

20th Mayor's Report to the Assembly Mayor's Question Time – 22nd March 2018

This is my twentieth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9th February – 8th March 2018.

Executive summary

£24 million for local communities to play a role in regeneration

On 7 March I awarded £24 million of funding to projects from across the capital that will enable local people to take an active role in the regeneration of their communities.

More than 200 bids for funding were made to my Good Growth Fund, delivered through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), and 27 are now being taken forward, with several organisations receiving funding in the next few months. All of the successful projects will deliver social and economic improvements including investment in community assets, workspaces, green infrastructure and cultural venues.

I am using this funding to challenge preconceptions about how regeneration takes place. I want to give all Londoners – regardless of background – the opportunity to be actively involved in their city and have more places to live, learn, work and play. The projects I announced funding for today will help us to tackle inequality, strengthen civil society, and ensure the benefits of regeneration are felt by all.

Tackling the 'injustice' of pay inequality

On 2 March, I stepped up the fight against pay inequality in the capital by publishing for the first time ever comprehensive data on the pay gap affecting Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) employees for all organisations in the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group, making it among the first employers in the country to do so.

London is renowned throughout the world as a progressive and diverse city and that's why it was important for me to publish City Hall's first ever ethnicity pay audit. I have made sure all of the GLA group publishes an ethnicity pay audit – and the results should concern us all.

I am pleased my administration is shining a light on an issue that has been hidden from sight for far too long. But this is just the beginning. I am deeply troubled that members of the Black Asian and minority ethnic community who work at these organisations earn on average less than their white counterparts, and I am determined to confront this inequality.

This sort of injustice takes many years to develop and it becomes deeply entrenched. My administration is finally beginning the process of turning this around. We are determined to promote fairness for all workers, and remedy any unfair disadvantage against BAME people. Change cannot come soon enough.

I'm urging all London's public bodies and businesses to join me in doing what they can to right this injustice and calling on the Government to consider if it is appropriate to legislate to make ethnicity pay audits a legal requirement, as is the case for gender pay reporting

Standing up for EU citizens in London

On 1 March I announced my plans to help make it easier for EU citizens who live in the capital to access online the information they need so that they can stay in the UK after Brexit. The Government has dragged its feet in respecting the rights of EU nationals in the UK - so it is fully understandable that many living here in the capital are still nervous about the process for them remaining here

There are approximately one million EU citizens living in London and they are part of the fabric of this city – working hard, paying taxes and playing a major role in civic and cultural life. They will always be welcome here. They are also vital to some of our most productive industries, including science, technology and research.

While their rights post-Brexit have not yet been agreed by the European Union and the UK, the Government has stated that they will need to apply for 'settled status' to remain here after Brexit.

Whatever the outcome of negotiations, EU citizens need access to accurate and up-to-date information and advice about their rights. To make the process as straightforward as possible, the Mayor intends to launch an online portal for EU citizens in the capital.

This website will provide information about European citizens' rights post-Brexit and signpost the most vulnerable to advice and support services in London. It will direct users to expert legal advice, support services and guidance on employment rights.

The future of London's transport

On 28 February, I set out my plans to improve transport in London over the next 25 years, presenting my Transport Strategy to the London Assembly for consideration before final publication in the coming weeks.

The Transport Strategy will act as the backbone of transport planning across London, helping to deliver my ambition for 80 per cent of trips in London to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041. It includes record investment in new and improved rail, tube and bus services, an unprecedented focus on walking and cycling, and a commitment to make the entire transport system zero-emission by 2050.

Last June, I published a draft of my strategy for statutory consultation, and more than 6,500 responses have been received from members of the public and key stakeholders from across the UK.

As outlined in the Strategy, there will be new Tube trains and signalling giving more frequent and reliable services, the opening of the Elizabeth line, extensions to the Tube, DLR and Overground, new green buses and taxis, new river crossings, and the transformation of London's streets to make walking, cycling and public transport the most appealing and practical choices for Londoners. The strategy also reiterates how vital Crossrail 2 and a transformed suburban rail metro service are for the capital's future economy, jobs and homes.

Following extensive feedback from the consultation, the strategy now also includes the potential for a West London Orbital rail line, connecting Hounslow with Cricklewood and Hendon via Old Oak, Neasden and Brent Cross. This new line, delivered through TfL, the West London Alliance, boroughs and Network Rail, could potentially support the delivery of an additional 20,000 homes, as well as employment growth in west London.

It also contains a specific proposal to work with the London Boroughs of Merton and Sutton to develop the proposed Sutton Tram extension.

New £7million programme to unearth London's digital talent

On 28 February I launched my Skills for Londoners programme, committing £7 million to towards my new initiative to find and develop the next generation of home-grown tech talent to meet the growing digital skills shortage in the capital.

The scheme was launched at Bloomberg's new European headquarters in London and aims to inspire young people to join London's booming digital, tech and creative industries and tackle the under-representation of women and BAME (Black Asian & Minority Ethnic) Londoners in the sector.

London's thriving digital and tech sector is a world leader. From start-up companies to household names, there's a huge range of home-grown and international companies here. But we need to provide all Londoners with the opportunity to succeed in this industry, particularly women and Londoners of a BAME background who have been under-represented in these fields for too long.

I've been clear about my ambition to make London the world's leading Smart City, and to provide the next generation of Londoners with the digital skills employer's need will help our tech sector flourish. By investing in this new programme and funding free digital skills training, we can encourage more young people to consider a career in tech and fulfil their potential.

The programme is funded through London Enterprise Panel and co-funded by the European Social Fund and will offer free industry-approved digital skills training to more than 1,000 young people. From coding and web development to digital marketing and visual effects, the training courses will equip the next generation of Londoners with the digital skills the capital's employers need.

London Borough of Culture – winners announced

On 27 February I announced the winners of the hotly contested London Borough of Culture competition. Waltham Forest will be the first borough to be awarded the title - in 2019, followed by Brent in 2020.

Huge congratulations to Waltham Forest and Brent for their superb bids. I know that both will deliver a programme of work that will benefit residents and make the whole city proud. I am particularly happy to see both bids have placed such importance on young people. It's vital that young people get access to culture, regardless of their background, so that they can aspire to be our performers, artists, entrepreneurs and cultural leaders of the future

The London Borough of Culture award, a flagship manifesto commitment, is a major new initiative launched in June 2017 – inspired by the UK City and European Capital of Culture programmes. It will give all Londoners, regardless of background, the opportunity to enjoy the capital's fantastic cultural riches, discover places they never knew existed and will increase the level of participation in the arts across the city – especially in outer London boroughs.

Each winning borough will be awarded £1.35 million of funding¹ to deliver a programme of ambitious cultural activities, placing culture at the heart of communities and celebrating the unique character of local people and places. In total, 22 boroughs submitted bids to be London Borough of Culture.

With such high-quality bids, deciding which boroughs should win was a very difficult decision – all boroughs who have bid should feel proud of their proposals.

Investing an additional £110million into the Metropolitan Police

On 22 February, I committed to investing an additional £110 million into the Metropolitan Police in the next year. This investment means City Hall is paying a greater percentage of the overall police budget in the capital than ever before – up from 18 per cent in 2010 to 23 per cent.

Since 2010-11, the Met's general grant funding from the Government has fallen by more than £700 million, or nearly 40 per cent in real terms, on a like-for-like basis. In recent years, the Met Police have been forced by the government to find roughly £600 million of savings and a further £150 million since 2016.

I have been clear with the government – the Met is running out of options to find further savings and police officer numbers in the capital could fall significantly below 30,000 before 2021 – a dangerous low which presents a serious risk to the safety of Londoners.

The Government have repeatedly refused to act on the funding crisis facing police services across Britain, so they have left me with no choice but to take the unusual step of increasing police funding from London business rates as well as council tax.

However, tackling rising crime will also require us to be tough on the causes of crime. So, in this Budget I have created a new £45 million Young Londoners Fund to support education, sport and cultural activities for the next three years – including for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

Investing £500million in Barking Riverside

20 February 2018 I announced that Barking Riverside, one of the UK's largest regeneration projects, is to receive an injection of £500 million for transport links, parkland and other community facilities, alongside almost 11,000 homes.

I formed a partnership with L&Q, one of the UK's leading housing associations and developers, to form Barking Riverside Limited to deliver the masterplan for the scheme.

The Section 106 agreement, reached with the Barking and Dagenham Council and Transport for London, means the project has secured funding for:

- A new TfL Overground station connecting to central London in 22 minutes
- Land for seven schools including five primaries, one secondary, and one for special educational needs
- A new centre with 65,000 square metres of commercial, retail and leisure space, including a 2km riverside walkway, an ecology centre and new country park space
- A combined health care and leisure facility
- A cycling hub
- Two local retail and dining hubs
- Employment, skills and training that will ensure locals benefit from the opportunities created by the scheme.

Barking Riverside will also be London's first and only NHS Healthy New Town, which will embed health into design and living. Half of the new homes will be affordable.

Plans to celebrate St Patrick's day across London

On 16 February I revealed plans for London's St Patrick's Day Festival, which is set to be the biggest yet with festivities planned in all of London's 33 boroughs over three days. As part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign, this year's festival will celebrate the achievements and success of London's Irish women.

I've pledged to make the festivities the most impressive showcase of Irish culture, heritage, food and talent the city has ever seen, bringing together Londoners from all communities and visitors to the capital for a celebration of the contribution Irish people have made to the city for centuries.

From open air Irish dance performances in Enfield and jazz in Hackney to music classes in Croydon and children's art and crafts workshops in Haringey, Irish culture will pop up across the capital, all inspired by the Emerald Isle and energised by London's large Irish community.

There will be specially-commissioned walking tours, providing a history of Irish London, and focusing on the lives of Irish women in the capital including Countess Markievicz, the first woman to be elected to Parliament. A line up of breakthrough Irish women artists will be entertaining the crowds with live open air gigs and intimate performances in locations throughout Camden Market on St Patrick's Day itself (Saturday 17 March).

£140million investment to boost London economy

On 15 February I announced plans to invest £140 million into a brand-new investment fund to support projects that will grow the capital's economy such as business space, transport infrastructure and schemes to bring new housing on stream.

The funding is a result of London's newly won ability to keep a greater share of the business rates income that it generates. Last year, City Hall and London Councils struck a landmark deal with Government for the capital to pilot the retention of 100 per cent of business rates growth from this April.

This agreement will raise an additional £114 million for the Greater London Authority in 2018-19. I have also agreed to add an additional £26 million to make an overall fund totalling £140 million.

The money will be spent on initiatives that will grow London's economy such as new commercial space and transport infrastructure. It will also be used to help tackle the housing crisis, which is a barrier to businesses recruiting and retaining the skilled staff they need.

This is a fantastic example of devolution in action as it shows that when tax revenues are devolved to London government we are able to focus investment on the things that matter most to Londoners, including key infrastructure and support for businesses. It also shows that it is possible for London's boroughs of different political persuasions to come together and work with Government to act in the best interests of the entire city.

More than £10million additional funding for boroughs

On 14 February I announced an additional £11.6 million in this year's budget to give to councils to fund improvements to their streets and local neighbourhoods. This additional money means more funding to get projects off the ground this year, with boroughs having more money available to them than any year under the previous Mayor.

The money will be allocated between London's 33 boroughs using the existing fair formula for funding to support transport projects in the capital. It will be used in areas like reducing road danger, transforming local environments, encouraging cycling and walking, accessibility and improving air quality.

In total an unprecedented £237m will now be given to London boroughs to spend on local projects this year. Through the TfL Business Plan I have committed more than £1bn TfL funding for the boroughs up until 2022/23 – a record level of investment. London boroughs have more funding available from TfL in every year of the current Business Plan than any year under the previous Mayor.

This record funding to improve London's streets and local environment comes despite the removal of TfL's £700 million-a-year Government operational subsidy.

£6million fund to boost green spaces & reduce plastic waste

On 14 February, I announced a further £6 million injection of further funding for protecting the environment and improving green space in the capital.

The fund will deliver the roll-out of more public water fountains - on top of the initial 20 that I announced recently. It will also create better local green spaces including in areas with little access to parks and community spaces. In addition to this, I am working with Thames Water and City to Sea to introduce a Refill scheme so that Londoners can reuse their bottles and cups to top up free tap water from local shops and businesses.

I'm committed to helping Londoners reduce plastic bottle use and help cut the amount of plastic ending up in our oceans and in landfill. This increased funding is matched by ambitious plans which aim to help the public easily cut their use of plastic by offering water refills, delivering

more public drinking fountains and simple recycling schemes that will help cut the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

This extra funding will also help us race towards my goal of London becoming the first National Park City, by funding more tree planting and green spaces, especially in areas so that everyone in London can benefit from an easily accessible park, play space, or community garden.

I had already allocated £750,000 in his draft budget over the next three years to cut plastic waste, including helping launch a pilot Refill scheme with retailers in five districts and installing 20 new drinking fountains.

Brand new £45million Young Londoners Fund

On 13 February, I announced a brand new £45 million fund to help young Londoners – particularly those who are at risk of getting caught up in crime.

It should be the Government's job to fund services and activities for young people in London, but it has abdicated its responsibilities. That's why I have listened to Londoners' concerns and am stepping up to provide funding that local communities and charities desperately need and to help young people fulfil their potential.

My new Young Londoners Fund will see £15 million invested in each of the next three years, beginning from April.

Of the total new funding, £10 million a year will make up a new fund into which local communities, charities and schools will be able to bid for funds and £5 million a year will be invested to scale up existing projects funded from City Hall that are already supporting young Londoners

In London, Government cuts over the last eight years have hit young people hard. As a result, councils have been left with no choice but to slash more than £22 million from youth services since 2011, closing 30 youth centres, with at least 12,700 places for young people lost.

It is sadly obvious that this Government does not value London's young people, but I am determined to invest in them – with tens of millions of pounds for activities to support them. No Londoner should be left behind, and this extra money is designed to make sure all young Londoners can make the most of our amazing city. I want to end the scandal of young talent going to waste, and give all Londoners the chance to fulfil their potential.

£6million to further improve conditions for London's bus drivers

On 13 February I announced plans for a further improvement of working conditions for London's bus drivers by ensuring that all have access to a toilet on their routes for all hours of their working day.

It can't be right that a bus driver can be stuck behind the wheel and not know where they can access a toilet. These men and women work hard keeping London moving at all hours so it's vital that they are given the dignity of having access to a rest stop when they need it. Since my election I have been working hard alongside unions and bus operators to resolve the lack of facilities left behind by the previous Mayor. I've already ensured that our 25,000 bus drivers are

given a fair pay deal, and am now pleased that we can deliver another real improvement for the day-to-day working conditions.

£6 million of funding will be used to deliver permanent toilets for the capital's bus drivers along 40 routes which currently only have limited access or opening hours.

Largest London Living Rent scheme launched

From the 12 February, hundreds more Londoners are now able to rent a genuinely affordable home and save money for a deposit to buy it, as the capital's largest London Living Rent scheme launched in the Royal Docks.

I have invested £6.8 million into The Sugar Works development at Royal Wharf, Silvertown, where housing association L&Q will deliver 243 London Living Rent homes - part of their deal to build 12,000 genuinely affordable homes including those based on social rent levels.

The homes at The Sugar Works range from studios to four-bedroom homes, with residents, moving in from this week, paying on average around two-thirds of the market rent, and being able to purchase their home - either as a Shared Ownership or an outright sale - in the future.

Every Londoner deserves to have access to genuinely affordable housing and the opportunity to buy their own home - the London Living Rent will help middle-income earners who would otherwise typically be struggling in the private rented sector save for a deposit by offering rents based on a third of local average wages.

Small homebuilders programme launched with TfL pilot sites

On 9 February, I launched a programme to pilot bringing forward small publicly owned sites to boost the capital's small homebuilders sector and increase the supply of new and genuinely affordable homes.

London's homebuilding sector is dominated by a small number of large developers that build the majority of homes across the capital, with the number of small builders delivering fewer than 100 homes having halved over the last 10 years.

Through my 'Small Sites, Small Builders' programme, I want to make small plots of publicly-owned land more accessible to London's small and medium-sized builders. To pilot my new approach, I have instructed Transport for London to bring forward 10 of its small sites for development, with capacity ranging from between two and 42 homes.

The land will be made more accessible for smaller builders through a simple bidding process with standardised legal contracts, and two of the sites will be dedicated specifically to community-led housing groups.

Land at Cable Street, near the Shadwell DLR in Tower Hamlets, and a site at Christchurch Road in Lambeth, will both be earmarked for community-led housing and will deliver 100 per cent affordable housing. The initial 10 plots of land will deliver 111 new homes, of which 68 per cent will be affordable.

Policing, Crime and Security

Developing the Police Workforce of the Future

On 23 February MOPAC hosted a national conference to support the transformation of police learning and development, which was attended by the majority of police forces from England and Wales. MOPAC is leading two national Home Office funded projects, working in collaboration with the College of Policing, academics from UCL, Birkbeck and the Open Universities, to support the improvement of police learning and development and the professionalisation of policing. This will support the work already underway led by the College of Policing in introducing graduate level entry for the police by 2020. The event was the first opportunity for the MPS and other police forces to hear the research findings, and to consider the implications of this developing evidence base for their practice. MOPAC and partners will continue to support forces nationally to make this transformational change, which aims to bring significant benefits to our communities through improved effectiveness.

Keeping children and young people safe from knife crime

On 23 February, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden and Commissioner Cressida Dick went on a long-standing visit to Glasgow to speak to colleagues from Police Scotland and other partner agencies, as learning and collaboration between forces and partners to tackle knife crime and violence continues.

We all have a part to play in ridding our streets of knife crime, and I welcome the continued support of Assembly Members in sending a clear message that knives have no place on the streets of our great city.

The appalling knife attacks in Camden on 20 February shocked the city, and underlined the importance and the urgency of our efforts against knife crime. Knife crime is rising across the UK, not just here in London – this is a national problem that requires national solutions. Londoners need the Government’s help if we are to beat it. Yet the Government has cut the policing budget by more than £700 million since 2010.

After the terrible events in Camden, I wrote to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary asking them to urgently meet with me, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service to discuss what more can be done across government – including policing, youth services, sentencing, health services, probation and prisons – to tackle the evil of knife attacks on Britain’s streets. I am concerned we need far more support from the government to help make a real difference.

Committing £110million additional funding for our hard-working police

On 22 February, I confirmed my plan to invest an additional £110 million into the Metropolitan Police in the next year. The Government continues to ignore calls from across the political and policing world to increase police funding, despite a huge rise in crime across the country.

My budget includes the following additional investment into the Metropolitan Police in 2018-19:

- £49 million to be raised by a 5.1 per cent council tax increase. This will include £15m to be spent on combatting knife crime, a two per cent police pay increase and boosting officer numbers.
- £55 million raised from business rates income so the Metropolitan Police do not have to borrow the amount previously planned for investing in police buildings and new technology.
- This will lead to a £3.3 million annual saving in interest payments that will be spent on improving support for those taken in by the police with mental health problems.
- £5 million to be spent on recruiting additional police officers in the coming year.

From 2019-20, I will invest an additional £59 million annually raised predominantly from business rates income to support an extra 1,000 police officers than would otherwise be affordable by using income raised from business rates.

Victims' Commissioner

The Victims' Commissioner for London, Claire Waxman, continues her work putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice service. Claire has been at the forefront of calls for the Ministry of Justice to stop delaying the publication of the national Victims' Strategy. She is also leading a review to ensure that victims' entitlements are fulfilled and statutory agencies comply with their duties towards victims.

Following the Parole Board's decision to release John Worboys, and my successful application for a Judicial Review of this decision, the Victims' Commissioner for London has been hearing from victims and their advocates about how this has impacted them. This has identified the need to reform the Victim Contact Scheme that keeps victims informed about their perpetrator. However, there are significant gaps in the current scheme through which victims can fall and only find out what is happening through the media. The Victims' Commissioner will work with criminal justice partners and victim support agencies through the Victims' Board to help improve this scheme and close the gaps.

On 20 February, the inaugural Victims' Reference Group meeting was held. This Group provides victims with a voice and will help inform and influence the work of the Victims' Board, other groups such as the London Criminal Justice Board and criminal justice agencies to ensure that victims' interests are put first and foremost in criminal justice reforms.

Basic Command Units announced

On 12 February, the Metropolitan Police announced that the Basic Command Unit (BCU) model is to be rolled out incrementally across the city. The decision to move forward with plans to organise London policing across 12 larger Basic Command Units, rather than 32 boroughs, is the only way to maintain the frontline services required by Londoners, at a time when crime is rising across England and Wales and police officer numbers are falling. Each of the new Basic Command Units will be led by a Chief Superintendent and will deliver the key local policing functions expected by Londoners. Police officers, buildings and resources will now be shared across borough boundaries. This is part of the planning for the future with less resources. It will mean that those resources can be focused on safeguarding and neighbourhood policing, and that they are delivered effectively in the face of increasing financial pressures.

Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) Conference

On 28 of February, MOPAC hosted the London ISTV Conference, in the London Living Room here in City Hall. The conference represented a wide array of speakers, and interactive sessions, promoting the sharing and use of ISTV data but also setting out the wider mutual benefits to Community Safety and Health promoted by close partnership arrangements.

ISTV is an integral part of our efforts to tackle violence in our city. Since the project began in 2015, more than 70 data profiles have been developed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the model in local settings, providing Police and Community Safety partners with information on violence hotspots previously unknown to them.

For example, as concerns about the number of acid attacks began to emerge last year, the team was able to use the supplied data to identify previously unknown hotspots and to analyse the relationship between offenders and victims.

The data has also proved to be particularly useful in identifying violent assaults in and around schools that had not been reported to the police allowing a better understanding of youth violence linked to school environment.

Transport

Vital Northern Line Extension work

Transport for London has been advising customers using the Northern line that from Saturday 26 May until mid-September Bank branch trains will not stop at Kennington to allow four new customer passageways to be built as part of work on the Northern Line Extension.

Once complete, the passageways will make it quicker and easier for customers to change between different branches of the Northern line at Kennington, and will be essential for those using the new Northern Line Extension from Kennington to Battersea Power Station, which is due for completion in 2020.

The extension, from Battersea to Kennington, via Nine Elms, will add further vital new capacity to the Capital's transport network, bringing Battersea and surrounding areas to within 15 minutes of the City and the West End.

It will also enable the regeneration of the Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea areas, spurring economic growth by supporting around 25,000 new jobs and more than 20,000 new homes. In addition, the construction of the extension is boosting the UK economy and supporting around 1,000 jobs, including around 50 apprenticeships.

New timetable launched to improve services on the tram network

Customers using the tram network are now enjoying a more regular service with reduced waiting times following the introduction of a revised timetable designed to improve services across the whole network.

The new timetable was designed so services are more evenly spaced throughout the day, removing long waits between trams followed by several arriving at once, which can lead to overcrowding and difficulties in restoring services following delays.

There are extra early morning services on the New Addington branch, extra evening services on the Beckenham Junction and Elmers End branches, and extra services both early morning and in the evening on the Wimbledon branch, providing a more frequent service and extra passenger capacity.

Successful signal testing brings huge transformation of Tube network even closer

Over the weekend 17/18 February, another period of testing was completed on the brand-new signalling system set to transform the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines. During the period more trains were run between Hammersmith and Edgware Road than had been run in any other weekend of testing. This represents another step forward for the programme before the first trains operate under the new system this summer.

The new system, provided by Thales, will improve reliability and boost capacity on 40 per cent of the Tube network and has undergone significant testing since October. It will transform one of the oldest parts of the Tube network into one of the most modern. The section between Hammersmith and Latimer Road will be the first to go live on the new system, which will provide better, more accurate real-time customer information and improve reliability.

The new, modern signalling will allow trains to run closer together, which will increase the frequency of train services across these lines with 32 trains per hour set to operate in the central London section. This will boost capacity by a third across all four lines – equivalent to space for an extra 36,500 customers per hour during the busiest times of day.

Contractor appointed to replace Blackhorse Lane and Addiscombe Park bridges

Plans to replace two bridges in Croydon have progressed with the announcement that Transport for London, in partnership with the London Borough of Croydon, had appointed Morgan Sindall as the preferred contractor to deliver the projects. Work on the 120 year old Blackhorse Lane Bridge and nearby Addiscombe Park Bridge is expected to be completed by January next year.

The decision to replace both bridges as a joint project was made following discussions with the London Borough of Croydon, where it was agreed that replacing both bridges together would help to deliver considerable cost and time savings for both TfL and the local council. The plans include making Addiscombe Park bridge two metres wider in order to incorporate a cycle path and improve facilities for cyclists and other local people.

Construction of both bridges will start this summer, with both re-opening to the public in January 2019. London Trams will continue to operate during the majority of this period but may need to close for short periods during construction for safety reasons. Pedestrian and cycling access will be maintained, although Blackhorse Lane Bridge will need to be closed to all users for a short period when the bridge deck is removed and replaced.

New Night Overground services to extend to north London and connect to Night Tube network

Thousands more passengers are now enjoying the benefits of a more extensive Night Overground following the extension of services to Canonbury and Highbury & Islington stations

The new service links the Overground to the Night Tube network at the Victoria line for the first time, making a big difference for those travelling in north and east London at night.

Since the Night Overground services began between Dalston Junction and New Cross Gate in December last year, more than 35,000 journeys have been made on the route, with customers benefitting from faster and easier journeys throughout the night.

The extension to Islington will make late night travel even easier and quicker for the many night shift workers, including emergency services and the hospitality sectors, who work in north and east London, benefitting local business and provide a boost to London's already booming night-time economy.

Once in a generation opportunity for brands as Transport for London opens Elizabeth line commercial partnership tender

On 21 February, Transport for London began a tender process for commercial partners for the Elizabeth line, offering brands a unique opportunity to align with the historic launch in 10 months' time.

When services begin in December, TfL's state-of-the-art new railway will connect Paddington to Canary Wharf in only 17 minutes, redefining how Londoners and visitors travel around the Capital and providing quicker, easier and more accessible journeys. Two-hundred million passengers are expected to use the new line annually – more than all of London's airports combined – offering an unrivalled opportunity for brands.

Launch partners will benefit from sector-exclusive promotion across the Elizabeth line during its first year in operation.

New virtual reality imaging was unveiled at a showcase event earlier this month. Prospective commercial partners from industry-leading brands were given the opportunity to visualise how their brands would be able to communicate with customers in the station environments that are being created.

Elizabeth line train makes successful maiden voyage across south east London

Transport for London and Crossrail Limited have hailed a major milestone for Europe's largest infrastructure project as the first new Elizabeth line train was tested in the brand new tunnels through London on Sunday 25 February.

The new train – built by Bombardier engineers in Derby – was the first to be driven from Abbey Wood. It entered the new tunnels at Plumstead portal and travelled under the Thames heading for Connaught Tunnel before returning to Abbey Wood station.

The Elizabeth line is set to transform transport in London with quicker, easier and more accessible journeys when it launches in December. The first train to be driven in the tunnels comes as construction reaches its final stages.

Rigorous testing of the railway and signalling infrastructure will now begin to ensure services are safe and reliable for the opening in 10 months' time. The train – which was driven at a low speed – is the first of hundreds of test runs that will take place throughout the year.

Public support for new Cycle Superhighway in west London

On 27 February, Transport for London announced the results of the consultation for Cycle Superhighway 9 (CS9) with nearly 60 per cent of those responding in support of the plans for west London.

More than 5,000 people responded to proposals to improve cycling and walking in West Kensington, Hammersmith, Chiswick and Brentford town centre.

The results demonstrate clear overall support and TfL will review the detailed responses to the consultation to determine the best way forward. A full consultation report will be published later this year following this process, setting out detailed responses to issues raised and the next steps.

CS9 forms a key part of my plans for cycling and walking improvements for the Capital. It would offer a safer route for people to cycle, make it easier to cross busy roads and stop rat-running on some residential roads – all making west London a more pleasant place to live, work or visit.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

£7million Digital Talent Programme Launch

On the 28 February, I launched my £7m Digital Talent Programme at a Digital and Tech Careers Fair at Bloomberg's new European HQ in London. The programme is a major step towards fulfilling my manifesto commitment to create a tech talent pipeline in the capital. It aims to attract and upskill diverse home-grown talent to London's tech and digital workforce, particularly those who are under-represented in the sector including young women, young BAME Londoners and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The event was attended by over 100 young people aged 16-24 years old interested in finding out more about opportunities and career pathways in London's growing digital and tech sectors. The young people had the opportunity to meet and network with a range of tech employers, including Google, Microsoft and Access VFX. Attendees also got the opportunity to have a 'taster' session of the free digital skills training funded by my Digital Talent Programme which will reach more than 1,000 young Londoners over the next two years.

At the event I also launched a new marketing campaign focusing on some of London's young 'Digital Pioneers' to inspire other young Londoners to turn their passion and talents into an exciting and successful career.

£24 million award for Good Growth Fund Projects

As part of my commitment to put communities at the heart of regeneration, I have announced the first round of Good Growth Fund awards, a total of £24 million, to 27 projects that will deliver social and economic outcomes, including investment in community assets, workspaces, green infrastructure and cultural venues. These projects enable Londoners to actively participate in their local communities and give people a voice in shaping how the capital will grow. This first round forms part of £70 million of funding across four years.

My call for projects attracted over 200 bids from across Greater London, totalling almost £250 million of investment opportunity, creating a pipeline of future projects. In addition to the £24 million awards, I am also contributing a further £1.5 million to further support the development of projects with the potential to enable more Londoners to share in the benefits of London's growth.

Twelve of the 27 projects are located in the bottom 20% most deprived wards in the UK. The successful projects include Lower Lea Threads, which is spearheading innovation and inclusive growth of the fashion sector in East London, and Mountview, a world-leading drama school and provider of high quality arts, education, skills-building and wellbeing activities in Peckham, south London.

Funding will be delivered through and in partnership with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). The fund combines funding from sources including the Local Growth Fund and European Social Fund.

Housing and Land

No one needs to sleep rough in London & cold weather

I took the decision earlier this year to change how the emergency shelters across the capital work when it gets cold. They now open on every day of sub-zero temperatures in London, rather than when three consecutive days of freezing temperatures are forecast (the previous Mayor's policy). I am very pleased that all London boroughs signed up to this approach, with each borough providing their own provision and my services providing Pan-London provision acting as overflow when local provision is full.

On 20 Feb temperatures in London plummeted to below freezing, during that week my pan-London shelters helped over 100 rough sleepers and are continuing to work to ensure that anyone brought into this provision does not need to return to the streets. Last winter, 80 per cent of those accessing my severe weather provision exited rough sleeping altogether.

This work follows on from the launch of my rough sleeping campaign last December which helps connect more rough sleepers in London with outreach support and provide a single point of donation for members of the public. The response of Londoners has been phenomenal, with over £150k raised for the London Homeless Charities Group and a record number of referrals through StreetLink, an app and website used to let local support services know about people sleeping rough in their area.

Environment

Good Growth Fund - £800k Greener City Fund

On 7 March, I announced that I am allocating £824,500 from my Greener City Fund to maximise opportunities for greening and help 'green the grey' on nine Good Growth Fund regeneration projects across London.

This funding will also be used to incorporate large-scale sustainable urban drainage, create green walking routes and improve access to green space, particularly in priority areas of low green cover. We will be working with projects to ensure they develop exemplary approaches to incorporating green infrastructure which can provide learning for others.

Energy for Londoners solar programmes launch

As part of my Energy for Londoners programme, on 5 March, I announced two of my actions to boost solar energy in London. My Solar Together London scheme launched in the London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Kingston, Merton and Sutton. Londoners can register online to buy high-quality solar panels and have them installed at competitive prices, as part of a group buying scheme. This first phase of the scheme will test the approach, to inform a potential wider roll out.

I also announced that 13 community solar projects will be awarded grants through the first phase of my London Community Energy Fund. The grants totalling £150,000, will support community-led solar projects by funding the development costs associated with setting up projects before they can move to installation and start benefitting the community.

The projects I will be supporting through this phase of the fund range from solar panels on schools, to panels on art centres, leisure centres, community buildings, hospitals, GP surgeries, residential estates, churches and even a city farm. The grants will support projects in eight different London boroughs.

Takeaway delivery companies and single use plastics

On 1 March I wrote to major takeaway delivery companies in London requesting that they remove unnecessary single-use plastics from their deliveries. As takeaways are usually delivered directly to people's homes where there is no need for additional cutlery and cups, these pointless plastics can end up straight in the bin. I encouraged them to take action including only offering plastic cutlery to people who ask for it, switching to more sustainable alternatives, and cutting single-use plastic straws, bags and other packaging and containers.

Tackling emissions from wood burning

On the 28 February I announced that I am investing £20,000 in an industry information campaign to help inform Londoners of the impact of wood burning on air pollution and the steps that they can take to reduce harmful emissions. The campaign includes newspaper adverts encouraging people who currently use an open fire to switch to a cleaner, ecodesign-

ready wood-burning stove, and use smokeless fuels.

To support this campaign, I have also published guidance on the GLA website to help Londoners make the right choices when selecting wood burning appliances and when purchasing fuel.

The first-ever London National Park City Week

On 23 February, I announced the first ever London National Park City Week, as part of my ambition to make London the world's first National Park City. Running from 21st - 29th July 2018, this week will celebrate the capital's natural environment and encourage Londoners to help make it even greener. Activities will be held across the capital including guided walks, talks, food-growing, community clean-ups and improving spaces for wildlife.

I have invited community groups, boroughs and other local networks to organise their own events, and for the public to get involved by revitalising a green space or exploring some of the capital's natural areas. Events to be included in the online programme for National Park City Week need to be submitted before 20th April 2018.

6m fund to boost green spaces, reduce plastic waste and improve air quality

On 14 February, I announced £6 million of additional funding to further protect London's environment. Measures the funding will be allocated to include the roll-out of new public water fountains in the capital. I have already allocated £750,000 in my draft budget over the next three years to cut plastic waste, including helping launch a pilot Refill scheme with retailers in five districts and installing 20 new fountains. I am now increasing this funding even further to help reduce the amount of single-use plastic bottles and cups bought daily across the capital.

Funding will also be allocated to my Greener City Fund to create better local green spaces including in areas with little access to parks and community spaces. The grants will fund local projects, helping improve parks, design new green spaces, green school playgrounds, plant trees and restore waterways.

Additional funding will also help pay for local measures to tackle air pollution including schemes in and around schools and in partnership with local businesses, and installing green infrastructure that benefits air quality and reduces exposure.

Education and Youth

New £45m fund for London's young people

On 13 February, I launched my Young Londoners' Fund. Government cuts over the last eight years have meant that councils have been left with no choice but to slash more than £22 million from youth services since 2011, closing 30 youth centres, with at least 12,700 places for young people lost.

With the Government failing to support young people adequately I am creating a new £45 million fund to help young Londoners – particularly those who are at risk of getting caught up

in crime. We simply cannot afford not to invest in our children and young people, who are the future of our great city.

The Young Londoners' Fund will see £15 million invested in each of the next three years; £10 million a year will be used for a new fund into which local communities, charities and schools can bid for funding, and £5 million will be used to scale up existing City Hall projects that help young Londoners.

Communities and Social Policy

Inclusive Cities Network

On 2 March, my team co-hosted a workshop with the Inclusive Cities Network, a programme that supports cities and their local partners to achieve a step-change in their approach towards the integration of newcomers in the city. The workshop was on the topic of developing a city-wide strategic narrative of inclusion.

My Citizenship and Integration Initiative

My Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII) team held a workshop with London schools and civil society organisations. The event focussed on how to improve the availability of legal advice for young people who struggle to access their legal rights to citizenship and residence in the capital.

BAME employment rates

My Social Integration Team has commissioned innovative research to improve the quality of the data on sector-specific BAME employment rates, drawing together good practice case studies on workforce integration for underrepresented groups. This will help them to design targeted programmes to address the employment rate gap for Londoners who are currently underrepresented in London's workforce.

Inter-generational housing roundtable

On 27 February, my Social Integration and Housing Teams and hosted a roundtable with housing and social policy experts, on the potential of inter-generational housing to meet the needs of older and younger Londoners, as well as improving social integration. The Social Integration team also launched a measurement expert group to advise on how to improve London's evidence base on social integration.

Refugee resettlement

My Social Integration Team hosted a meeting of refugee resettlement leads from London boroughs at the Migration Museum. The event included training from the International Organization for Migration, which introduced Syrian cultural traditions, family life, education and health to build an understanding of the experiences of refugees and the impact of cultural adjustment.

Older Londoners and community contributions

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, hosted a roundtable at City Hall in partnership with Centre for Ageing Better. The event is part of a review of volunteering and community contributions in later life for the Office for Civil Society. Representatives from civil society organisations, volunteering bodies and older people's stakeholders, discussed how to encourage more people to contribute their skills, time and knowledge to their communities in later life, aiming to increase participation among underrepresented groups.

Health

Time to Thrive: Targeted activity to address mental health inequity and disproportionality

On 2 March I launched Time to Thrive, my campaign to address mental health inequality in London. We know that poor mental health is both a cause and consequence of inequality. I want this to change. It's time for all Londoners, regardless of who they are, to Thrive.

I have commissioned Revealing Reality to undertake an independent research project to engage with organisations and Londoners to help us better understand how the discrimination people face due to their identity affects their mental health and wellbeing.

I am inviting Londoners from all walks of life to share their stories with us.

London's new Child Obesity Taskforce

I want all young Londoners to be able to lead happy, healthy lives, which is why I'm setting up a new Child Obesity Taskforce, with the support of partners including Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

I am looking for the very best individuals from across the city to lead the way, with a proven track record of bringing together those who can help tackle this problem and improve the health and life chances of our young people – regardless of their economic background, their ethnicity or where in the capital they live.

I had an overwhelming number of applicants to join London's new Child Obesity Taskforce. My team are currently reviewing candidates for Chair, which I aim to appoint later in March. Board members for the Taskforce will be considered in April and I aim to unveil the full membership of London's new Child obesity Taskforce by May 2018.

Team London and Volunteering

Team London Young Ambassadors

On 7 March, young volunteers from my Team London Young Ambassadors programme took to the stage at WE Day UK. The students, from Russell Primary in Richmond Upon Thames, and Hendon School in Barnet, spoke to the 12,000 young people in attendance about their social action projects targeting literacy and gang crime respectively. I launched the second phase of Team London Young Ambassadors earlier this year, which will see 39,000 young people taking part in social action and volunteering over the next three years.

The Big Half

On Sunday 4 March, the Big Half came to Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Greenwich. Grateful runners were given water and cheered on by local volunteers on the Big Volunteer programme. This is a community based volunteer programme, funded by Sport England and working in partnership with Team London, London Marathon Events, Sported and local volunteer centres. The Big Volunteer is a three-year programme encouraging local people to take part in quality sports volunteering roles. It will support the continued involvement of the Big Half volunteers by offering them opportunities to get involved with future sporting events, and signposting them to local sports volunteer roles.

Culture and Events

International Women's Day

As a proud feminist, I was pleased to celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday 8 March as part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign.

#BehindEveryGreatCity recognises the achievements of women in London, but also takes stock of how much there is left to do to tackle the huge inequalities they still face, and what City Hall is doing to remove these barriers to success.

On International Women's Day I announced a new pilot initiative to make much-needed specialist support for victims of domestic abuse available on their daily journeys to work, college or school. This new collaboration between Transport for London and the leading domestic abuse refuge provider, Hestia, is the first of its kind. It will use TfL sites to offer safe, private spaces that could be a first step for victims of domestic abuse to access the services and support they need, provided by Hestia's specialist staff.

In the afternoon, I joined over 200 secondary age school girls from schools across London at the Women of the World Festival at the Southbank Centre to celebrate International Women's Day and to spread the message that London is a place where we celebrate everyone, from every walk of life, regardless of their gender. I was also honoured to join women from across London at the Chair of the London Assembly's evening reception to celebrate International Women's Day.

The GLA family were also joined to celebrate International Women's Day with the London Fire Brigade in particular launching a new Women's recruitment campaign. Applications are open to

all and they are encouraging more women to join. You can see their full campaign here <https://firefightingcareers.london/>

March4Women

As a proud feminist, I was proud to join thousands of women and men from across London and the country at CARE International's #March4Women event on Sunday 4 March.

This year the annual event marked the centenary of the Representation of the People's Act 1918 by retracing the historic steps of the suffragettes past Parliament to Trafalgar Square. The event honoured the sacrifices made by the suffragettes of the past, and those of gender equality campaigners today. Now, more than ever, we need to take stock of how much there is left to do to tackle the huge inequalities women still face, and I'm committed to doing everything I can to remove the barriers to success for women in London.

People's Question Time – 1 March, Hounslow Civic Centre, Hounslow

On Thursday 1 March, I was pleased to hold People's Question Time (PQT) at the Hounslow Civic Centre, where I heard about a range of issues impacting Londoners, both locally and London wide. I was delighted to see over 350 people undeterred by the snow and severe London weather attend the event to question me and Assembly Members on issues including housing, transport, air quality, economic development and policing.

Remembering Mary Turner

On 27 February my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney represented me at Mary Turner's Memorial Service at St Paul's Cathedral. Mary was GMB President for over 20 years, a social justice campaigner & my friend. She was and is an inspiration to many, she will be much missed.

London Borough of Culture Awards

On 27 February, I announced the first ever winners of my inaugural London Borough of Culture awards. London Borough of Culture is one of my key manifesto commitments. The award supports ambitious cultural programmes which celebrate the character and diversity of London's peoples and places.

I awarded Waltham Forest the title for 2019, followed by Brent for 2020, with the boroughs awarded £1.35 million each. In addition, I presented six boroughs with my new Mayor's Cultural Impact Awards. Barking and Dagenham, Camden, Kingston, Merton, Lambeth and Lewisham will each deliver significant exemplary projects in their boroughs, ensuring that as many Londoners as possible are able to benefit from my investment in culture.

Havering Night Surgery

On 23 February my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, conducted a night surgery in Romford, Havering where she met with Councillors and officers with responsibility for community safety and licensing, and with local night time economy businesses, police, street pastors and night time service users. Romford has a distinctive and thriving night time economy and my Night Czar is working closely with the Council to ensure it is safe and welcoming, and balances the needs of residents, workers and revelers.

Publica launch of Place, Spaces, Work: The Creative Industries in London

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave the keynote speech for the launch of *Place, Spaces, Work: The Creative Industries in London*, a new publication by Publica. The event was attended by leading figures from across the public, private and creative industries sectors.

2018 Culture and Heritage Suffrage Centenary Programme

My Culture and Creative Industries Unit has secured funding from the Government Equalities Office and Heritage Lottery Fund to support a range of projects as part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign. The programme will engage different communities in culture and heritage activities during the centenary year of the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918.

Brit Awards 2018

On 21 February, I attended the annual BRIT Awards ceremony at the O2 Arena. The BRIT Awards celebrate the very best of the UK music industry. It is a credit to the capital that so many artists from London – from Dua Lipa to Stormzy, Jessie Ware and Sampha – have been nominated. Ensuring London's music industry and night time economy thrives is a key priority of mine. Both my Night Czar and my Night Time Commission are championing the capital's night life and are developing my vision of London as a 24-hour city.

Night Time Commission Consultation

On 20 February, my Night Time Commission's consultation on 'London at Night' closed. Councils, businesses, community groups, public sector and other organisations were encouraged to submit. Around 100 responses have been received and will inform a report from the Commission which will be published later in 2018.

Chinese New Year Festival – Sunday 18 February 2018

On 18 February, I was pleased to attend and speak at the Chinese New Year Festival here in the capital. This year celebrated the Year of the Dog, a special significance for me, because I was born in 1970, the Year of the Dog.

The festival welcomed over 350,000 people to Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Chinatown who were treated to a spectacular array of cultural activities, including the gravity-defying Lion Dance, the Grand Parade, live music and of course, delicious food.

London is open to all people and all communities. That's why I'm so proud of the Chinese New Year festivities here in the capital, which are the largest of their kind outside of China and entertain hundreds of thousands of Londoners from all communities, as well as visitors to our city. This annual, free, community event is supported by the GLA and organised by the London Chinatown Chinese Association.

British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards 2018

On 18 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, attended the 71st British Academy Film and Television Awards (BAFTAs) at the Royal Albert Hall. The BAFTAs celebrate talent across the film and TV industry, from directors and actors to costume designers. The Italian independent film *Call Me by Your Name* – which premiered in the UK in October 2017 at the London Film Festival as my Gala Screening – won the BAFTA for Best Adapted Screenplay, by writer James Ivory. It was also nominated for Best Direction, Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Film. James Ivory has also recently received an Oscar for this film.

London Fashion Week 2018

On 16 February, I attended London Fashion Week, supporting young British designer Ashley Williams and activist/model Adwoa Aboah, who champions the Positive Fashion initiative for the British Fashion Council. My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the opening of London Fashion Week, which focused on celebrating diversity and promoting emerging talent. The British Fashion Council announced a new partnership with Chinese online retailer VIP.com; with 300 million users, this partnership will help emerging UK brands tap into the Chinese market.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II made a surprise appearance at the final show of London Fashion Week, to present the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design to Richard Quinn. The Award was organised by the monarch's Personal Advisor and dressmaker Angela Kelly and the British Fashion Council, and was given to Richard Quinn in recognition of outstanding craftsmanship in the UK fashion industry. Finally, designer Anya Hindmarch suspended giant Chubby Heart balloons over London landmarks, starting on Valentine's Day and continuing throughout London Fashion Week in a "declaration of love" to the city and as part of my #LondonisOpen campaign.

British Tamil Chamber of Commerce

On 11 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal gave the keynote speech and the British Tamil Chamber of Commerce Annual Business dinner, that took place in Ruislip, Hillingdon. The event saw over 100 British Tamil entrepreneurs come together to network and celebrate their achievements in the business world.

Late Debate: Women of the future

On 9 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons, OBE gave the keynote speech at the Late Debate, a festival event to celebrate and champion women's contribution to society over the past 100 years and debate the progress we are making towards equality in the 21st century. It is part of my #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign, marking 100 years since the first women in Britain were given the right to vote. Driven by the suffragist and suffragette movements, this was a major step towards equal voting rights for all women and men, which was finally achieved in 1928.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

2018 ITTF Team World Cup

The 2018 International Table Tennis Federation Team World Cup was successfully held at the Copper Box Arena 22-25 February. The England men's team made it through to the semi-finals and managed to secure a bronze medal. Full coverage was broadcast on the BBC Sport website and Connected TV.

London Sport Awards

On Wednesday 7 March, Deputy Mayor Matthew Ryder presented the 'The London Together Award' for social integration at the London Sport Awards. The event is the biggest celebration of grassroots physical activity and sport in the capital. Run by London Sport, the awards shine a light on the incredible work that happens through grassroots sport every day in the capital, bringing together around 400 guests from sport, policy and corporate bodies.

LLDC has welcomed its new Chief Executive

LLDC has welcomed its new Chief Executive, Lyn Garner, who joined the organisation on 19 February. Lyn joins from Haringey Council where she has been Strategic Director of Regeneration, Planning and Development since July 2011.

The Rolling Stones have announced the first date of their tour will be held at the London Stadium on Tuesday 22 May and a further date of Friday 25 May was added two days later due to popularity.

The Stadium continued to hold Premier League games with West Ham United playing Watford at the London Stadium on Saturday 10 February.

The Copper Box Arena played host to the World Table Tennis Championships and England National Table Tennis Champs and continues to host local basketball team the London Lions.

A half term funfair entertained children at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park during half term and the ArcelorMittal Orbit hosted half term events with appearances from children's television favourites Paw Patrol.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Ben O'Neill appointed Commercial Director at Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

On 19 February, Ben joined the Corporation from Hammerson, a FTSE100 owner, manager and developer of leading retail destinations in Europe. He has 10 years of experience across a range of public and private sector development and investment projects. During his time at Hammerson he worked in several asset management and development roles including, the £1.4bn regeneration of Croydon Town Centre and the £1.3bn Brent Cross Extension.

He has most recently been responsible for Grand Central Birmingham and its integration following its £335m acquisition. Ben is a chartered surveyor and a trustee of Cockpit Arts.

OPDC designates second Neighbourhood Forum in Old Oak and Park Royal

Five months after designating the Old Oak Neighbourhood Area, on 9 February, OPDC designated a new forum for this area: the Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum. The designation of the Old Oak Neighbourhood Area and Forum gives local communities in West London the chance to shape the future of their neighbourhood in a tangible way, as the status allows them to now develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the designated Area.

This will give communities a greater power to influence how their local surroundings in Old Oak and Park Royal – home to one of the UK’s largest regeneration sites – will develop, including how plans will affect open spaces, the emerging local centre, a section of the Grand Union Canal, as well as locally-listed buildings and conservation areas.

Budget and Finance

On 22 February I attended the Final Budget Plenary.

On 26 February I published my capital spending plan for the GLA Group 2018.

You can find the full report here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-19mayorscapitalspendingplan.pdf>

Planning and Development

Planning and Development Control 30 January 2018 to 05 March 2018

London Plan

The consultation on my draft London Plan closed on 2 March 2018.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Becontree Heath, Dagenham, LB Barking and Dagenham

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

Land East of Wembley Stadium, 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.

294-295 High Holborn, LB Camden

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

28-30 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Canterbury House, Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Eso Filling Station, Southall, LB Ealing

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

Plot N0201, Greenwich Peninsula, RB Greenwich

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

40 Victoria Way, Charlton, RB Greenwich

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

Victoria Hall and Cumberland Hotel, Harrow, LB Harrow

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

Morrison's Supermarket, Brentford, LB Hounslow

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

Citroen Site, Capital Interchange Way, Brentford, LB Hounslow

I have written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that I will act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining the planning application.

Rudolf Place/Miles Street, Vauxhall, 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.

Graphite Square, Vauxhall, 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.

Carpetright Site, Lewisham, LB Lewisham

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

Westfield Stratford, London Legacy Development Corporation

I have written to the London Legacy Development Corporation stating that I am content to allow the Corporation to determine the application itself.

East Ham Industrial Estate, North Beckton, 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.

116-118 Crisp Street, Poplar, LB Tower Hamlets

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

43-53 Putney High Street/327-339 Putney Bridge Road, Putney, 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.

Royal College of Art, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

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

Roehampton Club, Barnes, 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.

70-88 Oxford Street, City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster 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:

- Merriellands Crescent, South Dagenham, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Prospect Ring, East Finchley, LB Barnet
- 2 Geron Way, Cricklewood, LB Barnet
- Eastside Quarter, Bexleyheath, LB Bexley
- Olympic Office Centre, Wembley, LB Brent
- Coombe Road Playing Fields, South Croydon, LB Croydon
- Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, LB Croydon
- 17-21 Dingwall Road, Croydon, LB Croydon
- Wandle Road Car Park, Croydon, LB Croydon
- Homebase, Western Avenue, East Acton, LB Ealing
- 1A and 1C Eynsham Drive, Abbey Wood, RB Greenwich
- Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls, Thamesmead, RB Greenwich
- Development House, 55-64 Leonard Street, Old Street, LB Hackney
- Shoreditch Island Site, Great Eastern Street, LB Hackney
- Fulham Football Club, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- White City Living, Wood Lane, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Kensington Centre, 66 Hammersmith Road, Olympia, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Meanwhile Space, White City Campus South, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Tottenham Hale Bus Station, LB Haringey
- Central Depot, Harrow, LB Harrow
- Peel House Car Park, Harrow, LB Harrow
- Hornchurch Leisure Centre, LB Havering
- Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, LB Hounslow
- Oval Gasworks, Kennington Oval, LB Lambeth

- Clapham Common, LB Lambeth
- South Lambeth Estate, Clapham, LB Lambeth
- Westbury Estate Phase 1, Clapham, LB Lambeth
- 6-12 Verney Road, Bermondsey, LB Southwark
- Former Car Pound, Mandela Way, LB Southwark
- Former London Metropolitan University Building, Whitechapel, LB Tower Hamlets
- Land to the North of Grant Road, Clapham Junction, LB Wandsworth
- Springfield Hospital, Tooting, LB Wandsworth
- 38 Havelock Terrace, Nine Elms, LB Wandsworth
- 6-10 Ingate Place, Battersea, LB Wandsworth
- Airwork House, 33-35 Piccadilly, City of Westminster

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills has asked officers to send a letter giving comments about the following stage one referral:

- Vauxhall Island Site, LB Lambeth

Planning Decisions (Stopping Up Order)

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

- Royal Free Access Road, Hampstead, LB Camden

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Clapham Common, LB Lambeth
- Woodberry Down Site known as Block D, LB Hackney
- Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan Submission Consultation, Westminster CC

Key Engagements

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

- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 12 February
- I visited the Salmon Centre in Bermondsey on 13 February to launch a new £45million fund to support young Londoners
- I met with the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP, Chair of the Government's new review into barriers to building new homes (Review of Build Out), on 15 February to discuss his review
- I attended the London Councils Congress Executive on 15 February
- I had my regular meeting with Craig Mackey, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 15 February
- I attended the Ashley Williams Show at London Fashion Week on 16 February

- I addressed the Chinese New Year Festival taking place on Trafalgar Square on 18 February
- I visited Al Manaar Mosque on 18 February as part of Visit My Mosque Day
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 19 February
- I met with Pierre Beaudoin, Non-Executive Chairman of Bombardier, on 20 February to discuss the Elizabeth Line
- I had an introductory meeting with Jo Johnson MP, the new Minister for London, on 20 February
- I met with representatives from Unite & Transport for London on 21 February to discuss buses in London
- I attended the Brit Awards at the O2 Arena on 21 February
- I attended the Final Budget Plenary on 22 February
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 22 February
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 26 February
- I hosted a reception for the Diplomatic community at City Hall on 26 February
- I announced the winners of the first ever London Borough of Culture competition on 27 February
- I chaired the Home for Londoners Board Meeting on 27 February
- I hosted a meeting of the GLA Group Leadership on 28 February to discuss topics including diversity, inclusion and collaboration across the GLA Group
- I launched the Digital Talent Programme at Bloomberg HQ on 28 February
- I visited the No Second Night Out West Hub and Staging Post in Hammersmith on 28 February
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 1 March
- I attended People's Question Time in Hounslow on 1 March
- I attended an event with Mo Farah on 2 March to promote the Big Half, London's new half marathon
- I attended the GMB London Regional Council meeting on 3 March
- I joined the March4Women on 4 March
- I opened the market at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) on 5 March to mark the Islamic Development Bank's 2018 Sukuk Summit
- I had my regular meeting with Fiona Twycross, Chair of LFEPa, and Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 5 March
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 5 March
- I attended the Assembly Plenary on 8 March to answer questions on my Transport Strategy
- I addressed the Women of the World Festival at the Royal Festival Hall on 8 March, as part of International Women's Day
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 8 March
- I addressed the International Women's Day reception at City Hall on 8 March hosted by the Chair of the Assembly

Ends