this programme has been adapted to allow for COVID-19 requirements.

### **COVID-19 Recovery Community Sport Consultation**

In June, my Community Sport Team conducted focus group consultations with grassroots and community sport sector representatives. These consultations sought to identify the issues and challenges to their work in reducing inactivity, improving mental health, improving social integration, and reducing serious youth violence in the light of COVID-19 pandemic. The organisations shared their capacity struggles and the challenges faced by their beneficiaries and

were encouraged to identify recovery priorities for the sector. This work will help my team adapt our programmes to meet community sports needs more effectively.

### **Volunteers supporting the distribution of face-coverings at transport hubs**

On 15 June my Team London and EURO 2020 volunteers were deployed to assist with free face covering distribution at 26 Transport for London stations in London, to support the safer travel of Londoners. Volunteers encourage members of the public to collect a free face covering whilst welcoming them to the station. Since then 128 volunteers have completed 318 shifts, totalling 954 hours of volunteering. From 29 June volunteers will be moving their focus to support the retail sector as TfL support the growth in travel to stations near major shopping centres. The programme is expected to continue until 12 July.

### **Socially Distanced Community Sport Pilot**

On 15 June, my Community Sport team launched a 5-week socially distanced community sport pilot of group activities. Within a controlled environment young people from diverse backgrounds can re-engage with sport/physical activity, whilst adhering to current COVID-19 government restrictions and PHE guidance. This project employs a group-play model, using selected school playgrounds and outdoor facilities within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, prior to wider schools re-opening. It supports vulnerable children and young people from the local community – testing a model for group work that allows safe peer interaction, facilitated by experienced community group leaders. The aim of the pilot is to provide a model of multi-sport activities being safely re-introduced into communities as restrictions are lifted.

### **Charity reimbursement of Congestion Charge**

In recognition of the role that local authorities and the charities and voluntary sector are playing in responding to the impact of COVID-19, I have launched a new scheme to reimburse the Congestion Charge for work directly related to coronavirus response. This temporary reimbursement scheme is launched alongside the changes to congestion charging that were introduced on 22 June.

The scheme rules have been designed to provide charities and local authorities with the ability to support eligible reimbursements for the Congestion Charge. Team London will be leading on the reimbursement for eligible charities and volunteers, they are currently in consultation regarding the scheme and will release details publicly once documentation is finalised.

## **Culture and Events**

### **Update on Culture at Risk Business Support Fund**

In April, I launched an emergency fund to support cultural businesses at risk due to the impact of COVID-19, in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. Our partners Music Venue Trust, LGBTQ+ Venues Forum, Creative Land Trust and the British Film Institute (BFI) have so far awarded £1.6 million of the £2.3 million fund to creative organisations. The BFI announced that 15 independent cinemas will receive awards including the Lexi, Genesis, Catford Mews, Rio, Rich Mix, and the Phoenix.

## **Culture and Creative Industries Roundtables**

On 9 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired a virtual roundtable with specialist performing arts Higher Education Institutions and training providers to understand the impact that COVID-19 was having on this group of institutions and to discuss the next steps and challenges in reopening and teaching.

On 18 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at a virtual roundtable with representatives from the dance industry. The roundtable was attended by 380 delegates. Chaired by Emma Gladstone, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Dance Umbrella, speakers included Andrew Hurst, Chief Executive of One Dance UK and choreographers, directors and performers, Akram Khan MBE, Rosemary Lee, Jeanfer Jean-Charles and Shobana Jeyasingh CBE. This event provided an opportunity to hear how dance artists were overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 and what help the dance sector needs to recover post lockdown.

## **London Fashion Week Digital (10 – 19 June)**

In June, as part of London Fashion Week Digital (LFW), my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, shared some of her favourite online cultural spaces from across the city. London Fashion Week took a different form this year, showcasing both womenswear and menswear on a new digital platform which saw over 58,000 unique visitors.

The space provided the opportunity for designers to tell their stories and share their experiences during the pandemic, as well hosting interviews, podcasts, webinars and digital showrooms. Over 100 designers were presented on the LFW platform, including Central Saint Martins MA Fashion graduates, designer Olubiyi Thomas and London-based label Ka Wa Key. cent increase from 2018. However, the British Fashion Council has said there has been a devastating impact on the industry by COVID-19 with many businesses unable to access business interruption or bounce back loans.

## **Regular meetings with DCMS, ACE and the Creative Industries Federation**

My Culture Unit continues hold regular meetings with officers from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Arts Council England and the Creative Industries Federation (CIF). On 17 June, the Federation in collaboration with Oxford Economics, published their findings on the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown measures on culture and the creative industries. My Culture Unit part-funded the research to deliver London disaggregated data, which forecast that London's creative industries are to lose £14.6 billion in GVA, 25 per cent, by the end of 2020, and around 110,000 jobs – one in six in the sector.

## **London Assembly Economy Committee**

On 17 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, appeared before the London Assembly's Economy Committee to discuss COVID-19 and its impact on London's creative businesses.

## **Creative Enterprise Zones**

My Creative Enterprise Zones continue to support local recovery for creative communities. Following the Croydon Relief Fund which provided emergency funds to cultural organisations at risk of closure, the Croydon Creative Enterprise Zone has launched a Creative Practitioners Fund

which will give grants and one-on-one business support to help freelancers, artists and creative practitioners adapt their business models to accommodate the new social distancing rules.

### **World Cities Culture Forum**

On 17 June, the World Cities Culture Forum convened a webinar with Seoul and nine other cities to discuss how to address possible additional COVID-19 waves and the impact this might have on cultural organisations.

On 2 July, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired a global webinar with cities from the World Cities Culture Forum. This continues a series of international conversations about the impact of the pandemic on culture and creative industries. This useful information is being shared with cultural partners in London through roundtables and webinars and supporting their plans for reopening and dealing with the economic impact of COVID-19.

### **Jericho Conversations Webinar: Business Life After the Virus**

On 19 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at a panel session organised by Centre for London, in partnership with Jericho Chambers, to discuss London in Recovery. She outlined the challenges facing culture and the important role culture will play in driving London's economic and social recovery with the right investment. The panel was chaired by Robert Phillips, and included Professor Tony Travers, Department of Government at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council, Deputy Chair of London Councils and member of the London Recovery Board, and Shashi Verma, Director of Strategy and Chief Technology Officer at Transport for London. The event was watched by 200 people and can be accessed online.

### **Global Cultural Districts Network Conversation**

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke on an international panel about the future success and survival of cultural districts. Other speakers included Manal Ataye, Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority and Dr Kim-Marie Spence, Professor at Solent University and board member at Kingston Creative. The panel discussed current challenges and opportunities in response to COVID-19 and shared international examples.

## **International**

### **The 80th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's 'appeal'**

On 18 June, at the invitation of the French Ambassador, I attended the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's 'appeal' ("L'appel du 18 Juin") to the French people, urging them to resist Nazi occupation, which was broadcast from London on BBC radio.

During the ceremony, President Macron awarded London with the Légion d'honneur - France's highest military and civilian award – in gratitude for London's solidarity with France and for hosting the French government-in-exile during WWII. It was an honour to join the President,

Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at this ceremony to acknowledge London's proud history of fighting the forces of oppression.

## London Legacy Development Corporation

### COVID-19 response

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park continues to provide a safe and open space for people to use during the COVID-19 lockdown, especially those who do not have access to their own gardens.

On 1 June, construction work resumed on East Bank, one of the biggest culture and education projects in Europe, and a vital scheme to drive opportunities for local people with some of the world's leading academic and cultural organisations opening in east London. The site is operating under strict conditions to ensure safety and social distancing are maintained.

Many of the events planned for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park this summer have been postponed or cancelled but alternative arrangements have been made where possible. The popular EAST Summer School will now take place online with applications opened on 5 June. The event for local 12-17 year olds is free with courses run by some of the East Bank partners including the BBC and UCL as well as established local organisations such as The Yard Theatre, Studio Wayne McGregor and Staffordshire University London.

On 12 June, Here East won the RICS London 2020 Social Impact Award. The judges praised the innovation and technology campus for bringing the former press and broadcast centres back to life providing activity and collaboration throughout the campus and for championing social and economic prospects for its substantial community.

On 17 June, the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) signed up to London and Partners' 'Because I'm a Londoner' campaign to help reinvigorate London's economy by encouraging people to get behind their local businesses.

London Stadium staged two Premier League matches with the resumption of top-flight football against Wolverhampton Wanderers (20 June) and Chelsea (1 July). Both matches were played with no spectators present and strict controls in place to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

On 26 June, LLDC launched a tender process for the Good Growth Hub on 26 June. The Good Growth Hub is an exciting new space at Hackney Bridge which will be an exemplar in the design and delivery of demand-led skills and employment training. The successful bidder will work with LLDC, the local Boroughs and employers to ensure that local people have access to opportunities in the creative, cultural and technology sectors including at Here East and East Bank. The Good Growth Hub will build on the success of LLDC's East Works programme to connect businesses with local talent through a wide range of employment, skills and enterprise activities.

## Planning

### Planning and Development Control Friday 5th June to Thursday 2nd July.

#### Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

Alperton Manufacturing Estate, 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.

337-339 Kingsland Road, LB Hackney

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

Stratford Centre and Morgan House, LB Newham

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

75-117 Boston Road, Hanwell, 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.

Lambeth College STEAM Centre, 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.

Land bounded by Ruby Street, Murdoch Street and 685-695 Old Kent Road, LB Southwark

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

Former St Georges Hospital, LB Havering

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

Former Sipson Gardens, Sipson, LB Hillingdon

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

Meridian Water (Phase 2), LB Enfield

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

Plantation Wharf, LB Wandsworth

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

92-98 Vauxhall Walk, 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.

## Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Western Gateway, Phases 2 and 3, Newham
- Matalan Discount Store, Cricklewood, Brent
- St Hugh's Playing Fields, Bromley
- Fels Farm, Dagenham Road, Barking and Dagenham
- Former Magistrates Court, Hammersmith, Hammersmith and Fulham
- West Thamesmead Site, Plumstead, Greenwich
- Kennington Business Centre, Brixton Road, Lambeth
- 231 Colney Hatch Lane, Barnet
- Styles House, Southwark
- St Augustine's School, Hillcrest Road, Ealing
- Whitechapel Central (Former Safestore site), Tower Hamlets
- 25 Lavington Street, Southwark

## Key Engagements

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

- I hosted a community roundtable with representatives from human rights groups, community groups, faith groups, youth workers and some people with direct lived experience of the policing and justice system, on 5 June to hear the strength of feeling arising from the issues raised by, and impacting upon, London's Black communities in relation to the tragic death of George Floyd in the USA and the disproportionate impact of the use of COVID-19 powers, and the use of force, including stop and search, by the Metropolitan Police Service
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, Leader of the Opposition, on 8 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Jasmine Whitbread, Chief Executive, London First, on 8 June to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 and recovery strategy
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 8 June
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 9 June
- I chaired the inaugural meeting of the London Transition Board on 9 June
- I joined a conference call with the Metro Mayors (M9) on 10 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 10 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Economic Recovery Working Group, chaired by Simon Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 10 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 11 June
- I hosted a conference call with London MPs on 11 June to discuss the latest updates on COVID-19
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 12 June

- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 12 June
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 12 June
- I hosted a conference call with Sir Peter Rogers, Chairman, and Jace Tyrell, Chief Executive, of the New West End Company, on 15 June to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 and recovery strategy
- I hosted a conference call with Lewis Hamilton MBE on 15 June to discuss how London is going to tackle systemic racism going forward
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 15 June
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 16 June
- I joined a conference call with the Metro Mayors (M9) on 17 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 17 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 18 June
- I attended the official commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's 'appeal' ("L'appel du 18 Juin") on 18 June at Carlton Gardens when Emmanuel Macron, the President of the Republic of France, awarded London with the Legion of Honour, France's highest military and civilian award, in gratitude for hosting the French government-in-exile during WWII
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 18 June with the Metro Mayors (M9) to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Sir Stephen House QPM, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 19 June
- I attended the annual Armed Forces Day Flag Raising ceremony at City Hall on 22 June
- I addressed an online event on 22 June for those that have campaigned for justice for the Windrush generation and their family members
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 22 June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 22 June
- I hosted a conference call with Pano Christou, CEO Pret, on 22 June to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 and recovery strategy
- I made a virtual visit to the Hygge Pygge Cafe in Camden on 23 June to meet with the owner and an employee both effected by the Government furlough scheme
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London & Crossrail on 23 June
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 23 June
- I chaired the LEAP Board Meeting on 24 June
- I joined a conference call with Lord Jim Bethell, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Innovation) and Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Test and Trace, on 24 June to discuss the delivery of the Test, Trace and Isolate programme.
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 24 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Economic Recovery Working Group, chaired by Simon Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 24 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Sir Stephen House QPM, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 25 June

- I hosted a conference call with Kevin Mayer, Chief Operating Officer, ByteDance, on 25 June to discuss business engagement in London.
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the new Transport Commissioner, on 29 June
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 29 June
- I addressed the Centre for London's online event: London's Green Recovery and the Climate Emergency, on 29 June
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 30 June
- I chaired the London Health Board meeting on 30 June
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board meeting on 1 July
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board meeting on 1 July
- I chaired the London Transition Board meeting on 1 July
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 1 July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined HRH the Prince of Wales on a visit to the Transport for London Training Centre in Kensington on 2 July to meet frontline workers and other transport staff who have helped keep the network running safely during lockdown
- I visited Chapter Coffee in Hammersmith on 2 July to meet with staff ahead of the shop reopening on 4 July
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 2 July

**ENDS**