

1st Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 27th May 2021

This is my first report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 5th March 2021 – 13th May 2021.

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

Executive Summary

Thank you London

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to Londoners for re-electing me for a second term as Mayor. I'm deeply humbled by the trust that's been placed in me to continue leading London - the greatest city on earth.

The experiences I've had through my life have shaped my belief that we all have a responsibility to do everything we can to build the bridges that bring us together - rather than the walls that only drive us further apart.

Our response to this awful pandemic has shown the immense power of unity over division, and of community over self.

Now we must capture and harness that spirit of unity and cooperation to build a better and brighter future after the dark days of the pandemic, and I am back in City Hall with a renewed commitment to be a Mayor for all Londoner - working to improve the lives of every single person in this city.

You can read more about the team that will be supporting me to deliver for Londoners here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-announces-key-senior-appointments>

New London Assembly

On behalf of all Londoners, I would like to congratulate the 25 elected Assembly Members who now make up the new London Assembly. I look forward to working alongside you over the next three years so that we can work to improve the lives of all Londoners and create a greener, fairer and safer city - where all Londoners get the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential.

Let's Do London

On 10th May, as part of my signing ceremony at the historic Shakespeare's Globe theatre, I announced plans for the capital's biggest ever domestic tourism campaign, to help get central London's economy back firing on all cylinders. Let's Do London aims to kick-start London's economy and help get industry, impacted by the pandemic, back on its feet as Covid restrictions are eased. The campaign is a year-long programme, bringing together the capital's

world-leading hospitality, nightlife, culture and retail venues to attract Londoners and visitors from across the UK back to central London and support jobs.

It is backed by London's best-known cultural institutions and tourism attractions and includes a major advertising push supported by London & Partners and TfL, alongside new content on the Visit London website outlining all the campaign has to offer to Londoners and visitors to the capital.

Alongside the excitement of EURO 2020, a programme of family fun and 'London Lates' over the summer months will see new events at famous London tourist destinations, in addition to new outdoor film screenings and the extended opening of museums, galleries and cultural venues.

Autumn will see the return of major creative festivals, such as London Fashion Week, Frieze London, the London Design Festival, and the 65th BFI London Film Festival.

I will have further exciting announcements over the year to showcase London's world class nightlife, cultural attractions and hospitality businesses as well as the city's grassroots venues, and news of how creative freelancers, artists and performers can be at the heart of the programme as it continues to develop.

Key worker priority at EURO 2020 Fan Zone

On 12th May I announced that key workers from across London, including NHS and London Ambulance Service staff, police officers and transport workers, will be offered access to watch England's three group matches of the UEFA Men's EURO 2020 Football Championship at a special Fan Zone in Trafalgar Square as a mark of gratitude for their incredible work during the pandemic.

All England's matches will be screened at the the Trafalgar Square Fan Zone, together with the semi-finals and final.

The tournament will be a great moment for London. The competition will take place across the continent, with Wembley Stadium hosting eight games including both semi-finals and the final.

To celebrate the first weekend of the tournament, we are bringing renowned French artist JR's 'Inside Out' project to the city as part of the capital's cultural celebration of football and its ability to bring people together.

Funding boost for programme aimed at diverting young adults away from violence

On 13th May, I announced that £900,000 of City Hall funding will be invested in a successful police custody programme that supports young adults to stay away from violence. Over the last two and a half years, the Divert programme has already helped custody intervention coaches work with more than 1,000 Londoners aged between 18 and 25 who had been arrested and taken to custody suites in Brixton, Bethnal Green, Lewisham, Croydon, Wood Green and Hackney.

As lockdown measures continue to be eased, there are concerns about a potential spike in violence this summer, making this investment all the more important.

During our visit to a Lewisham police station, the Met Police Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick, and I met some of the coaches and officers supporting the delivery of the programme. We both reaffirmed our ongoing commitment and determination to tackle knife incidents and violence in the capital, as part of my drive to be both tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime.

Covid-19 update

I want to thank Londoners for continuing to follow the rules as we progress through the Government's roadmap to lifting restrictions. Over the last month we have fed into several Government reviews, including into social distancing and international travel, raising issues relevant to London. London has lost over £11 billion in tourism revenue since the start of this pandemic and that is why I have been trying to ensure tourist attractions are ready to reopen, now providing an additional £6 million to support the reopening of our world-class cultural venues, restaurants and retail. I have now launched a new campaign, Let's Do London, to encourage domestic tourism to help boost the capital's economy.

There is a lot to look forward to as our city reopens, but we cannot be complacent with the virus or with new variants. There are a small but growing number of cases of the B.1.617.2 variant that originated in India. Whilst this situation is concerning, health experts and I are closely monitoring the situation in our city. Vigilance is important, and we will continue to work closely with the Government and our other partners across London.

Several boroughs have taken part in mass testing where Variants of Concern have been detected, which can understandably feel worrying when this happens in our local areas. This is an important tool on our road to recovery and it is imperative to our health, community and economy that we take a test when asked.

Another vital step is the vaccination rollout – when it is your turn please get a vaccine. 3.75m first doses have been administered in London – this number now includes over 70 per cent of 45-49 age group. We must ensure that vaccine take up remains high and that we do all we can to support the effort.

As we look to the future, I want to thank Londoners again for their hard work and all the sacrifices they have made over the past year. The future now looks bright, and if we continue to follow the rules, and emerge from lockdown safely, we can build London back better than ever.

Anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown

23rd March marked one year since the first national lockdown. It was an incredibly difficult year for Londoners. The pandemic has devastated our city and our country, and this date provided a key moment to remember all those who have tragically lost their lives.

To recognise this poignant date, I attended the London Blossom Garden at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which will open in May as a living commemorative space to those who have lost their lives to Covid-19 in London. Joined by two key workers from the NHS and TfL, we planted the final trees in the garden to pay tribute to those who have died, honour the efforts of all our key worker and reflect on the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on our capital.

This anniversary was particularly difficult for those who have lost people close to them, with many Londoners not having a chance to be with their loved one in their final moments. We also

delivered targeted advertising offering bereavement support to Londoners who will have been experiencing grief.

The murder of Sarah Everard

We were all shocked and appalled by the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard, who went missing near Clapham Common on 3rd March. I know all our thoughts remain with her family and friends. A suspect – a serving Metropolitan Police officer – has been charged with Sarah’s murder and will go on trial later this year.

The events at the Clapham Common vigil for Sarah on the weekend of 13th March caused great concern to Londoners and to people across the country. It is my job as Mayor to stand up on behalf of Londoners and ensure that there is effective scrutiny of the Metropolitan Police - particularly in the light of such widespread public dismay, and I asked Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICFRS) to independently investigate how effectively the MPS planned and prepared for the vigil, and how the police engaged and communicated with the organisers and communities in the run up.

HMICFRS published their findings on 30th March. I accept the HMICFRS report, but it is clear that trust and confidence of women and girls in the police and criminal justice system is far from adequate. The events of the weekend of 13th and 14th March show that much more needs to be done, and I am committed to doing everything in my power to ensure that all women and girls in our city can feel confident in their safety and in the services there to protect them.

Death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip

On 9th April I offered my deepest sympathies to Her Majesty The Queen and the entire Royal Family on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip.

Not only did His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh devote 70 years to undertaking royal duties, but he also fought for Britain - and for the freedoms we hold dear today - during the Second World War.

As Mayor, I know I can say on behalf of all Londoners that we will forever be grateful for the contribution His Royal Highness made to our city and our country. This includes his charitable work and The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, which has helped so many young people reach their potential.

New statistics show an increase in the number of new genuinely affordable homes completed in 2020/21

Despite the impact of Covid-19 on housing delivery, new statistics released on 13th May reveal that I surpassed my target for 10,300 new genuinely affordable homes to be started in 2020/21. A huge effort from City Hall, councils and housing associations across London meant that over 13,000 new genuinely affordable homes were started last financial year. This builds on the record-breaking delivery of new genuinely affordable homes during my time as Mayor.

The statistics also show that over 9,000 genuinely affordable homes were completed, meaning the number of low-cost homes completed has increased in every year of my first term as Mayor.

Prioritising key workers for affordable homes

On 12 March, I announced plans to recognise the service and sacrifice made by key workers during the Coronavirus pandemic, and ensure key workers are prioritised in accessing thousands of new genuinely affordable homes being built across London. In the Intermediate Housing: Part 2 Consultation Response Report, I set out measures to mitigate the housing challenges faced by London's key workers, including defining a core list of key workers and strengthening planning guidance to introduce an expectation that key workers should be prioritised for intermediate homes. I will continue to engage with stakeholders to define the core list over the coming months, including trade unions, emergency services, local authorities and others.

You can view the Intermediate Housing: Part 2 Consultation Response Report at this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/buying-home/intermediate-homes-london>

COVID-19 rough sleeping response

On 17th March, the GLA's Rough Sleeping and Health teams, working with the Healthy London Partnership, won the prestigious Health Service Journal [Health and Local Government Partnership Award](#) for their work on the rough sleeping COVID-19 response in London.

Since the start of the pandemic, around 2,500 rough sleepers have been kept safe in GLA-procured hotels and other emergency accommodation. By 19 April, with the tireless support of our charity partners, over 1,000 people had positively moved on.

More Tube Stations go step free – Acton Main Line, Debden, West Ealing

On 18th March, TfL announced that Acton Main Line had become step free, after lifts and a new ticket hall were opened to customers.

In preparation for the opening of the Elizabeth line, Network Rail has transformed the west London station by building a spacious new ticket hall, including gatelines, and a covered, accessible footbridge with lifts serving both platforms.

There are also improved customer facilities providing a better experience for those using or returning to the station when travel restrictions are lifted.

On 9th April, Debden Underground station became step-free following the installation of two new lifts and a pedestrian bridge linking the platforms.

On 25th April, West Ealing station became step-free, with Network Rail completing an accessible footbridge with lifts to all platforms, and a new bay platform for Greenford Branch trains, created by widening Platform 4. Step-free access to these platforms will improve accessibility for those needing to travel to stations between Paddington, Heathrow and Reading.

TfL appoints operator to run temporary Hammersmith ferry service

On 30 March, Transport for London announced the selection of Uber Boat by Thames Clippers to run the temporary Hammersmith ferry.

The service will take people walking and cycling over the Thames while Hammersmith Bridge undergoes vital repair and refurbishment works.

It is proposed that the boats will take passengers between piers located near to Queen Caroline Street in Hammersmith and the Hammersmith Bridge approach in Barnes. There will be a full programme of engagement with the local community and other river users ahead of any planning application being submitted.

The ferry will have a minimum capacity of 800 passengers an hour at peak times, with services running daily 06:00-22:00.

New look RideLondon for spring 2022 as TfL confirms new partnership with London Marathon Events Limited

On 11th March, we announced that the world's greatest mass participation cycling festival, RideLondon, will return from spring 2022 under a new partnership between TfL and London Marathon Events Limited (LME).

The 2020 RideLondon festival was cancelled due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and was replaced with a virtual event that raised more than £3 million for charities. The 2021 event has also been cancelled due to the pandemic. The new partnership with LME, which will run until 2031, will shape the event for the future, with a greater focus on inspiring Londoners from all backgrounds to start take up cycling as part of their daily lives.

In 2022, the festival will take place over one day in the spring with an exciting consolidated format allowing even more families to take part. The spring event will also inspire more people to continue cycling through from spring into summer, which is typically the most popular time of year for cycling in the capital, and maintain the momentum to cycle all year round. The festival is a hugely popular part of London's event calendar and is expected to attract tens of thousands of visitors from across London and the UK, helping to boost trade at local high streets and sustain the region's economic recovery from coronavirus.

Work is now ongoing with stakeholders to explore options for new routes in 2022 and future years. LME is currently looking for a new title sponsor for this important event in London's world class events programme. Full details of the new routes for 2022 will be announced in due course.

New 'green woman' traffic light signals celebrate women on International Women's Day

To celebrate the achievements and contributions of women to London on International Women's Day on 8th March, TfL installed new 'green woman' traffic signals at more than 20 pedestrian crossings across the city.

From 8th March, Londoners were able to see the specially designed symbols at pedestrian crossings on high streets in Dalston, Tooting, Clapham, Brixton, Tottenham and Lewisham, and by King's Cross St. Pancras station, as well as in Camden Town Centre, Hyde Park, the Southbank and along Exhibition Road in South Kensington.

The designs were inspired by the theme for International Women's Day this year – to challenge norms. They depict a diverse range of women and challenge the common image of a woman in a dress to signify gender.

The reimagined symbols serve as a reminder of the huge contribution women make to all aspects of society, including the transport network, and improve the visibility of women on London's streets.

School streets monitoring report

On 9th March I published the results of a new study which showed that the introduction of School Streets (closing the roads around schools to traffic at pick-up and drop-off times) can reduce polluting nitrogen dioxide levels by up to 23 per cent. The publication coincided with the release of the results of a survey by TfL that showed 81 per cent of parents and carers supported School Streets at their children's school and 18 per cent of parents reported driving to school less as a result of School Streets. Since April 2020, almost 350 School Streets have been delivered across London with funding from Transport for London (TfL) and the boroughs to tackle children's exposure to air pollution and improve their health.

New investment in air quality monitoring

On 15th March, the Breathe London website launched - a platform that will display real-time air quality data from across the city. Earlier this year I announced that I will fund the Breathe London network as part of a joint investment in air quality monitoring with Bloomberg Philanthropies, worth almost £1.5 million. This will fund 195 air quality sensors across the capital. A new sponsorship programme will also start in September, meaning an additional 60 sensors will be available to London communities over the next three years, with all costs covered. Londoners will now have access to accurate real-time air quality data for their communities from more than 300 monitoring sites, including hospitals, schools and across local authorities. This will improve awareness and help people reduce their exposure to polluted air.

CAZ Economic Futures Research

On 20th March, I published the final report of the research project I commissioned from Arup and partners on the economic future of London's Central Activities Zone (CAZ). The work builds three scenarios to test the scale of the economic impact of Covid-19 on the CAZ over the medium and long-term and suggested a range of policy responses. It shows that the central London ecosystem is well placed to recover strongly, with world-leading sectors such as tech and a vibrant arts and cultural offer. But if home working remains the norm for office workers and no further action is taken, the report estimates significant economic impacts, including job losses in central London by 2031, particularly in retail, hospitality and culture, and a decline in economic output compared to a no-Covid scenario. If the CAZ can be re-invented, with more opportunities for increasing the residential population and increasing its attractiveness to visitors, the report concludes that the economic impact of increased home working will be far less severe.

Fourth Plinth Shortlisted Artists

On 9th March, I announced the six artists shortlisted for the next Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth Commission: Nicole Eisenman, Samson Kambalu, Goshka Macuga, Ibrahim Mahama, Teresa Margolles and Paloma Varga Weisz. This is the most diverse shortlist to date, and the Fourth Plinth Programme continues to be the world's leading public art commission. The shortlisted artists' proposals will be on show at the National Gallery from May to July. The public will be invited to have a say about the proposed artworks, which will inform the decision of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group, who will select the two winning sculptures to go on the Fourth Plinth in 2022 and 2024.

St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day festival and parade in London was unable to take part for a second year due to Covid-19. But that did not stop over 60,000 people from London's Irish community and their friends coming together virtually to celebrate via a digital festival. I supported the digital event, hosted by the London Irish Centre on Saturday 13th March, and marked St Patrick's Day itself, on 17th March, with images of Trafalgar Square turned green, honouring the contribution the Irish community has made to London – particularly those Irish key workers who have supported London throughout the pandemic.

Vaisakhi

As Londoners all over the city marked the beginning of Vaisakhi, on 13th April Trafalgar Square was lit up in tribute to this vibrant celebration of Sikh and Punjabi culture and heritage. 'Happy Vaisakhi' was projected onto Nelson's Column, sending a clear message of support at a time when London's communities were unable to join in celebration together, as they usually would.

St George's Day

On 23rd April, I celebrated St George's Day by raising the English flag outside City Hall and illuminating Nelson's Column and Trafalgar Square to send a message of hope and unity after a dark and challenging year. Images and videos of these activities were shared across my social media channels. I look forward to next year when we can celebrate with an event in person again.

Eid Festival

On 13th May, I was delighted to be able to send messages of goodwill to all communities across London celebrating Eid al-Fitr. As Ramadan came to a close, on 11th May a beautiful lighting arrangement at Trafalgar Square provided a fitting way to recognise this important moment, designed by members from London's Muslim community.

As we gradually get closer to being able to gather in person and look forward to festivals and events reopening, I look forward to welcoming Londoners of all ages, backgrounds, faiths and communities to come together again in central London to enjoy food, performance, art and culture.

Policing, Crime and Security

£3 million pilot to reduce reoffending by young adults

On 5th March, I announced new investment for young adults supervised by the probation service to receive specialist drug and mental health support at a new centre to reduce reoffending. The hub, the first of its kind, will be based at Newham Probation Office and has been developed by the Ministry of Justice and MOPAC.

Young adults have a particularly high risk of reoffending and are more likely to carry out drug, robbery and possession of weapons offences, and be caught up in gang crime. Mental health and substance misuse experts will work alongside National Probation Service staff, as part of an innovative new approach ensuring vulnerable young adults, many of whom had troubled upbringings and poor education, receive the enhanced support they need to avoid a life of crime. Offenders released without a home or a job are significantly more likely to reoffend, so accommodation, training and employment services will also operate from the hub to help cut crime.

New GPS tagging pilot targets domestic abuse offenders

As part of my commitment to tackling violence against women and girls in our city, on 9th March I was pleased to announce the first-ever UK pilot programme to tag perpetrators of domestic abuse with GPS tracking devices upon release from prison, to better protect victims of abuse and address the behaviour of offenders.

Under the pilot, offenders who have served a prison sentence for a domestic abuse-related offence, such as stalking, harassment, physical abuse, sexual abuse and coercive control, will be tagged with a GPS tracking device as part of their release conditions. The tags enable probation services and the police to ensure offenders are following the conditions of their release and take action if they breach these conditions or commit a criminal offence. This could include conditions such as not entering 'exclusion zones', which could cover the address of a victim, or ensuring that offenders are arrested if they breach a restraining order, as well as providing GPS location data that can be used to verify a victim's account of any re-offending behaviour. I am investing £230,000 in this pilot, which will run for a year across every London borough.

£3m investment in grassroots services to support victims of violence against women and girls

On 17th March I announced investment of £3 million in 42 small, grassroots organisations to deliver support for women and girls who have been the victims of violence in the capital. This is part of the record £60.7 million investment made into tackling violence against women and girls during my Mayoralty.

The new investment will fund helplines, enable victims to access legal support, offer access to counselling, and provide vulnerable victims with phones, travel cards and vital food and medical supplies. Such specialist and small organisations are often the first and sometimes only support for victims of violence against women and girls from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

This latest tranche of funding will support vital grassroots services including the Asian Women's Resource Centre, the Women's Association for Networking and Development, Sister System, the

Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, and the East European Resource Centre. This will enable these organisations to provide legal and mental health support as well as vital supplies for vulnerable victims.

Putting diverse communities at the heart of scrutinising policing

On 18th March I gave an update on progress towards delivering my Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing.

This included plans for a new framework to ensure that London's diverse communities are better represented in community monitoring groups to be drawn up by September, which will focus on setting out the parameters for scrutinising stop and search and other police powers and, crucially, how they will be fed back to the police and acted upon. A new dashboard has also been published on City Hall's london.gov.uk website, bringing together a wide range of data to provide a better understanding of disproportionality in policing. The dashboard includes – for the first time and all in one place – data on the use of force, stop and search and information from the Public Attitudes Survey, all of which will increase transparency and help support community involvement in the scrutiny and monitoring of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).

I was also pleased to announce that City Hall is now working with former Metropolitan Police Borough Commanders, Victor Olisa and Dal Babu, on a new pilot project to develop and improve how the police engage with the communities they serve. The pilot programme is to be focused on the Met's North Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) covering Haringey and Enfield and will provide the police with a better understanding of community demographics, needs and concerns. This information will be used to develop a local community engagement strategy, helping to improve working with Black Londoners to improve community confidence and safety. Once fully developed, it is hoped the pilot will provide a blueprint for better coordination of community engagement across all BCUs.

Tackling disproportionality in youth justice

On 18th March I was proud to launch a new Youth Justice Action Plan in response to the overrepresentation of children from BAME backgrounds in London's youth justice service. The plan highlights that the proportion of BAME children in Young Offender Institutions across England and Wales climbed to 51 per cent in 2019, up from 25 per cent in 2009. The Youth Justice Action Plan sets out actions covering the full spectrum of a young person's interaction with the youth justice system, backed with £700,000 of new City Hall funding to develop ambitious and innovative responses to disproportionality.

Actions include:

- Working together with the Children's Society, Autism UK and The Royal Society of Speech and Language Therapists, and in consultation with young people, partners will produce new, accessible information packs for young people going into police custody to explain the process and tackle misconceptions. An app will also be developed for young people in police custody, explaining their rights, their options and what happens next in the justice process.
- Partners including the MPS and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will gather data relating to ethnicity and age in charging decisions, to identify and address any disproportionality.
- MOPAC will commission a BAME specialist service to support young BAME Londoners transitioning from the youth justice service to adult services.

Transport

TfL's Santander Cycles scheme reaches 100 million hires

On 15th March TfL's Santander Cycles scheme passed 100 million hires, marking a significant milestone in the scheme's ten-year history. This equates to more than 10 rides for every Londoner, and follows record-breaking hires in February.

Saturday 27th February saw the scheme's busiest ever winter day, with more than 52,000 hires. The following day there were 31,474 hires, making it the busiest February weekend in the scheme's history.

Hire numbers for 2020 surpassed 2019 by around 6,000 hires - despite a significant overall reduction in journeys across London during the pandemic.

Recent TfL figures show that 24-hour Santander Cycles membership registrations rose by 167 per cent in the year to December 2020, representing the largest increase in the scheme's history. Meanwhile, registrations for new annual memberships increased by a quarter.

Sustainable office development above Southwark station gets approval

On 17th March, Southwark Council gave TfL the green light to construct a new net zero-carbon office development over Southwark Tube station, as part of its wider commercial development plans to help create long-term, sustainable revenue.

The project is set to be one of the greenest and healthiest large-scale commercial buildings in the UK, and once built will provide office space for a range of businesses as part of the city's green recovery.

The development will use excess heat directly from the Tube network to help reduce energy consumption and has been designed to achieve BREEAM Outstanding and WELL Platinum – only the second building in the UK to do so.

Partnership between TfL and Bosch provides solutions to modern transport challenges

On 18th March, TfL and Bosch outlined how their innovative partnership has helped improve transport in the capital, with their work including the utilisation of artificial intelligence to improve road safety, new approaches to tackling Tube noise, optimising traffic signalling and greater insight of how managing traffic can improve air quality.

The pilot partnership, which began in November 2018, has the two organisations working together on several innovative projects across London.

TfL has a strong track record in world-leading innovation in transport and mobility, from the use and provision of open data, contactless ticketing, the implementation of world-leading road congestion and air quality measures, to the development of advanced Tube signalling.

TfL was keen to collaborate with a private sector innovator to help further address key transport issues within London.

Approval of funding for the Infrastructure Coordination Service Expansion Phase

Following the success of the Infrastructure Coordination Service (ICS) in its pilot delivery phase, we secured a further £3.5 million grant from the TfL Lane Rental Surplus Fund to expand the service. This new funding will allow the next phase of work to take place from June 2021 to June 2023, supported and endorsed by the London Infrastructure Group.

The ICS will deliver a range of initiatives that drive the coordination of infrastructure planning and delivery in London, and minimise the impact of infrastructure works in the capital. The service will continue to bring significant benefits to Londoners and businesses, improving air quality and the public realm by reducing disruption and noise pollution on our streets.

The expansion phase of the service will continue to support my ambitions for good growth, enabling affordable housing, and minimise the impacts of growth on London's environment and communities. In this new phase, my team will develop and articulate the long-term sustainable vision for the service, delivering more projects and reaching more boroughs across London.

Fire and Resilience

Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 recommendations

The London Fire Brigade has made further progress delivering the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. Out of 29 recommendations aimed at the Brigade, 17 are now complete, following the implementation of new procedures on Evacuation & Rescue and Fire Survival Guidance at the end of March. A further two recommendations are expected to be completed in this quarter. Assurance work to assess the effectiveness of the changes is also under way, led by the Brigade's new independent Operational Assurance Adviser.

London Strategic Coordinating Group

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

Covid-19 Assembly Member 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.

Covid-19 London MPs briefings

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to chair regular virtual meetings to update London MPs on London's response to Covid-19.

London Covid-19 Leaders Committee

I continued to attend regular virtual meetings with London Councils Leaders and representatives of London's Strategic Coordinating Outbreak Control Group to consider

London's response to Covid-19 throughout the month, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and my Chief of Staff David Bellamy.

PHE/NHS conference call

I continued to attend virtual meetings with Regional Directors of PHE and NHS London to receive an update on London's response to Covid-19, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross.

Meeting with Professor James Bilzon

On 15th March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with Professor James Bilzon of the University of Bath and London Fire Brigade officers. Professor Bilzon presented findings of physiological trials on firefighting in high-rise buildings, conducted on behalf of the Brigade.

National Preparedness Commission Roundtable

On 22nd March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a National Preparedness Commission Roundtable with the Royal Academy of Engineering to discuss their report on Critical Capabilities: strengthening UK resilience.

Overarching Chronic Incident Review Group

On 24th March, 28th April and 12th May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired meetings of the Overarching Chronic Incident Review Group. The purpose of the review is to define a set of arrangements for chronic incidents.

Vaccination site visits

On 12th April and 11th May my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited a London Fire Brigade Mobile Vaccination Centre in Croydon. The Centre predominantly vaccinates people referred by charities who support the homeless, and GP referrals of other vulnerable groups to make the vaccine more accessible, including rough sleepers, sex workers and asylum seekers.

LRF and BRF Chairs Forum

On 5th May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a meeting with Borough Resilience Forum Chairs from London. The Forum discussed Covid-19 preparations, as well as a number of wider resilience issues and presentations on current resilience topics.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Skills for Londoners Board and Business Partnership

My Skills for Londoners Board and Skills for Londoners Business Partnership met on 9th March. These groups have been holding joint meetings since October 2020 to enable a joined-up focus on the Covid-19 recovery work.

At the meeting, members discussed the Local Skills Report for London, which is led by the Skills for Londoners Board (see separate update below). They also received an update on my Adult Education Budget programme and the Good Work for All and Digital Access for All recovery mission objectives. In addition, members received a presentation on research commissioned by London Councils looking at unemployment in London. In the second half of the meeting, members took part in a workshop to gather input and help shape the Adult Education Roadmap and 'No Wrong Door' approach.

London's Skills Advisory Panel publishes its first Local Skills Report

On 17th March, the Skills for Londoners (SfL) Board and Business Partnership – acting as London's Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) – published its first Local Skills Report (LSR) for London. The report supports local partners and stakeholders in helping to shape London's skills landscape, and will also inform central Government, including the new national-level Skills and Productivity Board.

Covering an assessment of London's skills strengths and needs, the report presents an overview of the SAP's skills strategy, an assessment of progress made with the strategy under my first term of office, as well as some case studies and a forward look. As Co-chairs of the SfL Board, Jules Pipe CBE, Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, and Clare Coghill, Leader of LB Waltham Forest, welcomed the report, acknowledging that some of its findings cover the period before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The next iteration of the report, due in November 2021, will have more comprehensive coverage of the work of the London Recovery Board in its response to the impact of Covid-19.

The Mayor's ESF 2019-23 Programme: Higher Level Skills

On 18th March, I launched a £5 million Higher Level Skills project, as part of my European Social Fund (ESF) Programme. The Higher Level Skills project is aimed at supporting Londoners most affected by the pandemic, including disadvantaged people in low paid work, or who are recently unemployed to move into higher-level skilled training, qualifications and occupations. It aims to strengthen Londoners' labour market competitiveness and move people into higher level work through Level 4+ training interventions and wider tailored support.

High Streets for All Challenge

As part of my Virtual Summit - London's Road to Recovery on 16th March, I launched the High Streets for All Challenge and invited local partnerships to respond to the challenges faced by high streets and town centres, by developing innovative approaches for local streets and vacant and under used buildings and spaces.

Supported by the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the Challenge will provide targeted advice and up to £4 million of strategic enabling funding from June 2021 to inspire and help form these partnerships, prepare strategies, propose projects and test their

effectiveness. It will support local engagement and promote a culture of ideas, experimentation and invention and build a pipeline of schemes for future investment opportunities.

During this Summit, I also launched the Reimagine London campaign, a collaborative engagement campaign across three of my missions – High Streets for All, Green New Deal and Building Strong Community – calling on all Londoners to share their ideas to revitalise their local neighbourhoods through Talk London. These could include ideas on how to create better public spaces and ways for communities to connect, or develop exciting uses for underused buildings or making neighbourhoods better for the environment and our wellbeing.

5-year evaluation of Crowdfund London

My Regeneration team has worked closely with innovation charity Nesta to evaluate the impact of the Crowdfund London programme over the last five years. The programme is now recognised internationally as an exemplar in public sector innovation and is the second largest and longest running of its kind in the world. To date, we have pledged over £2.41 million to 130 successful campaigns across London to ensure existing communities share in the benefits of growth by crowdsourcing civic innovation, supporting local economies and social infrastructure, and promoting active citizenship. The programme has brought 30 vacant buildings back into use, generated 500,000+ visitors and involved over 7,000 volunteers.

Crucially, 77 per cent of programme participants feel they have increased their communities' sense of self-determination, and 72 per cent feel they have increased community cohesion by bringing people together from different parts of the community.

Supporting locally-led recovery projects

On 16th March, I announced pledges totalling almost £500,000 to 39 creative and innovative community-led crowdfunding campaigns for projects that will help local neighbourhoods across London recover from the Covid-19 crisis.

Delivering on the London Recovery Board's High Streets for All and Building Strong Communities missions, and building on the success of Crowdfund London and Culture Seeds, my Make London programme is supporting community-led projects that bring people together, improve public spaces and support community hubs and high streets.

Funded projects include: an Islington-based cookery school supporting social integration; a knitting project in Hammersmith tackling loneliness and homelessness; and re-opening a vacant library in Acton for community use accommodating a cinema and local traders. 24 smaller-scale projects have received pledges totalling £110,714, while 15 larger initiatives will be sharing pledges totalling £355,500. Read about the 39 community-led projects I've backed: <https://www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/mayor-announces-39-make-london-projects-he-backing>

High Streets for All mission – stakeholder engagement

On 18th March, my Regeneration and Economic Development team, in partnership with London Councils, convened the High Street Network to provide an update on the development of the High Streets for All Mission, one of the nine missions endorsed by the London Recovery Board. The event introduced the High Streets for All Challenge to key stakeholders and partners, including London's boroughs, Business Improvement Districts, built environment professionals, property organisations, third sector partners, think tanks and community organisations.

My Regeneration and Economic Development team also announced that they will reconvene the High Streets Network in June to introduce our new High Street Data Service and Data Partnership. This will be an integrated platform that will gather evidence and share data and analysis to support the recovery and transformation of high streets and town centres across London.

Good Growth by Design Recovery Roundtables

As part of my Good Growth by Design programme, my Regeneration and Economic Development team held a series of Recovery Roundtables to discuss the most pressing issues facing London's built environment in the wake of the global health crisis and its ensuing social and economic impacts. My Mayor's Design Advocates and other external experts have offered their perspectives on the impact of the pandemic, the relevance of existing Good Growth by Design guidance in this new context, and examples of best practice that London could learn from. Our report brings together the findings of the sessions and provides 10 'Calls to Action' to the sector, shaping the London Recovery programme. Read more here:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ggbd_recovery_roundtables_calls_to_action.pdf

Housing

Lobbying to protect renters from ongoing impacts of Covid-19

On Wednesday 10 March, the Government set out its plans to lift protections for renters facing eviction. The ban on enforcement of evictions by court bailiffs is due to be lifted on 31 May, alongside a tapering down of the notice periods that landlords are required to give to tenants from six months. Up until this point, evictions have only been possible in the most serious cases during the pandemic, for example where there are rent arrears over six months or in cases of anti-social behaviour.

I am disappointed that the Government still refuses to put in place measures that would properly protect renters who have accumulated arrears during the pandemic, despite consensus from both landlord and renter groups that this is urgently needed to avoid a surge in homelessness. Throughout the pandemic, I have called for grants to support renters and landlords and keep people in their homes, as part of a package of support that would include additional funding for councils to prevent homelessness and powers for me to implement introduce rent controls in London. With the new mandate given to me by Londoners, I will continue to make the case for these changes.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Covid Business Forum

On 11th March, I convened a meeting of the London Covid Business Forum, through which we have been working with business leaders to progress the 'Roadmap to a Safe and Full Reopening of London's Economy'. The GLA also organised a follow up meeting on 22nd April, to update on relevant actions and to understand how businesses are experiencing the crucial reopening period.

Business Engagement

On 10th March, I met with John Bounphrey, Amazon's recently-appointed UK Country Manager. We discussed London's recovery and growth, opportunities for supporting small businesses and helping Londoners to develop skills through apprenticeships and employer sponsored training.

On 10th March, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, participated in a Recovery Roundtable with Cities Restart. The roundtable focused on how a rapid and stable recovery can be ensured by working in partnership across business and regional government. Other speakers included representatives from Ipsos Mori, Arup, Bartlett Real Estate and UCL.

On 16th March, my Deputy Mayor for Business hosted a roundtable with business members from UK Finance and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The discussion brought together commercial lenders and small businesses to share the challenges and opportunities they are facing, as a result of Brexit and the pandemic.

On 16th March, my Deputy Mayor for Business met representatives from Starling Bank to discuss how the fintech sector has fared during the pandemic and key issues for the firm, including expansion and diversity.

On 13th April, my Deputy Mayor for Business met Miles Celic, CEO of TheCityUK, to discuss how their financial services' members are responding to both Brexit and the pandemic, including plans for workplace return.

On 22nd April, my Deputy Mayor for Business met Ron Kalifa OBE, to discuss how City Hall can support Ron's recent review for HM Government into the UK's fintech sector and the promotion of London as the global heart of fintech.

Post EU-Transition Business Support

My EU Transition support programme for businesses helped 328 London-based SMEs to navigate the challenges encountered following the end of the post-Brexit transition period. Advisers provided up to 3 hours of support, completing diagnostic assessments, action plans and referring on to a panel of pre-procured specialists who could advise on new requirements to trade, travel, applications for staff work permits, managing data and intellectual property, and doing business with EU countries.

Businesses were also supported through the online Brexit Business Resource Hub, a series of podcasts and social media campaigns that engaged with over 340,000 and was viewed over 3million times.

Business Peer Networks

We have now concluded an ambitious five-month programme to support 240 businesses to work collaboratively through common issues arising from Brexit and Covid-19. To ensure that the programme targeted a wide range of businesses, my officers worked with partners including faith-based business organisations, Business Improvement Districts, sub-regional partnerships and local authorities. Of the 240 businesses assisted, 33% of the businesses were women/female led and 34% were led by BAME business owners. My officers are in the process of launching a new London Peer Network Programme that will run from June 2021 to March 2022.

Flexible Workspace on High Streets

On 16th March I published the 'Flexible Workspaces on high streets' pamphlet, which calls for a reimagining of the relationships between landlords, tenants, operators, and local authorities, with the purpose of reducing the risk profile of vacant units, while ensuring that high street assets create social and economic value by providing space for local business and enterprises of all sizes.

During the next few months, my Workspace Advisory Group will be considering the recommendations from the pamphlet and how these might be implemented.

Designing London's Recovery

On 16th March, I launched Designing London's Recovery, a £500,000 innovation challenge that uses a design-led approach to develop solutions to support London's recovery. This innovation challenge, delivered in partnership with the Design Council, pioneers a way of working with organisations across London to solve the city's systemic challenges, created or made worse by Covid-19. Building design skills into the delivery of London's Recovery programme will drive further innovation and create a thriving environment within which local businesses can grow.

£2.3 million of grants given to support businesses through Covid-19

Through my Back to Business Fund and Covid-19 Business Recovery Grants, I have awarded over £2.3 million in grant funding to help London's SMEs survive and recover from the impacts of Covid-19 on their business. This includes £900,000 in match-funding to support over 200 small businesses to help them expand their operations online, invest in their future and adapt to safe, socially-distanced trading. The Back to Business scheme offers up to £5,000 in match funding through the Pay It Forward London crowdfunding platform – the £900,000 investment from the Back to Business Fund helped leverage over £2.3 million in additional funds raised by supported businesses: a 260% amplification, meaning that for every £1 pledged by the Fund, the crowd has pledged £2.60.

I also launched the Covid-19 Recovery Grants in Autumn last year through my business support service, The London Business Hub. The purpose was to help eligible SMEs access grants between £1,000 - £5,000 for specialist support and/or minor equipment to address their immediate needs in response to the impact of Covid-19. A total of 367 grants were awarded to the value of over £1.4 million by the close of the programme in March 2021.

Technology Adoption Service

On 19th March, I launched my new Technology Adoption Service on the London Business Hub. Delivered in collaboration with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Service is a searchable online marketplace that helps small businesses find the best-fit technology solutions for their needs. As many traders continue to suffer from the impacts of the pandemic, it's even more important to support businesses to expand their online presence and gain access to the technologies they need to recover, grow and innovate. For example, retail shops that have been forced to shut during lockdown can use this platform to find out more about which e-commerce solution might help drive their online sales.

Global Innovation Collaboration

On 20th March, I announced that London is joining forces with Berlin, New York and Paris to bring forward innovation that will speed up the revival of central London and bolster the resilience of businesses hardest hit by Covid-19. The four cities will be working together over the summer to share data and ideas. From 1st June, I will launch an open call for innovators and entrepreneurs to come forward with new ideas that can help the sectors hardest hit – such as arts and culture – to adapt and thrive post-lockdown.

Environment

Sustainable Development Goals Report

On 8th March my London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) published a report presenting the first comprehensive assessment of London's local contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using 110 SDG indicators tailored to London's context, the report explores the collective contribution of local and regional government, businesses, communities and others, and makes recommendations on how they can help further deliver the SDGs in London. The report was launched by Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Ashok Sinha, chair of the LSDC, and Cllr Georgia Gould, Co-chair of the London Recovery Board and Leader of Camden Council.

Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth

On 9th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Friends of the Earth (FoE) groups to discuss my existing policies and programmes on climate, nature and air pollution, and where FoE local groups might best direct their efforts to help tackle the climate crisis and participate in COP26. They also discussed how the GLA and FoE might work more closely together to engage Londoners and support activity for getting to net zero carbon.

Centre for Climate Change Innovation

On 9th March my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy took part in the launch of Imperial College and the Royal Institution's Centre for Climate Change Innovation. The centre will bring businesses, entrepreneurs, policy makers, academics and the public together around climate change innovation, creating a focus for London-based innovators to implement global change through pioneering, practical solutions. My Deputy Mayor discussed my 2030 zero carbon

target, the decarbonisation programmes that we have running, and the importance of innovation and businesses in tackling the climate crisis.

Meeting with Heathrow

On the 9th March, I met with John Holland-Kaye, the chief executive of Heathrow Airport Limited, along with my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander. We discussed the upcoming COP26 meeting and Heathrow's work with the Department for Transport in supporting more sustainable, less carbon intensive aviation fuel.

Meeting with Sarah Bentley, CEO, Thames Water

On 9th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Thames Water's Chief Executive, Sarah Bentley, to follow up on progress since their introductory meeting in September 2020. Key issues discussed included demonstrating further improvements to Thames Water's incident performance on burst pipes and leaks; commitment on supporting London's green recovery and Green New Deal mission; and key areas where GLA and Thames Water can work together. My Deputy Mayor received reassurance on issues relating to resilience and investment in upgrading London's ageing water infrastructure.

Scotland is Now: The Race to Zero

On 10th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy presented at the Scottish Development International event "Scotland is Now: The Race to Zero". The event aimed to highlight the role of cities in achieving net zero, identify the scale of investment needed to achieve net zero and emphasise the importance of collaboration across global cities. My Deputy Mayor highlighted what London was doing to reach its net zero target, how it was working to attract private sector investment, and the importance of COP26 in achieving that.

Meeting with Andrew Morlet, Chief Executive at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

On 15th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Andrew Morlet, Chief Executive of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), which aims to develop and promote the idea of a circular economy. My Deputy Mayor discussed working with the EMF to take a leading role in accelerating towards a circular economy, including potential focus areas that are priorities for both organisations.

COP26 UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council meeting

On 15th March, in preparation for COP26, taking place in Glasgow in November this year, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with mayors and local leaders from across the UK, the COP President and the Minister for London to discuss Government plans for engagement activity in the lead up to COP26.

The Business Climate Challenge

On 16th March, I launched my Business Climate Challenge, an ambitious new programme to help businesses tackle the climate emergency and help achieve London's target of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The pilot works with members of the Better Bankside Business Improvement District (BID), challenging participants to reduce their building's energy consumption by 10 percent within the first year of the programme. Businesses will be provided

with bespoke technical support from Turner & Townsend and encouraged to go further towards decarbonising their building. This will help improve buildings' environmental performance and value, whilst also making them more pleasant places to work. The first cohort of 20 participants have been selected, including Shakespeare's Globe, London Marathon Events and BE Spoke Offices. Insights are being sought from the pilot to determine how it can be scaled up to support more London businesses and drive a green recovery from the pandemic.

Business Climate Guidance

On 16th March, I launched sector-specific climate guidance on the London Business Hub, to help more businesses achieve their climate goals and to build back a greener London. From tackling emissions from buildings and the supply chain, to considering the climate impacts of investments, it provides a checklist for helping businesses develop climate action plans and signposts them to expert guidance. It also has case studies on London businesses already taking climate action.

Future Neighbourhoods 2030 Programme

On 16th March, I launched the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme that will support Londoners to design a green recovery, working together with their boroughs and community groups. £3 million has been allocated from the Green New Deal fund to support up to four neighbourhoods in London's most disadvantaged and climate vulnerable areas, or areas where residents have been most severely affected by the pandemic. Successful applicants and their neighbourhoods will be announced in October.

London climate risk and vulnerability maps

On 16th March I launched a climate risk mapping tool produced in collaboration with Bloomberg Associates and the London Climate Change Partnership. The maps analyse climate exposure and social vulnerability across London. This will help London-based organisations deliver equitable responses to the impacts of climate change and target resources to support communities at highest risk. The maps overlay key metrics to identify areas of the city that are most exposed to climate impacts with high concentrations of vulnerable populations.

LPFA Quarterly meeting

On 16th March my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, and my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with John Preston, Chair of the London Pensions Fund Authority, and Robert Branagh, CEO of the London Pensions Fund Authority, to discuss progress on divestment from fossil fuels and responsible investment.

Meeting with CPRE London

On 17th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Neil Sinden, Director of CPRE London, to discuss their priorities for London and where we can work together to improve greening.

Carbon Offset Funds Report 2020

On 17th March I published the latest report on how local authorities are utilising their carbon offset funds as part of my net zero carbon target for new buildings. Since 2016, this policy has realised almost £90 million London-wide to support the climate and ecological emergencies. An

additional £39.8 million has been collected or secured for collection in the last year alone. This is great progress and a positive response to my 2019 recommendations to local authorities to consistently collect offset payments for applicable developments and to turn attention to spending funds as a priority.

Role of cities towards decarbonisation event

On 17th March my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy presented at the Zero Carbon International Forum Event hosted by Japan's Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). My Deputy Mayor spoke at the Plenary Session on the Role of cities in decarbonisation and the necessity for support from international organisations and national governments. She also highlighted the work in London to meet my net zero-carbon by 2030 target, the work of the London Recovery Board, and the GLA's work on the Green New Deal and green finance.

Responsible Procurement

On 18th March, I published a progress report on the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy. This presents activities by City Hall and the Functional Bodies to use public expenditure on contracts and grants to deliver social and environmental benefits to Londoners. This includes supporting fair employment standards, developing skills, enhancing equality, diversity and inclusivity, and tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. I also re-approved the revised GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.

Air Quality NGO Roundtable

On 18th March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended a roundtable discussion with a number of air quality-focused NGOs, convened by Environmental Defence Fund Europe. My Deputy Mayor discussed the progress we have made in reducing air pollution over the last five years and answered questions from attendees about planned next steps in my air quality programme, including the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

London Community Energy Fund

On 19th March, I confirmed the projects that received grant funding through the fourth phase of my London Community Energy Fund (LCEF). This fund supports community energy groups with project development and, for the first time, provides grants to help get projects fully completed. With a high standard of applications, I awarded over £500,000 in grant funding to 38 exciting projects across 23 boroughs. The fourth round of LCEF is supporting 19 grant recipients to commence projects as soon as possible to save carbon, aid communities and contribute to the green recovery. Recipients include 28 solar panel projects and 20 community energy initiatives in schools.

Meeting with Octopus Centre for Net Zero

On 13th April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Lucy Yu, the CEO of the Octopus Centre for Net Zero, to follow up on discussions initiated as part of the launch of the Centre for Climate Change innovation on 18th March, including opportunities for a tech-enabled green energy system in pursuit of my 2030 zero carbon target.

Meeting with Abundance Investment

On 19th April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Louise Wilson, the founder and joint managing director of Abundance Investment, to discuss the green recovery and developing innovative financing workstreams in London. They discussed opportunities to drive private investment into addressing London's major environmental challenges.

Camden Retrofit

On 20th April, my Deputy Mayor Environment and Energy met with Councillor Adam Harrison, Cabinet member for a Sustainable Camden (Camden Council), to discuss emerging plans for retrofitting social housing in the borough and to discuss synergies with GLA programmes and the Green New Deal mission.

Meeting with Andrea Fernandes, C40

On 21st April, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Andrea Fernandez, Director of Climate Planning, Finance and Partnerships at C40, to talk about the Divest/Invest Forum that I co-chair with the Mayor of New York. This followed meeting my Deputy Mayor had with Dan Zarrilli, Chief Climate Advisor to the Mayor of New York, and C40 officials on 8th May. They discussed progress of and priorities for the Divest/Invest Forum in relation to the 2020/21 work programme, along with future options for the work of the Forum and communications and outreach related to the forum in the lead up to COP26.

Education and Youth

Milestone for Mayor's London Scientist

During UK Science Week at the start of March, I was pleased to announce that my Mayor's London Scientist programme has enabled 10,000 pupils in primary and secondary schools to complete a CREST Award - the UK's top science, technology, engineering, and mathematics award scheme. Tasked with investigating London's biggest challenges – including tackling air pollution and supporting urban wildlife – young people have completed thousands of projects since 2018. Some of this year's brilliant projects can be viewed on my online exhibition, which will remain open until 15th June. You can have a look via this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/mayors-london-scientist-programme/mayors-london-scientist-exhibition-2021>

Expansion of Stepping Stones transition programme

In March, we opened applications for a new round of funding for my successful Stepping Stones programme.

Stepping Stones is a school-based, targeted intervention, supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils as they transition from primary to secondary school. Following the success of the pilot programme in 2016, Stepping Stones was scaled up through my Young Londoners Fund to support 15 schools between 2018 and 2020. A further cohort of schools are currently running the programme through the Violence Reduction Unit's Supporting Inclusive Schools programme.

An independent evaluation published in March confirmed evidence of benefits in terms of behaviour, attendance and attainment for Year 7 pupils taking part in the programme, as well as wider benefits the older pupils who are mentors, teachers and parents. The evaluation is available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/school-schemes/stepping-stones-2018/programme-evaluation>

This year, the programme will have the added purpose of supporting pupils who have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Eligible schools have been invited to apply for up to £50,000 grant funding to run the programme over two consecutive academic years.

Young Londoners Fund exceeding targets

After such a challenging year, I am pleased to be able to share that my Young Londoners Fund has now supported over 81,000 young people across the city. This is a testament to youth workers' hard work and determination, not to mention the resilience of young people who have continued to engage in positive activities with youth services throughout the pandemic. Having exceeded our youth engagement targets during this period, I look forward to supporting more young Londoners in the coming year.

Evaluation of early years programmes

In March, we published independent evaluations of two of my key initiatives to support London's early years sector.

My Early Years Hubs Programme, which ran from January 2018 until December 2020, aimed to improve the quality of and access to early education in three local areas - Barnet, Newham, and Wandsworth and Merton. The evaluation found that the programme had had considerable success in achieving these aims and that the collaborative local networks built by the hubs had supported over 500 early years providers and over 3,800 individual practitioners. You can read the full evaluation online via the following link:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/dda_evaluation_of_the_early_years_hubs_programme_-_march_2021.pdf

An online toolkit, capturing key learning and resources from the programme, will also be published soon, helping others to replicate successful elements of the hubs' work.

An independent evaluation of my Early Years Leaders Programme, run by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA), can also be found online via the following link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/support-families-and-early-years/early-years-and-childcare/early-years-leaders-programme>

From the summer of 2019 until December 2020, this programme supported a cohort of early years practitioners looking to further develop their leadership and management skills, by matching them with experienced coaches within the sector. The evaluation identifies tangible improvements to the practice and provision of these practitioners, while also exploring the successes and challenges faced in supporting them through the Covid-19 pandemic.

London Local Authority Network for Care Leavers

On 18th March, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, opened the first meeting of the London Local Authority Network for Care Leavers. This network is co-convened by the GLA, The Children's Society, The National Care Leavers Covenant, Partnership for Young London and London Councils. Care experienced young people on my Peer Outreach Workers team and the London Children in Care Council are part of the steering group and will be co-facilitating meetings.

In the first meeting, network participants discussed how we can work together to reduce some of the inconsistencies in the local offer to care leavers across London, and ultimately improve the level of support they receive when they are making the often challenging transition into independent living. Future meetings will focus on themes such as employment and housing, health and transport.

Communities and Social Policy

Grants awarded as part of Community-led Recovery programme

A total of 35 successful grantees were announced as part of my Community-led Recovery programme, supporting groups disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. Community Led Action and London Community Story are the two grant streams falling under the programme which spotlight how lived experience can influence policy design. The programme has engaged an Expert Advisory Group to guide its development.

A series of virtual meetings have kickstarted the programme:

- **Sharing Learning:** A public event with wider community, civil society and academic groups discussing their Covid-19 collections
- **Welcome Event:** Grantees meeting each other and learning more about the programme expectations
- **Learning Network:** Grantees' first session, providers procured to support training and a new resource produced to support their learning 'Connecting Community Insights to Policy'.

Civic Futures launch

On 16 March, I launched my second cohort of Civic Futures, a programme bringing together civil society leaders and local government officials for joint learning. Civic Futures is a growing Fellowship facilitated by Koreo, Dark Matter Labs and The Young Foundation, in partnership with the Greater London Authority. Starting from March 2021, my Community Engagement team is working with 30 people from across London's civil society and local government to facilitate a collective learning and discovery experience focused on peer connection, exploration and inquiry, systems thinking, and collaboration across London's civil society.

Civil Society Roots incubator programme

On 16 March, I awarded 20 community-led partnerships grant funding and access to my Civil Society Roots incubator programme. This programme will offer the partnerships development

support - testing new ways of working and growing the organisation's resilience and sustainability. All the partnerships are led by and for communities who have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and are looking to raise the voices of Londoners, increase feelings of belonging or increase access to support and services for these groups.

Grant funding awarded as part of the Food Roots Incubator Programme

On 16 March, I awarded grant funding and access to an incubator programme to ten food partnerships as part of the inaugural Food Roots Incubator programme. The programme will help food partnerships across London to grow, become more sustainable and deliver initiatives that tackle food insecurity (the successful partnerships have not yet been announced publicly).

London Family Fund programme evaluation report

On 19 March, I published the evaluation report of my London Family Fund programme (2018-2020). A flagship programme from my Social Integration Strategy, it supported innovative projects to bring families together to build relationships and reduce isolation. My report highlights the impact these types of projects have on parent and child wellbeing.

Relationships and connections have never been more important to the health and resilience of London's communities. To help families now and as London recovers from the pandemic, my report offers recommendations for organisations looking to run similar projects.

The report was shared with several stakeholders who work in this space, it was included in my London Early Years newsletter and my Deputy Mayor, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, wrote a piece for the publication Education and Youth Now.

Relationship building toolkit for civil society organisations

On 19 March, I published my relationship building toolkit for civil society organisations. The toolkit builds on experiences of how civil society groups brought Londoners together through the pandemic to build more resilient communities.

It aims to help organisations take stock of how they responded to the pandemic, support to embed new ways of working and continue to build relationships between Londoners.

During the pandemic, we saw communities organise and support each other like never. The incredible response from Londoners and civil society organisations, reminds us of the remarkable strength of the community and faith sectors in London. My toolkit will help empower communities and support stronger relationships across local areas throughout London.

Advice in Community Settings grant programme launch

On 19 March, I launched the Advice in Community Settings grant programme. The scheme builds on my successful pilot with CPAG that embedded welfare advisers in primary schools and directly contributes to the Robust Safety Net recovery mission. The programme will provide small partnership building grants to advice services and community locations such as schools, food banks, faith settings, or children's centres, before funding them to deliver interventions that connect the most excluded Londoners with advice that can help alleviate financial hardship. The closing date for applications is Monday 10 May.

Grants awarded under the Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers Fund

On 24 March, I awarded grants to seven frontline organisations and their partners in the migration and homelessness sectors. The projects funded will support Londoners sleeping rough to prove or obtain secure immigration status and enable a positive move on from the streets or from emergency accommodation. My Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers Fund has provided £557,000 for projects which aim to reach migrant rough sleepers to reduce their vulnerability to rough sleeping again or becoming entrenched rough sleepers, as well as reducing their risk of falling victim to exploitation or crimes such as modern slavery. Several projects were launched in April 2021, with the remaining projects due to start in May. They will run for a minimum of 12 months.

Health

London vaccine programme

Throughout March and April my Community Engagement team supported Public Health England and NHS London to run a series of important public meetings on the London vaccine programme. ‘Big Conversation’ events were held online with communities from across London. Meetings were held in collaboration with London Jewish Forum, London’s Black Majority Churches, the British Islamic Medical Association, the Eastern European Resource Centre, Partnership for Young London, the Latin American Women’s Rights Service, Age UK and the 3 Million. Meetings were also held with Somali Londoners and East and Southeast Asian Londoners. At least 2,000 Londoners, including representatives of various community and faith organisations, took part in these Big Conversation events.

My team have also continued to hold monthly Public Health Briefings in collaboration with Public Health England and NHS London, bringing community leaders together to keep updated of the situation across the city and how we can all support each other.

Call to Arms campaign

On 19th March I was pleased to join the NHS, PHE and London Councils in signing an open letter to Londoners calling on them to come forward to have their Covid-19 vaccine when eligible. Over 5 million doses of the vaccine have now been given to Londoners, but we must ensure that no one is left behind. We wrote to Londoners to reassure everyone who is currently eligible but yet to receive the vaccine that it’s not too late. You can read the letter online via the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/2021/03/19/a-call-for-arms-letter-londoners/>

Vaccine visit to John Scott Vaccination Centre, Green Lanes, Hackney

On 21st March I was pleased to be able to visit a pop-up vaccine centre run by the Hatzola in the heart of North London’s Orthodox Jewish community. As a community that has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, it was inspiring to meet the medical professionals and volunteers working hard to ensure those most at risk receive their life-saving vaccine.

Revised Water Only Schools Toolkit

My Health Team, in partnership with Public Health England London and my Child Obesity Taskforce, produced an update to a Water-only primary schools toolkit which I originally launched prior to the first lockdown in February 2020. The updated toolkit includes specific guidance on managing the provision of water safely and in a Covid secure way for schools. The revised toolkit was made available on 19th March 2021 prior to the beginning of PEP on my Healthy Schools London website:

www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/healthy-schools-london-0/water-only-toolkit

Pandemic Response

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

During this period, key topics discussed have also included variants of concern and surge testing, asymptomatic testing, long Covid, mental health, and how we support Londoners to stay safe as we progress through the stages of the Government's Roadmap.

Roundtable on children and young people's mental health, launching the new Good Thinking content

On 10th March, I hosted a roundtable with a group of young Londoners, chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM. The virtual roundtable was organised by my Health Team in collaboration with Good Thinking and Partnership for Young London. It acted as an opportunity for young people to openly discuss their experiences of the pandemic, what has helped them build emotional resilience, and share their hopes for London's recovery. The timing fell as many young Londoners returned to school, college, university and work as lockdown began to lift, shining a spotlight on the pressures that the pandemic is putting on young people's mental health. During the roundtable I heard remarkable stories of resilience and strength that gave me hope for London's future. I made a commitment to the group that young Londoners' voices, ideas and ambitions will be at the heart of the effort to 'build back better'.

The roundtable marked the launch of Good Thinking's new expanded offer to young people, which I funded with a £70,000 investment. The digital platform now provides thirteen to eighteen-year olds with access to free resources and new NHS approved apps to support mental wellbeing and emotional resilience. Good Thinking have worked in collaboration with Partnership for Young London to develop this new offer. During the roundtable I heard first-hand how the new apps and resources are benefitting the group, as well as their friends and families, supporting them across a range of topics from bereavement to anxiety.

Letter to headteachers on children and young people's mental health

On 11th March, I wrote a letter to all London headteachers on the topic of young people's mental health and wellbeing, sharing with them the latest tools, support and resources. This followed a number of concerning reports on the mental health impacts of the pandemic, including the annual Prince's Trust survey that showed that 1 in 4 young people

have felt unable to cope. In my letter, I thanked education staff for their tireless work supporting young Londoners through this exceptionally challenging period, and laid out my hopes for young Londoners as we recover from the pandemic. With the letter, all headteachers received a comprehensive list of the latest tools, support and resource offers available to young Londoners, their parents, carers and teachers. These include CAMHS Crisis lines, training programmes, mental health charity offers, and a link to the expanded Good Thinking resource that I funded, aimed at thirteen to eighteen-year olds.

Mental Health Awareness Week

I showed my support for Mental Health Awareness Week (10th – 16th May), encouraging Londoners to be active in reflecting on the ‘connect with nature’ theme. Through a year of lockdowns, our parks and green spaces have been a lifeline to many Londoners, bringing great mental and physical benefits. The week was an opportunity to explore these, as well as think about the barriers some Londoners face in accessing nature. Thrive LDN reflected on this with a panel discussion with The Royal Parks, King’s College London, local authorities and green community groups. This is the sixth annual Mental Health Awareness Week I have supported as Mayor of London – each one has been an important opportunity to encourage conversations around mental health, reduce stigma and reflect upon what most helps us to feel emotionally resilient.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Active Londoners round two

In March, I awarded £332,000 in grants to 19 community organisations using sport to improve the physical and mental health of Londoners as part of the second round of my Active Londoners fund.

This funding will provide free or affordable local sports and physical activity opportunities for Londoners in places where demand outstrips supply. Activities funded aim to reduce inactivity levels and improve mental wellbeing for Londoners most likely to experience health inequalities, including those on low incomes, disabled people, older people, people suffering from long term mental health conditions, and women and girls.

Sport Unites Workforce programme outcomes

In March, my Sport Unites Workforce programme completed the first phase of its delivery. Two pan-London community sport workforce networks – London Youth and Sported – were recruited to deliver this project.

London Youth engaged 154 at-risk 16–24-year-olds through its Young Leaders programme; the young people, prior to this engagement, lacked a pathway to become active in the community sports workforce. The programme was delivered by 20 youth workers from a diverse group of community organisations. London Youth provided mentoring sessions, with a menu of 60+ training opportunities in direct response to the young people’s needs, enabling young people to develop and pitch their own social action project ideas, before delivering them in their communities.

Sported recruited 10 organisations to co-create and develop a curriculum for sport for social integration and receive capacity building support. This curriculum was then delivered to 39

organisations. A grant programme was delivered to teacher and learner groups to support organisational capacity building activities. Both projects equipped and motivated Londoners to use sport for social integration in pursuit of their own objectives.

NFL Academy partnership pilot

In March, my Community Sport team commenced the delivery of a £100,000 partnership project with the NFL Academy UK. This is a new programme, bringing together both sport and classroom activities, to explore the positive impact of American Flag Football on local communities. The programme consists of two pilot projects exploring the capacity of the NFL's American Flag Football programme to engage young people and improve their life skills as well as physical and mental wellbeing.

The NFL Academy School pilot is taking place in five schools across Haringey, providing a combination of American Flag Football and mentoring sessions to young people aged 12-16 at risk of exclusion. The mentoring sessions are run by a specialist organisation providing mentoring and therapeutic intervention for young people at risk. It aims to challenge young people's perceptions and improve attendance, aspirations, and behaviour. This three-month programme will culminate in a celebration event co-delivered with the NFL Academy professional players.

The second pilot partners up with a community sport organisation (HR Sports Academy) to engage young women (aged 13-18) in sport, upskill the community partner to deliver American Flag Football sessions, and provide mental health and wellbeing support to the participants.

HeadStart internship programme

My Team London and Community Sport team welcomed 14 young people from The Challenge for my first two-week virtual internship. Interns worked with seven teams across the GLA and MOPAC, for one week in February and another in April. I have offered placements to HeadStart Interns since 2015 and all went through a competitive recruitment process. Despite not being able to experience working at City Hall in person (due to Covid-19), interns immersed themselves in all activities on offer and gained valuable skills and experience.

Support for mutual aid groups in London

On 18th March, I launched the Mutual Aid Plus programme, a pan-London peer support network for mutual aid groups that aims to provide an opportunity for groups to connect, share their experiences and get support, awarding funding to Volunteer Centre Hammersmith and Fulham, in partnership with Volunteer Centre Camden. The programme will run until the end of June and is open to all mutual aid groups in London. As well as providing immediate support for volunteer-run groups, the programme will help to improve our understanding of the current needs of these groups to inform how we and strategic partners can better support this type of volunteering.

Somali Community roundtable

On 8th March, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired a roundtable with the Somali community. We had pan-London representation from 12 organisations who shared their experiences of Covid-19 and wider issues relating to crime and violence. Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director of Public Health England and Martin Machray, Joint Regional Chief Nurse for London

at NHS England, attended to respond to health concerns. A collaborative follow-up letter was sent to all attendees to address specific points in more detail. On 19th March, I featured in the Council of Somali Organisations' vaccine compliance video to share the message to take up the vaccine within the Somali community.

My London: Enabling Youth Social Action

On 15th March, three partnerships of youth organisations were accepted onto my new 'My London Programme'. My London: Enabling Youth Social Action has been developed in response to the growing concern around young people's mental health due to the impacts of Covid-19. This programme puts frontline youth sector organisations at the heart of developing models of youth engagement for young people in their communities.

The three partnerships of five youth organisations will be resourced to take part in a six-month Design Lab where they will use their local knowledge and frontline expertise to co-design a model that will increase participation opportunities for vulnerable young people and amplify youth voice in their boroughs. Partnerships will then be able to apply for ringfenced funding of £200,000 to deliver co-designed model in their boroughs. This programme is being delivered in Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge, Ealing and Hillingdon, and Greenwich and Lewisham.

Culture and Events

Lighting Report Launch

On 10th March, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, launched a new report by the Centre for London called 'Seeing Clearly: how lighting can make London a better city'. The report, which was part funded by the GLA, explores the benefits of better lighting across the capital and makes recommendations for improvements. The launch event included a panel discussion on making public spaces more welcoming and inclusive and how lighting can contribute towards a sustainable city and carbon reduction targets.

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm

On 16th March and 12th May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, chaired meetings of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. The Commission set out key delivery areas: improving representation through new commissions, developing guidance and best practice and telling the full story of Londoners. Diversity is central to London's identity and to our city's success, but many Londoners do not see themselves or their histories reflected in our public realm.

Community Spaces at Risk Fund Recipients

On 17th March, I announced more than £196,000 in emergency grants to 23 grassroots community organisations which have been hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. A further 18 organisations received tailored one-to-one advice and business support to help overcome the impacts of the pandemic. The support is helping with immediate threats such as rent, maintenance costs and supporting organisations to stabilise and become sustainable.

So far, I have provided grants of up to £10,000 to organisations across 16 London boroughs, with further funding to be given out in the coming months. More than half of the spaces receiving support are in areas of deprivation, and 87 per cent are led by underrepresented groups, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ communities, Deaf and disabled people, and women-led groups.

World Cities Culture Forum Webinar

On 18th March, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired a global webinar on the ‘Public Realm and How We Shape Our Cities’. Global cities shared approaches and challenges on diverse representation in the public realm. Speakers included David Bryan, member of the London’s Commission on Diversity in the Public Realm, Emily McDaniel, Curator of Harbor Walk, Sydney and Michał Krasucki, Director of Heritage Protection Department, City of Warsaw.

This webinar is part of an ongoing series of international conversations to share policies and solutions to address the impact of the pandemic on culture and creative industries on global cities, and share the learning with cultural partners in London.

Night Time Publications and Resources

On 18th March, I published a series of resources to support a safe night-time reopening and contribute to the city’s economic and social recovery from the pandemic. The resources support struggling night-time businesses and councils to improve high streets for all at night. These resources include guidance to develop a Night Time Strategy; a Night Time Data Observatory with research and evidence to make informed decisions; and the Night Time Enterprise Zone pilot which provides a blueprint for boosting high street activity after 6pm.

Women’s Night Safety Charter

In March, following the tragic death of Sarah Everard, I renewed a call for organisations across London to sign up to my Women’s Night Safety Charter. It sets out guidance for venues, operators, charities, councils and businesses to improve safety at night for women, including better training of staff, encouraging the reporting of harassment and ensuring public spaces are safe. So far nearly 500 organisations and venues have signed up.

Cultural Social Prescribing Myth Buster Guide

On 18th March, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, together with leading charity, London Arts and Health, launched the new Arts and Culture: Social Prescribing Myth Buster, a free guide with resources and case studies, a website, podcast and videos, with testimonials, about the positive impact of social prescription. Since launching, the resources have been accessed over 3,000 times. My Culture and Creative Industries Unit will bring together doctors, social prescribers and creative practitioners to improve access for all Londoners to cultural social prescribing as part of supporting Londoners’ Mental Health and Wellbeing in the post pandemic recovery.

Creative Land Trust: First Building Acquisition

On 19th March, the Creative Land Trust announced the acquisition of Stone Studios in the heart of Hackney Wick, one of my first Creative Enterprise Zones. This represents a substantial step towards the Trust’s goal of securing 1,000 affordable workspaces for London’s artists and

makers. The 33,000 sq. ft. space will provide permanent, genuinely affordable studios and ensure that artists can continue to flourish in one of the capital's creative hotspots.

This acquisition is the first in what will become a portfolio of properties owned by Creative Land Trust, which I co-founded with Arts Council England, Outset Contemporary Art Fund and Bloomberg Philanthropies, with a mission to secure long-term, affordable workspace for artists and makers to support London's creative industries.

Illuminated River Lighting

On 13th April, five new bridges were officially lit as part of the second phase of the Illuminated River artwork, a unified light installation by artist Leo Villareal across the River Thames. The new bridges are; Blackfriars, Waterloo, Golden Jubilee, Westminster and Lambeth Bridges. The artwork now extends across nine Thames bridges, from London Bridge to Lambeth Bridge, to form the longest public art commission in the world. The artwork will be seen for free by approximately 100 million people per year.

Creative Freelancers

On 12th May, I announced my new programme 'Creative Freelancers: Shaping London's Recovery', which will bring together up to fifty freelancers and fifty cultural organisations to explore the role of creative freelancers in London's recovery. The programme is a response to the Centre for London report 'Supporting London's self-employed workers' which I part funded, and which was published on 8th March. Freelancers will make policy recommendations to develop a new charter to improve working conditions for creative freelancers.

International

On 18th March, I spoke at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' 'Pritzker Forum on Global Cities' on pursuing an inclusive and sustainable recovery through global collaboration. I emphasised the ability of global cities like London and Chicago to lead the charge in pursuing a future where no one is left behind, where racial justice and gender equality are secured, and where cities are truly able to flourish and thrive. Other speakers at the event included Dr Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Pete Buttigieg, US State Secretary of Transportation.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Esports Report

On 11th March LLDC and Here East launched an esports Feasibility Report, celebrating emerging esports activity and highlighting the growth opportunity for establishing a world-class esports cluster across Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Park is already home to global esports competitions at the Copper Box Arena, Staffordshire University London – which offered the UK's first esports undergraduate course – and esports and gaming businesses such as BT Sport, Sports Interactive and Bidstack.

GDI Hub

On 15th March, Here East resident the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) was announced as the first World Health Organisation (WHO) Official Collaborating Centre on Assistive Technology. Based at UCL, and soon to join the UCL East campus as part of East Bank, the GDI Hub is born out of London's Paralympic legacy. This collaboration is testament to the incredible work of the Hub in driving forward disability innovation. In only two years, more than four million people with disabilities have been supported with access to assistive technology, over 35 different countries.

Legacy Youth Board conference

On 18th March, LLDC's Legacy Youth Board hosted a virtual conference for young east Londoners. Entitled 'Future Me, Future Youth' the free event was designed as a space to amplify the voices and views of young people aged 14-25; enabling them to share their experiences, exchange ideas, connect with new people and inspire each other.

Housing and Infrastructure

Work continues to progress on housing and infrastructure delivery on the Park. On 18th March, the LLDC announced that Notting Hill Genesis had been selected to develop three strategic sites owned by LLDC in Hackney Wick Central. These sites will deliver around 190 homes (50 per cent of which will be affordable, in line with the newly adopted London Plan) and 4,500 m² of commercial space, including flexible retail and community facilities.

As more homes are delivered on and around the Park, future-proofing transport infrastructure is key to ensuring local population growth is adequately supported. The LLDC is collaborating with Newham Council, TfL and Network Rail to build a strategic business case to the Government on Stratford Regional Station redevelopment. The project is now moving forward, with the appointment of 5th Studio to deliver an Urban Design Framework for the Stratford Station area being announced on 12th May.

London Stadium and Events

While venues have started to reopen to the public in line with central Government guidance, events continue to be held safely behind closed doors. London Aquatics Centre played host to the British Swimming Selection Trials on 14-18 April, while Copper Box Arena has continued to host Vitality Netball Superleague matches. Elsewhere on the Park, FIH Pro League returns to Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre from 8th May for three weekends of world-class hockey.

Over at London Stadium, West Ham United home matches continue to be held behind closed doors, while this summer's Hella Mega Tour has now been postponed to 2022. Agreement has also been reached to move the 2021 Müller Anniversary Games from London Stadium – scheduled for 13th July – following negotiations between the LLDC and UK Athletics, which will save on seat move costs.

Work continues to generate revenue savings at London Stadium and reduce operating costs. As part of plans to maximise commercial benefit from the venue, it was announced on 6th April that a new open-air event space at London Stadium would be available for hire over the summer.

Shared Employment and Training Programme

The 2021 cohort of LLDC's Shared Employment and Training (STEP) programme started their virtual inductions on 4th May, ahead of their placements. Now in its fourth year, the programme allows young east Londoners to access 12-month, London Living Wage traineeships with some of east London's most exciting cultural and creative organisations. This year's partners include East Bank partners Sadler's Wells, V&A, BBC and UCL, as well as Pretty Bird, Worldwide FM and Bow Arts.

STEP is now being delivered as part of the Good Growth Hub – the new focal point for local people seeking Park-based careers and for employers looking to recruit diverse, local talent – which is based at Hackney Bridge.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Local Plan

On 5th March, OPDC submitted modifications to its draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspector, following approval from its Planning Committee and Board. The changes have been thoroughly assessed and will enable OPDC to meet the London Plan homes and jobs targets, with a forecast 13,800 homes in the first ten years. This is a major milestone for OPDC and follows several months of collaborative working with key local stakeholders and engagement with the wider community.

Following confirmation from the Inspector, OPDC will begin a public consultation on 17th May, lasting for seven weeks, until 5th July. To ensure it is as inclusive and accessible as possible it will run on a bespoke digital consultation platform, supplemented with mailouts to over 44,000 properties, and include five online events. Subject to the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in June, OPDC plans to run an in-person roadshow across several locations in the area.

Planning approvals

On 11th March, OPDC's Planning Committee resolved to grant outline permission for a new data centre of up to 25,000 m² at 37-39 North Acton Road in Park Royal.

Employment & Skills Hub

The Forge @ Park Royal, OPDC's Employment & Skills Hub, is now up and running and supporting recruitment for over 70 job vacancies and has already successfully placed candidates for roles with major local employers, including HS2 and Cargiant. The programme of business support activities will be launched in May and with plans to hold an employment fair on site later this year when Covid-19 restrictions are forecast to lift.

Great Place Scheme, Small Grants

OPDC's Small Grants initiative, funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England as part of OPDC's £3 million community arts, culture and heritage programme, the Great Place Scheme, has hit the milestone of funding £100,000 across 20 community projects, benefitting over 1,300 participants from the local area. Activities kickstarted by the funds

include after-school and youth clubs, mentoring, community newspapers, mutual aid and support networks, skills training sessions and local sustainable products.

Planning

London Plan

Following publication of my London Plan earlier in March, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government responding to matters raised in his earlier correspondence, but which fell outside the statutory process.

I clarified the position in relation to housing delivery including the significant increase in the number of homes which have been delivered during my administration including a record-breaking year in 2019-20. I also responded to matters relating to homes delivered on small sites, family housing and offered to work constructively with MHCLG to apply their approaches in the London context.

I raised my on-going concerns about the measures required to deliver a strong economy and to support businesses, and my belief that this cannot be achieved by pursuit of housing at all costs – people want more from their towns, cities and high streets.

I look forward to collaborating further on these crucial issues for London.

Planning London Datahub

On the 18th March I launched the second part of the Planning London DataHub, which collects, compiles and makes available data on all planning applications in London in a uniform format. This data, collected as part of the planning application process, means that for the first time everyone can transparently see the outputs of the planning system across London and implications of planning policy as changes happen.

This data release is the first iteration of the datahub, and work on improving the volume, quality and output of the data is still in progress.

This marks the first big step in the digitalisation of the planning system.

London Plan Guidance

On 19th March, I published four new pieces of guidance in draft form, which will support the implementation of the London Plan. These documents provide guidance on how boroughs' Local Plans and new development can promote fire safety, provide appropriate land for transport needs, support a greener London through the application of the urban greening factor and improve air quality by being 'air quality positive'. The documents will be consulted on over summer 2021 through a series of engagement events with London boroughs and a variety of stakeholders.

Local Plans

The GLA has responded on my behalf to Regulation 19 Local Plan consultations from Lewisham and the City of London, and to Southwark on the Regulation 18 Old Kent Road Area Action Plan.

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

114-150 Hackney Road, 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.

1,2,3 and 9 Watkin Road, LB Brent

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

66-70 High Street, LB Bromley

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Bromley stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Vaughan Road Car Park, LB Harrow

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Harrow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Licensed Facility Number 3, Tripcock Point, LB Greenwich

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Greenwich stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

747-759 and 767 Old Kent Road and Land at Devonshire Grove, LB Southwark

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Brunel University, Kingston Lane, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Belgrove House, LB Camden

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Camden stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

GSK, Stockley Park, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Kidbrooke Village, Phase 3 (Blocks F and G only) and Phase 5 (Blocks C, E and J only), LB Greenwich

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Greenwich stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

1-8 Capitol Way, LB Brent

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Brent stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

The Seedbed Centre & Rom Valley Retail Park, LB Havering

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Havering stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Colosseum Retail Park, LB Enfield

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Enfield stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land East of Sainsbury's, LB Newham

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Newham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Homebase, 2c Fulbourne Road, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Waltham Forest stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

86-96 Garratt Lane, 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.

Solar, Serena, Sunrise Court, 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.

6-12 Verney Road, LB Southwark

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Southwark stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Imperial Fields, Tooting & Mitcham FC, LB Merton

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Merton stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Skipton House, 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.

Scott House, LB Lewisham

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

217 High Street, Yiewsley, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

North Kensington Gate South, LB Hammersmith and Fulham

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

King's Crescent Phases 3 & 4, LB Hackney

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hackney stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land bounded by Pettman Crescent, LB Greenwich

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

Crown Trading Centre, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Trocoll House, LB Barking and Dagenham

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Arnos Grove, LB Enfield

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Enfield stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Acorn House, LB Camden

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Camden stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Blackheath Business Estate, Blackheath Hill, 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.

Low Hall Sports Ground, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, acting under delegated authority, wrote to the London Borough of Waltham Forest stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Blackwall Way Yard Jetty, Blackwall Way, London
- 301-303 Ilderton Road
- Site at 2-6 Commercial Street, 98 and 101-105 Whitechapel High Street, Commercial Street, Gunthorpe Street, London
- 330 Ealing Road
- Land South of 7-9 Christchurch Road, Britannia Point
- Former Southall GAS Works
- 17-37 William Road
- 180 Piccadilly & 48-50 Jermyn Street
- Douglas Bader Park Estate, Colindale
- Clapham Common, London
- Land South of WIM
- Plots B1 and C, Harrow View East
- Edmonton Green Shopping Centre
- Land, Including Edward Edwards House And The Prince William Pub, Suthring House, At 216-220 Blackfriars Road (north Of Nicholson Street), SE1
- Land At Woodcote Green Garden Centre
- 706 To 720, High Road, Goodmayes, Ilford
- GLEBE FARM, WEST END ROAD RUISLIP
- Morris House , 2 Bensham Lane
- Gas Holder
- North London Collegiate School
- Unit 3, Hyde Estate Road
- Block T (within Phase 2A), Beam Park Former Ford Assembly Plant Site
- Wood Street Library
- 1 Southwark Bridge Road
- Network Building
- Quay House, Admirals Way, London, E14 3AG
- Lambeth Hospital, 108 Landor Road
- 19 Great Eastern Street and 9 Hewett Street
- Silvertown Bus Garage Site
- 403-405 Edgware Road
- Garden House 5 St Johns Road
- 81-103 (odd) King's Road
- Tolworth Tower Complex
- Project 100 development, Technico House, 4 Chistopher Street, 56 & 58 Wilson Street and 1,3 & 5 Earl Street
- Waste Management Resources LTD, 12 (Formerly part of 7-10) Penhall Road
- 1-13 Southampton Way
- Tobacco Dock Car Park, 15 Wapping Lane, London, E1W 3HW

- Segro Plot 2
- Battersea Studios
- Land Bounded By Fleet Street, Salisbury Court, Salisbury Square, Primrose Hill & Whitefriars Street, London, EC4Y
- Chandos Road Trading Estate
- Manhattan Business Park
- Beaverwood Lodge Sports and Leisure Club
- Wennington Quarry
- Waterworks Centre And Middlesex Filter Beds

Key Engagements

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

- I had an introductory meeting with Cllr Hamida Ali, Leader of Croydon Council, on 8 March
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 8 March
- I hosted a roundtable for Somali community groups on 8 March to discuss how they have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic
- I met with John Holland Kaye, CEO of Heathrow Airport Limited, on 9 March to discuss shared priorities and how Heathrow can contribute towards a strong green recovery in London
- I chaired the London Recovery Board meeting on 9 March
- I joined a meeting of the leaders of the UK's major performing arts organisations and commercial theatre producers on 9 March to discuss plans to reopen London and to hear from the theatres on reopening initiatives in other major cities such as New York
- I visited the Cycleway 4 trial extension route to London Bridge on 10 March
- I chaired the LEAP Board Meeting on 10 March
- I had an introductory meeting with John Boumphrey, the new UK Country Manager, Amazon, on 10 March
- I hosted a roundtable with a diverse group of young Londoners on the topic of children and young people's mental health on 10 March
- I had my regular conference call with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 10 March
- I chaired the London Covid Business Forum on 11 March
- I met with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 14 March to discuss the policing of the Sarah Everard vigil
- I met with representatives of Reclaim These Streets on 15 March to discuss the policing of the Sarah Everard vigil
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 15 March
- I joined a conference call hosted by Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Covid Vaccine Deployment, Department of Health and Social Care, with the M9 Mayors on 16 March to discuss vaccine deployment
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 16 March
- I chaired the London Recovery Board meeting on 16 March
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 18 March

- I attended the GLA Unison AGM on 18 March
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 18 March to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I visited the new council homes at the Charrington Place development, 500 White Hart Lane, in Tottenham, which were built under the Building Council Homes for Londoners (BCHfL) funding programme, on 18 March
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 19 March
- I visited the John Scott Vaccination Centre in Hackney on 21 March to join a Covid-19 vaccine event for the Orthodox Jewish community
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders Covid-19 Committee on 22 March to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I visited the new London Blossom Garden at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 23 March, the anniversary of the start of the first national lockdown
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 25 March to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 25 March
- I had my regular conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 25 March
- I met with HMI Matt Parr on 26 March to discuss the policing of the Sarah Everard Vigil
- I had an introductory meeting with the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, on 26 March
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 29 March
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 30 March
- I met with Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, Founder, Ella Roberta Family Foundation, and Professor Sir Stephen Holgate, Air Quality Adviser to the Royal College of Physicians, on 30 March to discuss their suggestions on how to ensure air pollution is recognised and addressed as a public health crisis
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders Covid-19 Committee on 1 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 6 April
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 7 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 7 April to discuss policing and security
- I had my regular conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 7 April
- I joined an event hosted by The Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association, which is the professional association for health care staff in the UK and Ireland, on 8 April, to dispel some of the myths surrounding Covid-19 that have contributed to vaccine hesitancy amongst BAME communities
- I attended the Forth Bridge ministerial committee on 12 April
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 12 April
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders Covid-19 Committee on 12 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I met with the new cohort of HeadStart Interns at the GLA on 13 April
- I visited businesses in Central London on 13 April to understand more about the challenges business owners have faced and the work they have done to prepare to re-open safely

- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 15 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I chaired my regular planning decision meeting on 19 April
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders Covid-19 Committee on 19 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 21 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I had my regular conference call with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 22 April
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on 27 April
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 29 April to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I attended my official signing in ceremony at The Globe Theatre on 10 May
- I visited the Tate Modern on 10 May as part of the #LetsDoLondon Campaign launch
- I addressed all staff in the GLA Group with colleagues from MOPAC, TfL, LFB, OPDC and LLDC, on 11 May
- I had my regular conference call with Transport for London on Tuesday 11 May
- I met with the GLA Corporate Management Team on 12 May
- I joined Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on a visit to Lewisham Police Station on 13 May
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders Covid-19 Committee on 13 May to discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on London
- I met with the Transport Union General Secretaries on 13 May to discuss my priorities for transport in London during my second term

Ends