

42nd Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 18th June 2020

This is my forty-second report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 8th May – 4th June 2020.

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

Executive Summary

COVID-19 update

Thanks to the monumental efforts of Londoners following the guidance, we have significantly reduced the number of COVID-19 cases in the capital. As we begin to move into the next phase of the response, it is vital that we do not undo this hard work and risk a second wave that could devastate our city.

Thousands of Londoners have lost their lives to the disease, and life has changed for us all. The Government has now moved to begin further relaxations of lockdown, but life is nowhere near being back to normal. Failure to take the right precautions now could lead to new COVID-19 cases resulting in a devastating second wave of the virus.

I remain committed to focussing the resources of the Greater London Authority on protecting Londoners from the virus.

As schools reopen to more children, there is still widespread anxiety amongst parents and teachers about how safe it is for children of any age to return to school. TfL has issued advice for headteachers, parents and guardians across London on how they can play a part in controlling the coronavirus as schools gradually begin to reopen.

This means walking, cycling or scooting to school wherever possible, and TfL is working to rapidly create extra space across the capital as part of our world-leading Streetspace for London programme, making temporary changes to roads to support safe walking and cycling and enable social distancing.

For those who have to use public transport, TfL is working hard to return bus and tube services to normal levels as soon as possible, despite staff members still being ill, shielding or self-isolating. It is operating 85 per cent of bus services and 80 per cent of Tube services, but even if 100 per cent of services were being operated, the number of people TfL would be able to safely carry would still be constrained to around 13-15 per cent of normal while the recommendation of 2 metre social distancing remains.

Because of the impossible problem of seeking to run a public transport network that relies entirely on revenues – with no central Government support like in almost all other major cities – at such reduced capacity, I had no choice but to accept the terms of the Government's bad deal to safely run public transport in London for the next four months. I have limited the Government's temporary suspension of free travel for Older Person's Freedom Pass and 60+

passengers to peak hours, and I am lobbying the Transport Secretary to rethink his demand that free travel be suspended for under 18s – a saving that provides a lifeline for many families.

It has become increasingly clear that while life has changed for all Londoners, the impacts of COVID-19 fall disproportionately on some groups, and I have consistently raised serious concerns about the impact of the virus on Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. City Hall has published a study looking at the disproportionate impacts of the virus, which shows that the highest COVID-19 death rate in London is an area of Newham, where 82 per cent of the population are BAME, one in three is in insecure employment and there are high levels of deprivation, obesity and diabetes.

I have ensured that BAME staff across the Greater London Authority family will have access to risk assessments that will consider the physical and mental health needs of all those at greater risk.

Many of the issues we need to respond to have continued to be managed by our COVID-19 Strategic Coordination Group, which has recently been looking at issues including the London-wide approach to the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), the economic impacts of the pandemic, the provision of food to vulnerable people, the physical and mental wellbeing of Londoners as the crisis continues, health oversight for London and contact tracing and testing.

It has also been looking at the potential impacts of the release of lockdown, and as we move towards a new phase in the response to the virus, we have been looking at how the structures we now have in place should change.

From 9 June, I will co-chair regular meetings of a new London Transition Board with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick. Partner organisations such as the Metropolitan Police, London Councils, NHS, London First and the New West End Company will also be represented. It is proposed the Board will run until the end of 2020. The Transition Board will focus on immediate issues of outbreak control, the ongoing ability of the health and social care systems to support the pandemic, the reopening of public services and the economy, and potential community matters arising from emerging from lockdown.

Alongside the London Transition management Group, I am also co-chairing a new London Recovery Board, with the Chair of London Councils, Cllr Peter John OBE, to oversee arrangements for London's longer-term economic and social recovery.

This Board has representation from local government leaders across London, Public Health England, London Funders, the Trades Union Congress, and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as other key stakeholders. The objective of the recovery work is to restore confidence in the city, rebuild its economy and society and look to reshape London to be fairer, more equal, greener and more resilient than it was before the crisis.

Throughout all this, we must remain ready to respond to any eventuality, and our tentative move towards the next phase of the response must not breed complacency. But I am confident that Londoners will continue to show the resolve, togetherness and compassion that make this great city what it is, as we move through this together.

Face coverings update on public transport

On 4 June, I was pleased to hear that our lobbying has paid off and the Government has finally seen sense and made it mandatory for people to wear face coverings on public transport. This is something I and others have been calling on ministers to do for some time, and is in line with a large body of evidence that they can help stop the spread of coronavirus.

I encourage anyone travelling on public transport, or anywhere you can't keep a safe 2 metre distance, to wear a face covering, but from Monday 15 June, everyone must wear a covering over their nose and mouth for the entirety of any journeys made using the public transport network. This will be mandatory and will help everyone be safer.

Transport for London continues to work hard to maximise services despite staff being ill, shielding or self-isolating. The reality is that due to social distancing the effective capacity of public transport services has been dramatically reduced. We can only carry between 13-15 per cent of passengers. We all must play our part by working from home if we can and making journeys on foot or by bike if at all possible, in order to keep the service safe for those who really need it. I want to thank Londoners who have made monumental sacrifices over the last ten weeks and stuck to the rules. I urge them to continue to do so to help save lives.

Black Lives Matter

The brutal killing of George Floyd has rightly ignited fury, not just in America, but around the world. It must serve as a catalyst for change.

I stand in solidarity with black people experiencing systematic racism and commit to use my voice to amplify theirs.

I am chairing a meeting with the Metropolitan Police, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, on 5 June to speak to community leaders to concerns around community policing in London.

I know that some Londoners may choose to protest. If you do, I urge you to do so peacefully, lawfully and safely. COVID-19 is still a real threat to our city, so if you protest, please make every effort to stay 2 metres apart from others at all times, and do refer to PHE's guidance on how to stay safe.

Remembering the London Bridge attack

Three years have passed since the appalling terrorist attack at London Bridge. On 3 June, we as a city remembered the victims, their families and the emergency services and first responders who ran towards danger without a second thought.

My thoughts are with the families and friends who lost loved ones in this awful attack, and who are having to adjust to grieving in very different and difficult circumstances this year.

The cowardly terrorists who commit these dreadful acts do so to try and divide us, and to change how we treat one another. But we should be proud of the way our city has responded – time and time again – by remaining united. Londoners will always see our diversity as one of our greatest strengths, and we will continue to honour the innocent victims by staying true to the values that bind us together.

Risk assessment for BAME staff

On 1 June, I announced that Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) staff across the Greater London Authority, including Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade – will have access to risk assessments as part of measures to help those disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

This pandemic must be a wake-up call to our country, and we need the Government to show their commitment to tackling these great injustices and immediately commission an independent public inquiry that will properly address this issue.

Government's plan to end free TfL travel for under 18's

On 28 May, I wrote to the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps MP, urging him to drop the Government's plan to end free TfL travel for under 18's. It is abundantly clear that losing free travel would hit the poorest Londoners hardest at a time when finances are stretched more than ever.

We know that children and young people in some of the most deprived areas in London are exposed to the highest road danger risk and I am very concerned about the overall equality impact of these proposals. I want to make sure that families who might not have a choice but to use public transport are not further disadvantaged.

Urgent Lifting of the benefit cap

On 28 May, I called for the for the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, asking that he suspend the no recourse to public funds condition (NRPF) following my letter on the 30 March.

As a result of this policy, Londoners with NRPF are facing homelessness and denied access to Universal Credit support when they lose their income and/or housing assistance. Their children are refused access to child benefit, free school meals and other welfare support because of their immigration status.

There has been a collective call to suspend NRPF condition from across local government, to enable people to get the support they need, but, crucially, to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by those still who feel they have no choice but to go out to work. This poses additional challenges to vulnerable Londoners with an additional burden placed upon victims of domestic abuse with NRPF. This affects people who have lived in the UK for many years, often with children born and brought up here. While some can apply to have the NRPF condition lifted to access welfare support, many are not aware of this, or they cannot access agencies for support during lockdown.

On 24 May, I called for the Government to urgently lift the benefit cap after new research commissioned by City Hall revealed that tens of thousands of low-income Londoners are being excluded from COVID-19 support measures. This will leave families unable to pay their rent and other essential bills, and ultimately at risk of homelessness. That's why it's so important that the Government urgently lifts the cap on benefits so that low-income households can get the support they need.

£9 million fund to help learners access training

On 26 May, through my Adult Education Budget we made available £9 million to help skills providers offer their courses online, as well as targeted support for learners who may have difficulties accessing such services.

I am confident this funding will have a significant impact for providers and learners. I'm committed to doing all I can to help Londoners to gain the skills they need to access employment, despite the difficulties we face now and in the coming weeks and months.

Plans announced for London's COVID-19 Recovery

On 22 May, both I and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, announced plans for how the capital's transition out of the COVID-19 crisis will be managed.

The new London Transition Board will be co-chaired by both I and Robert Jenrick. The Board will seek to co-ordinate London's response to trends, issues and risks as London emerges from lockdown and begins to reopen its economy while controlling the virus.

Until the end of the year, the London Transition Board will run in parallel with and complement the establishment of London Recovery Board, chaired and constituted by myself and Cllr Peter John, the Chair of London Councils. The Minister for London, Paul Scully, will attend the Recovery Board on behalf of government.

The London Recovery Board will plan and oversee the capital's wider economic and social long-term recovery, developing a strategy and plan of action to reshape London to be fairer, more equal, greener and more resilient than it was before the crisis.

The context for this work is extremely challenging. We have seen a disproportionate impact of coronavirus on different communities who now face acute challenges, with this crisis exposing long-standing inequalities. Our local economies and high streets have been particularly affected, and there are significant pressures on London councils, the GLA, TfL and others.

However, it is also an opportunity – to reimagine our city and define our aspirations and priorities for the recovery effort. A city where we build on the fantastic community spirit displayed by Londoners during these toughest of times, to deliver a cleaner, greener and fairer city, and work to create thriving neighbourhoods, with improved wellbeing and access to a strengthened healthcare system.

Retailers and non-medical face coverings

On 20 May, I wrote to all London's supermarkets and other retailers across the capital urging them to work with me to stock non-medical face coverings in all of their stores to help in the battle against COVID-19.

I really appreciate all the work being done by retailers across the capital to keep Londoners safe during this crisis, including all the vital measures they have put in place to ensure we can all socially distance.

I want to work with London's retailers to now go even further – ensuring they can supply reusable, non-medical face coverings in an affordable and accessible way for all Londoners.

Funding to make homeless hostels COVID-19 safe

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed so much about how we all live our lives. The most vulnerable Londoners need our support at this time more than ever.

That's why, on 18 May, I made my £40 million Homelessness Change fund available for remodelling existing hostels to make it easier to maintain social distancing and self-isolation, ensure bathroom facilities aren't shared and help slow any spread of the virus between hostel residents.

Car-free zones in London as Congestion Charge and ULEZ reinstated

COVID-19 poses the biggest challenge to London's public transport network in TfL's history. It will take a monumental effort from all Londoners to maintain safe social distancing on public transport as lockdown restrictions are gradually eased.

On 15 May, I announced plans to transform parts of central London into one of the largest car-free zones in any capital city in the world. This is necessary because the severely reduced capacity on public transport due to social distancing requirements means we expect many more people to walk and cycle for essential journeys. These plans will help improve the city's air quality and enable millions of journeys to be safely made on foot or by bike.

I ask that Londoners do not use public transport unless it is absolutely unavoidable. Space on public transport is now a precious resource that must be available to those who need it most. If you can work from home you should continue to do so. We should all spend more of our leisure time in our local areas too.

I fully appreciate that this will be incredibly difficult for many Londoners. It will mean a fundamental reimagining how we live our lives in this city. And this transformation will not be smooth. But I promise to be as clear and upfront with Londoners as possible about what we are doing, why and exactly what we need from you in order to keep us safe.

An effective test-trace-isolate and support system needed

On 14 May, I called on Government to urgently develop and introduce a largescale effective test-trace-isolate and support system to prevent a second wave of the coronavirus.

Sadly, we know COVID-19 hit London faster and more severely than the rest of the UK, but thanks to the monumental efforts of Londoners who have followed the Government's instructions, we have reduced the virus in the capital.

Rapid and accessible testing and comprehensive contact tracing has been proven as an effective strategy to control the virus. It was a mistake for the Government to abandon this approach in early March and it must now make up lost ground so our city can start to re-open safely.

We have seen the important role that these systems have played in saving lives and restoring public confidence in countries like Germany, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Singapore, and we're ready to work with Government to ensure we have a system that meets London's unique needs.

Record broken for genuinely affordable home starts

On 14 May, I announced that more genuinely affordable homes were started last year than at any time since records began in 2002/3.

We continue to defy the doubters by breaking not just our own, but historic records year after year, but this pandemic is a massive challenge to our ambitious targets. Now, Government needs to match our ambition and determination. We have proved that we can make sustained progress and now we need ministers to acknowledge this and support us with the funding and resources we need to support the London housing sector as it emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

The crisis poses a unique challenge to the housing sector, but my COVID-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce are already working with partners in boroughs, construction, planning and housing associations to make sure we can continue to deliver the genuinely affordable homes Londoners need in the years ahead.

Action on COVID-19 BAME disproportionality

A person's ethnicity should not mean the difference between life and death and yet COVID-19 has exposed major health inequalities in our society.

That is why, on 12 May, I convened a meeting with experts from a range of sectors who share my concerns that some Londoners – particularly Londoners from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds – many of whom work in frontline roles, are disproportionately affected. I've been clear that this pandemic must be a wake-up call for our country and a catalyst for fundamental change. Once this crisis is over, we will need to forge a new social contract based on advancing the twin causes of racial and economic equality.

On 17 May, I called on the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, to commission an independent public inquiry into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the capital's Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. The government must take action to address the root causes of this injustice to ensure every Londoner, regardless of their background or the colour of their skin, has the opportunity to live safe, healthy and happy lives.

Policing, Crime and Security

Letter to the Prime Minister

On 12 May, I wrote to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, to highlight the impact that COVID-19 has already had, and would continue to have, on the capital's youth services and practitioners. Supporting young people by investing in the services they rely on is a significant part of our public health approach to reducing violence in London.

The letter called on the government to consider and implement additional measures to protect and galvanise youth services. These included:

- The Prime Minister to lead a cross-department and multi-agency effort to prevent a rise in violent crime;
- Government to invest in a comprehensive range of diversionary activity targeted at young people;
- Government to direct more resources to schools and local authorities to support them in getting vulnerable children back into education;
- Funding for 6,000 additional police officers in London, and;
- Clear and sensitive messaging around the lifting of lockdown, with an 'explain and encourage' approach to policing maintained.

I welcomed Government funding in this year's budget to enable us to support interventions, and for the Metropolitan Police, but I also made it clear that in these new circumstances where young people's prospects are disproportionately affected by the pandemic, government needed to do more if we are to avoid COVID-19 leaving a legacy of increased youth violence.

Emergency accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse

During this pandemic, for those experiencing violence, home is not a safe place. It is vital that those who face the prospect of self-isolating with someone whose violence puts them or their families at risk, have urgent access to safe and secure accommodation.

I have announced a further £1.5 million emergency response fund to provide victims of domestic abuse with safe accommodation and support if they need to flee their homes during the coronavirus pandemic.

Working closely with frontline services and charities and together with the generous support of Londoners who have worked with us to make empty properties available, accommodation including houses flats and hostels for up to 82 victims of domestic abuse have already been found - safe spaces where victims and their children can self-isolate and get support including mental health, legal and social care help, as well as food and medical supplies. I am grateful to all those involved for their swift action to make this vital provision available for some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

Transport

COVID-19 Transport update

I would like to start by saying how devastated I am by the number of transport workers that have tragically died from COVID-19. Transport for London (TfL) and I continue to offer all the support we can, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to their families and all those across our great city that have lost loved ones to this pandemic.

While we continue to be affected by this major public health crisis, I would like to extend my thanks to all of Londoners who have followed instruction, observed social distancing and stayed at home.

Our Transport staff are performing a tremendous task in responding to the ongoing national emergency, ensuring vital transport links can be kept open so that doctors, nurses and other Londoners making essential journeys can get to where they need to.

I am pleased that all TfL frontline staff are being offered face coverings. Along with the introduction of hand sanitizer points, these additional measures will further protect our heroic staff and passengers at this critical period.

Following the Government's announcement of an outline roadmap for the next period, TfL has set out its initial plan to support this and help Londoners who need to travel do so safely and sustainably. The plan requires significant changes to the way in which people travel in London.

During the crisis, TfL has been able to operate up to 60 per cent of Tube services and more than 80 per cent of bus services to support essential journeys. This has been while managing the impact of the virus on the transport workforce with staff ill, shielding or self-isolating. As staff are returning to work we are increasing services as fast as possible to get back to 100 per cent.

Transport providers, borough councils, schools, businesses and Londoners all continue to have a vital role to play over the coming weeks, working with Government to meet a travel demand challenge that far outstrips the challenge experienced during the 2012 Olympic games.

Coronavirus has had a profound impact on public transport in London and will continue to do so long into the future. All public transport providers face huge challenges around social distancing - with the number of passengers TfL can safely accommodate on Tubes and buses reduced by over 85 per cent.

So, my message to Londoners is this, if you can work from home, please continue to do so. Please avoid public transport wherever possible. Social distancing on public transport will not be possible unless we radically reduce the overall number of people travelling to work; do not expect to return to the transport network you were used to before. The number of people TfL can safely transport on buses and trains is severely constrained to enable social distancing; if you need to travel, please reimagine how you do so. Walk and cycle if you can. New walking and cycling space is being created through the London Streetspace programme to further support this; if using public transport, or taxi and private hire services, please travel outside of peak times and use a facial covering, carry a hand sanitizer and wash your hands before and after you travel.

In recent weeks we have reached agreement with the Government on a funding package to allow TfL to run public transport safely in London for the next four and a half months. This was necessary because COVID-19 has had a catastrophic impact on TfL's finances – as it has on every transport provider in the UK. In the last few years, London has been the only major city in western Europe that hasn't received direct Government funding to run day to day transport services since it was cut by the last Government. This means we rely very heavily on passenger fares to pay for the services we run. Fares income has fallen by 90 per cent in the last two months because Londoners have done the right thing and stayed at home – so there simply isn't enough money coming in to pay for our services. The Government has insisted that, unlike the deals done elsewhere in the country, TfL takes on £505 million of additional debt. This will undo the hard work we've put in to fix TfL's finances over the last four years: prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, TfL was in a strong financial position, reducing its operating deficit by 71 per cent and increasing its cash balance by 16 per cent.

Over the next few months a new funding model will have to be negotiated with Government – which will involve either permanent funding from Government or giving London more control over key taxes so we can pay for it ourselves - or a combination of both.

I promise to continue being as upfront and clear as possible with Londoners about the challenges facing our city. There will be testing times ahead but together we can overcome the challenges we face.

Andy Byford appointed London's new Transport Commissioner

On 27 May, Transport for London and I confirmed the appointment of Andy Byford as London's new Transport Commissioner, following an international recruitment and selection process.

Byford's most recent role was President and Chief Executive Officer of New York City Transit Authority, where he was responsible for 50,000 staff and devised a \$40 billion five-year investment plan to renew the city's transport system.

He will join TfL on 29 June, with the current Commissioner, Mike Brown MVO, staying on until 10 July to hand over to Byford and aid his start in the role before he takes up a position overseeing the renovation of the historic Houses of Parliament.

Byford brings to TfL a track record of leadership and transformation within major urban transport authorities and has worked within a wide range of complex stakeholder and political environments in a transport career that has spanned over 30 years and three continents

The new Commissioner will receive a salary of £355,000 - the same as the current Commissioner Mike Brown MVO, and the same as the former Commissioner Sir Peter Hendy in 2015/16. The Commissioner is also eligible for a performance award each year of up to 50 per cent of salary. Byford is also entitled to a relocation payment but has chosen not to take it.

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on public transport in London but Andy brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise to lead TfL as it faces this unprecedented challenge.

Funding Settlement from Government

At the eleventh hour, on 14 May Government confirmed a funding package to allow TfL to run public transport safely in London to October 2020. I have been completely honest and upfront

with Londoners – this is not the deal I wanted. But it was the only deal the Government put on the table and I had no choice but to accept it to keep the Tubes and buses running.

We have been running as many services as humanly possible given the number of staff off sick, shielding or self-isolating. As staff are returning to work we are increasing services as fast as possible to get back to 100 per cent and started increasing services further from Monday 18 May, including reopening some of the stations that had been closed.

The Government is, in effect, making ordinary Londoners pay the cost for doing the right thing on COVID-19. They want fares to go up next January – ending the four years fares freeze I delivered after the last election. They have insisted that free travel is temporarily suspended for Older Person's Freedom Pass and 60-plus card holders at peak times and suspended for under 18 year olds. The Government has also insisted that, unlike the deals done elsewhere in the country, TfL takes on £505 million of additional debt. This will undo the hard work we've put in to fix TfL's finances over the last four years – when TfL's operating deficit has reduced by 71 per cent.

This deal is a sticking plaster. The old model for funding public transport in London simply does not work in this new reality – fares income will not cover the cost of running services while so few people can safely use public transport. Over the next few months we will have to negotiate a new funding model with Government – which will involve either permanent funding from Government or giving London more control over key taxes so we can pay for it ourselves - or a combination of both. I promise to continue being as upfront and clear as possible with Londoners about the challenges facing our city. This is not the deal I wanted for our city, but together we can overcome the challenges we face.

Passenger and Staff Safety

Since 20 April, TfL has been asking bus passengers to board through the middle doors, to prevent them needing to interact with the driver. This meant they did not need to touch in after boarding. On 23 May, TfL began the phased re-introduction of the requirement for passengers to touch in on buses with their contactless, Oyster or concessionary card, starting with routes served by single-door and New Routemaster buses.

Following on from this, London's buses began returning to front-door boarding from Saturday 30 May, with customers required to touch in with Oyster, contactless and concessionary card. This move followed extensive work by a multidisciplinary team from UCL's Centre for Transport Studies and Department of Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering assessing the risks for drivers in their cabs and close work with bus operators and the UNITE union to develop improvements to the screens beside bus drivers.

Advice for businesses on how to keep staff safe as Londoners return to work

On 26 May, TfL published advice for businesses across London on how they can play a part in controlling the coronavirus as national restrictions on movement are gradually lifted.

This advice will work alongside Government guidance on safe travel, helping businesses to understand the specific challenges for London's transport network during the pandemic and how to keep their staff safe as they consider how they will return to work.

Measures to help enable social distancing wherever possible are being put in place. These include new signage and platform stickers, as well as operating stations differently through restricting entry if necessary and one-way and queuing systems.

TfL is doing everything possible to provide a safe transport network for those people who need to use it. But businesses can also help enable social distancing wherever possible by keeping the numbers of people travelling on public transport down.

In advance of the schools reopening on 1 June TfL has been engaging with education bodies to ensure they have the appropriate guidance to pass on to staff, parents and students so their journeys back to school are as safe as possible.

Review into coronavirus infections and deaths among bus workers

On 21 May, TfL announced it had asked University College London (UCL) Institute of Health Equity to provide independent advice as part of a forthcoming two-part study to better understand the pattern of coronavirus infections and deaths among London's bus workers.

The studies have been commissioned following the tragic deaths of 43 colleagues, including 28 bus drivers, among bus operators within London and will ensure that TfL is taking all possible measures to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of those working to keep the bus network moving.

The first part of the study, into which UCL Institute of Health Equity is providing advice, will review and advise on TfL's operational response during the pandemic. It will examine the range of measures that have been introduced to protect bus workers, including the rigorous cleaning regime in place across the network and social distancing measures for both members of staff and customers. This work will take place within a matter of weeks, enabling TfL to quickly undertake any improvements to current measures as necessary.

The second part of the study, which will be commissioned shortly, will examine the potential contribution that occupation exposure plays in differences in infection and death rates between London's frontline transport workers and the general London population, by adjusting for a range of risk factors including age, gender, ethnicity, economic status and non-occupational exposures. This will take around three to four months and will help inform recommendations on any additional measures that should be put in place to protect these key workers. The full scope of the study is still being finalised.

Fire and Resilience

London and South East Regional LRF Chairs call

On 11 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting of the Local Resilience Forum Chairs from London and the South East. The Forum discussed the impact of COVID-19.

London's Strategic Coordinating Group

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

City Hall Council Leaders update

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

Fire and Rescue Services External Reference Group

On 12 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, took part in a call with representatives from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Fire & Rescue Services to discuss how the Fire Sector had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strategic Coordination Group update call for London MP's

On 14 and 28 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired virtual meetings to update London MPs on London's response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Assembly Members Leaders updates

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

Global Resilient Cities Network EME Regional Convening

On 26 May, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual conference with representatives from the Global Resilient Cities Network to discuss the impact of COVID-19 and future renewal and resilience.

Call with Fire Commissioner

I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend regular virtual meetings with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 2 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, held a virtual meeting with members of London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to brief them on the response to COVID-19.

Dowgate Fire Station Visit

On 1 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited Dowgate fire station to view the social distancing measures put in place by the London Fire Brigade in practice.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Skills for Londoners Board and Skills for Londoners Business Partnership

My Skills for Londoners Board and Business Partnership met on 20 May and 2 June respectively to discuss the Adult Education Budget emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, including the Skills for Londoners COVID-19 Response Fund which launched on 15 May.

A joint Skills for Londoners Board and Business Partnership COVID-19 Recovery Workshop is planned for June/July to ensure these key stakeholders can inform the work we do to support the skills sector in London in the medium to long term. The boards also provided feedback on potential options for taking forward the London Learner Survey, and how this can help measure the impact of the AEB in London.

Housing

Building safety

On 18 May, I responded to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee call for evidence on 'Cladding: progress on remediation'. The submission provided the GLA's reflections on delivery of the existing funding programmes to remediate aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding, and my position on the forthcoming Building Safety Fund for the remediation of non-ACM external wall systems.

On 26 May, the Government released its prospectus for the new £1 billion Building Safety Fund, which the GLA will deliver in London. In response, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, wrote to Lord Greenhalgh to set out our concerns about the exclusion of most social landlords and the failure to protect leaseholders from the cost of interim safety measures.

COVID-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce

On 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, met with his Housing Delivery Taskforce to inform the development of a cross-sector post COVID-19 recovery plan. The meeting focused on policy interventions to strengthen demand and increase the supply of new genuinely affordable homes.

Tom Copley convened the Housing Delivery Taskforce again on 4 June, to further develop the potential cross-sector response to COVID-19. The focus of the meeting was on planning interventions to ensure there is a stable pipeline of implementable residential schemes.

National Housing Federation Webinar

On Thursday 21 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, participated in a webinar with the National Housing Federation, presenting to Housing Associations the work that the Homes for Londoners team has been doing in response to the COVID-19 crisis and answering questions on issues ranging from key worker housing to the

disproportionality of the impacts of the virus on BAME communities. He also thanked them for their work supporting vulnerable residents during the crisis.

Cities for Adequate Housing seminar

On 22 May, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, participated alongside representatives of Paris, New York, Barcelona and other cities in an online seminar organised by United Cities and Local Governments, a global network of city and local governments. The seminar discussed potential solutions to the current and future housing crises resulting from COVID-19, the measures adopted by local and national governments so far and the case for greater public investment to meet the housing needs of citizens.

Rough sleeping

I am continuing to work with the Government, the NHS, boroughs and charities to protect people sleeping rough from COVID-19 and enable them to follow Government guidance around self-isolation, social distancing and handwashing. As at 28 May, the GLA had procured 14 hotels and there were over 1,350 rough sleepers being accommodated and supported in these and other safe accommodation.

I am also continuing to work with partners to ensure that once the lockdown is lifted no-one needs to leave emergency accommodation secured in London for rough sleepers without an offer of support to end their rough sleeping. My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, has written to the Minister of State for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Luke Hall MP, asking him to pledge funding to ensure that this can happen, as well as to continue to provide the resources needed to keep rough sleepers in safe emergency accommodation in the meantime. On Tuesday 2 June, my Deputy Mayor also attended a meeting of the Government's Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel.

I have written to the Prime Minister reiterating my - and many other organisations' - call to suspend the no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition and wider immigration-based exclusions during the crisis, to ameliorate the struggles of countless people facing destitution without access to the welfare safety net during these difficult times, and to help end rough sleeping for good.

Private rented sector

Despite having no formal powers over the private rented sector, I continue to do everything I can to stand up for London's private renters. In May, I rolled out training for borough housing and Trading Standards teams on how to deal with unlawful behaviour by rogue landlords and letting agents, particularly unscrupulous operators attempting to flout the current suspension of evictions during the COVID-19 crisis. Training is being delivered by Safer Renting, a specialist advice, advocacy and support organisation for private renters, and covers rent-to-rent scams, sub-tenancies, harassment and illegal evictions- as well as longer-term solutions for tackling rogue operators.

GLA officials have also worked with the Metropolitan Police to help officers better respond to illegal eviction calls. Police officers will use my 'Report a Rogue Landlord or Agent' tool to log any incidents they attend, so that borough teams can follow up with the tenant and start enforcement action against the landlord if appropriate.

Mount Anvil

On 1 June, I announced a £50 million loan facility for developer Mount Anvil. The partnership is the first of its kind between GLA Land and Property and a private developer. Through this collaboration Mount Anvil will be able to purchase additional land that will deliver circa 1,400 new homes by the end of March 2025. I am proud that at least 50 per cent of these homes will be genuinely affordable for Londoners, and that the agreement includes commitments regarding equality and diversity. These include confirmation of existing commitments from City Hall and Mount Anvil, such as never building separate entrances to segregate tenants in social properties from their private neighbours. My intention is that this will form a model for future funding agreements with GLA Land and Property.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Lobbying the Government for additional business support

In early May, I wrote to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak MP, and Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma MP, urging them to bring forward additional measures to support the capital's businesses.

As rent is one of the top issues reported by SMEs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, I called on the Government to introduce a rent compensation scheme for SMEs that are struggling to pay their rent bills due to coronavirus. I also called on Government to encourage the property industry to bolster government support with other help for tenants and require banks and fund managers to give landlords flexibility on servicing debt.

Government grants are only reaching 26 per cent of businesses properties in inner London boroughs, compared to 50 per cent across the rest of England because of high rateable values in parts of London. Businesses are falling through the cracks, because of the value of their landlord's assets, rather than the specific burdens they face.

I have called for Government to retrospectively raise the rateable value thresholds - and while the recently announced discretionary funding now available to SMEs is welcome, it is unlikely to address the level of need in the capital. Government must provide further funding to London to safeguard the small business eco-system.

I am clear that both in pressing the Government for more support, and through my direct business support programmes, effort must be focused on those groups and sectors that need it most. We have seen how the health impacts of the pandemic have varied by socio economic group and it is clear that the economic impacts are also following a similar pattern. Social integration is at the heart of everything we do to support businesses recover from this crisis in order to ensure that the most vulnerable businesses are protected.

Meeting with the Governor of Bank of England

On 29 May, I held a call with the Governor of Bank of England, Andrew Bailey. We discussed the Bank of England's economic forecast scenarios for London, and London's recovery strategy. I also discussed with the Governor the bank's views on next steps for Brexit and the impact for London.

Student business ideas submitted to Mayor's Entrepreneur competition

The 2020 Mayor's Entrepreneur competition, the GLA's annual competition for student business ideas, closed for applications on 22 May. This year there were four Award categories: Environment, Health, Creative Industries, and Smart Cities. We received 515 applications involving over 900 students and recent graduates from 38 London universities and colleges across the 4 categories. The ideas will now be judged, and four winners announced in the autumn, who will then each receive £20,000 start-up funding to make their ideas reality. The programme and prize money are funded through support from Citi Foundation.

Launch of London Growth Hub series of webinars

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis I called on my Enterprise team to expand the capacity of the London Growth Hub's support offering for businesses. In addition to extra Growth Hub advisers being installed, and the creation of an online advice hub, the London Growth Hub has recently launched the 'COVID-19 Business Help' webinar series. This encompasses a series of highly informative free webinars delivered by expert speakers. The webinars have been carefully designed to guide London's small businesses across various problem areas, as they navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

On Wednesday 20 May, the London Growth Hub hosted the first webinar in the series on the topic of 'Gateway to Finance: Loans, Grants, Cash Flow and Tax Relief'. Then, on Tuesday 26 May the London Growth Hub, hosted the second webinar in this series, on the topic of 'Adapting Communications to Retain Customers'.

These webinars were attended by 67 businesses and 16 businesses, respectively, as well as being recorded and uploaded to the London Growth Hub website, so they can be viewed by further businesses.

On Thursday 28 May, the London Growth Hub, in partnership with the Federation of Small Business, hosted a webinar for micro and small businesses to address the topic of insurance. The webinar provided information on relevant issues such as COVID-19 and Business Interruption Insurance; business continuity and getting back to normal after lockdown.

This webinar was attended by 40 micro businesses and SMEs. It was also recorded and uploaded to the London Growth Hub website, so it can be listened to by further businesses.

On Tuesday 2 June, I launched the Shared Workspace support programme which, for the next 18 months, will provide information on business rates relief, guidance on negotiating leases with landlords, support to tenants on applying for funding as a result of COVID. The project aims to provide active and informed support, via webinars and 1-2-1s to London's shared workspace community.

Pay It Forward London

Last month I launched the Pay It Forward London, a campaign which enables Londoners to buy goods and services in advance from small businesses to help them stay afloat during the necessary restrictions to fight the spread of coronavirus.

So far, the Pay It Forward London platform has helped over 156 small businesses raise over £231,570, with the support of over 3,891 Londoners.

We have recently launched a marketing campaign to encourage more of London's businesses to use the platform.

Deputy Mayor for Business highlights continuing need for support faced by London Businesses during Coronavirus pandemic

On 7 May, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, addressed a London & Partners and Department for International Trade (DIT) roundtable, 'Back to the Future', to discuss a variety of topics from crisis management to re-mobilisation and back to business from the pandemic with key international businesses and investors.

My Deputy Mayor also joined two virtual meetings, on 26 and 27 May, of influential London business leaders convened by London & Partners' work to support their work in encouraging a responsible recovery in consumer spending, built on consumer confidence for London's vital culture, retail, hospitality and events sectors post coronavirus.

Also in May, my Deputy Mayor participated in Fintech Insider's "The Breakfast Show", and contributed an op-ed piece to City AM on 22 May, outlining the ways in which London businesses still need help during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Environment

C40 Statement of Principles for a Green and Sustainable Recovery

On 7 May, I joined 46 other global Mayors in endorsing C40's principles for cities' sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The principles focus on a healthy, equitable and sustainable recovery that jointly tackles the climate crisis and is not a return to "business as usual". I re-affirmed my commitment to share thinking and examples from London to limit the impact of this pandemic and also to build a better future.

New London Architecture Webinar

On 12 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed a webinar organised by New London Architecture entitled 'Zero Carbon London: establishing priorities for the post-COVID recovery'. Alongside a panel of experts, the Deputy Mayor set out how London can achieve its climate targets and how it intends to fund and support green initiatives as part of its recovery.

Guidance on park use

Following changes to guidance on 13 May, I revised and updated messaging and approaches for using parks and green spaces in London. Advice was posted on the GLA website, supported by London Councils, MOPAC and the major parks organisations. This will continue to be reviewed as lockdown measures are eased in the future.

Reinstatement of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and Low Emission Zone (LEZ)

Before the COVID-19 lockdown, my air quality policies, including the introduction of the ULEZ, had contributed to a reduction of 44 per cent in roadside nitrogen dioxide in central London between February 2017 and January of this year.

I have been clear that London's recovery cannot be car focused. On 18 May, TfL reinstated the ULEZ and LEZ to ensure we continue our aim to eradicate air pollution permanently as well as tackle the climate emergency. This is especially important given emerging scientific evidence that air pollution can increase vulnerability to the most severe impacts of COVID-19.

Cory incinerator claim for Judicial Review

On 21 May, I issued a claim for a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision to grant a Development Consent Order for the Cory Incinerator in Bexley. I have been clear that London is facing a climate emergency and does not need more energy from waste incinerators. My team has worked tirelessly through the examination process to demonstrate that this facility is not needed to manage London's waste and will have a detrimental impact on climate change and air quality as well as recycling rates.

Green Alliance Webinar

On 27 May, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed a webinar entitled 'Will COVID-19 switch the UK to sustainable transport long-term?'. The Deputy Mayor addressed an audience of over 600 on what is happening in London to support active travel and retain the improvements in air quality that Londoners have noticed during the crisis. The webinar was organised by Green Alliance and the audience was made up of senior representatives from business, civil society, government officials and academia.

Circular Economy Week

On 1 June, I opened the third annual Circular Economy Week, organised by the London Waste and Recycling Board and hosted online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The week showcased the work being done in London to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient future. Emphasis was also placed on the role that circular economy businesses can play in a green recovery. As well as presentations and discussion from London there were also contributions from Toronto, Sao Paulo, Catalonia and Glasgow. Embedding circular economy principles at the heart of our way of life is vital if we are to act to safeguard our planet against climate change, and Circular Economy Week is essential in moving the dial in the direction of fulfilling that objective.

Education and Youth

Supporting young Londoners during the COVID-19 pandemic

My team remain in close contact with stakeholders from across London's early years, education and youth sectors, discussing the challenges they're facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and exploring ways which we can support our city's children, young people and families.

Following Government announcements in May, primary schools and childcare providers across London (and England) are open to more children from 1 June. For primary schools, this will start with nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 children. Secondary schools will provide face-to-face support for year 10 and 12 pupils from 15 June.

I know how important it is for nurseries and schools to re-open, not least of all because every day children are at home, existing educational inequalities are widening. However, it has to be safe for children to go back.

My Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, is continuing to hold weekly meetings with the London Borough of Brent's Director of Children's Services, who leads on education for the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS). The issue of children being able to travel safely to their nurseries and schools emerged as a key concern from these meetings, and my team worked closely with Transport for London (TfL) which, on 20 May, issued specific guidance on this topic to headteachers, parents and carers. The guidance encourages children and families to walk, cycle or scooter where possible, as well as offering advice on staying safe on public transport. It calls on schools to adopt staggered start and finish times, as well as to work with local authorities to establish 'School Street' schemes - temporarily closing roads to traffic at the school gates during these key drop-off and collection times.

Supporting detached youth work

On 29 May, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, hosted an online webinar in collaboration with Partnership for Young London and the Federation for Detached Youth Work. The focus of the session was supporting young Londoners through detached youth outreach work - exploring current practice during the COVID-19 lockdown, as well as developing plans and good practice for once restrictions begin to be lifted.

London History Day

London History Day took place on 31 May and it is apt that this year's theme was resilience. I wanted to support families to learn about London's past and present heroes who have triumphed in challenging circumstances and gone out of their way to help others in need. That's why I joined forces with Historic England and the Museum of London to launch the [London Heroes Family Guide](#). Through inspiring figures, stories and activities, children could see how our city has been through many testing times before and that we have always emerged stronger by standing together.

Peer Outreach Team working with Thrive LDN

My Peer Outreach Team are busy working with Thrive LDN to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of young Londoners. They're producing a series of podcasts for students and care-leavers, which will delve into issues affecting these young people - not least of all, school closures and changes to exams due to COVID-19. The podcasts will explore ways in which problems can be resolved and offer practical advice to those listening.

Supporting teachers with STEM education

To support teachers to deliver high-quality education in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and help them address issues arising from school closures, my education and youth team has recently created a new STEM webinar series. There have been four webinars so

far, with topics including an 'Introduction to Primary Computing' on 13 May (run in collaboration with the National Centre for Computing Education) and 'Differentiating Effectively in Science' on 20 May. Overall, since lockdown began, 450 primary school teachers from across the UK have accessed these webinars, giving overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Looking ahead, the team plans to run further sessions aimed at secondary school teachers. We will also host an online careers event to mark Women in Engineering Day on 24 June. This will be aimed at students who want to find out more about engineering, and who are missing out on work experience and industry visits because of lockdown restrictions.

Communities and Social Policy

Faiths United-virtual iftar

On 6 May, I joined Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and other faith leaders at a virtual Interfaith Iftar organised by the Naz Legacy Foundation, along with 19,000 viewers across the UK. It was an honour to break my fast with so many others – I'm proud that Londoners have been continuing to meet virtually during Ramadan this year demonstrating our collective commitment to beating this virus together.

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, also joined the Faiths United for their virtual iftar on 18 May, celebrating frontline workers and community organisations who have been responding to COVID-19.

Civil society organisations briefing (in partnership with London Plus and London Funders)

On 21 May, my community engagement team worked with London Plus and London Funders to host a briefing for civil society organisations to offer support and guidance on the recovery process and funding in London. The briefing was attended by over 400 organisations and built on the feedback from the London Community Response Survey. This is part of an ongoing commitment to engage meaningfully with civil society and Londoners.

EU Settlement scheme

I launched a free in-depth casework training programme for the EU Settlement Scheme, developed by legal partners Here for Good. This training programme is open to all organisations and individuals supporting EU citizens.

The training has been designed to up-skill people advising on the EU Settlement Scheme and provide the tools to deal with complex cases.

COVID-19 information translated into 60 languages

On 28 May, I added COVID-19 information translated into 60 languages on the GLA's Coronavirus guidance hub. I am proud to be funding [Doctors of the World](#) to sustain their work and to improve the accessibility and reach of these resources and key messages.

It's integral that all Londoners can have access to COVID-19 information to protect and support the most vulnerable people in our city who don't speak English as a first language. To ensure Londoners with limited English receive the health guidance and support they need, I will run targeted promotion and stakeholder outreach with messages in their language, working closely with Doctors of the World.

Impact of Coronavirus on BAME Londoners

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, held a series of scoping conversations focusing on understanding and responding to the uneven impact of Coronavirus on BAME Londoners, so that we can develop an ambitious approach to making London fairer and more equal in the future. Participants included young Londoners, community leaders, Civic Futures members and Mental Health practitioners.

I have been clear that we must work in partnership with communities to understand the impact of COVID-19 and identify how we move forward. I am committed to making a real difference on this issue and know that grassroots civic led action is critical in that process.

Health

Weekly meeting with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman

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 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.

On 13 May, I was joined by Paul Jenkins, Chair, Cavendish Square Group and CEO, Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust and Paul Nasjarek, Chief Executive London Borough of Ealing and Chair Thrive LDN Advisory Group, for a discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on Londoners mental health.

On 20 May, I was joined by Althea Loderick, Chief Executive London Borough of Newham, Dr Deborah Turbitt, Deputy Director for Health Protection, PHE London and Dr Isabel Oliver, PHE National Contact Tracing lead to discuss the development of an effective Test, Trace, Isolate system in London.

Most recently I heard about the work underway by NHS and PHE as we move towards recovery from the pandemic, including the newly established Transition Board and Recovery Board. I will continue to meet regularly with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman in the coming weeks.

Guidance and support for Londoners about face-coverings

I welcome the Government's announcement on 4 June to make the use of face-coverings mandatory across all public transport systems in England from 15 June.

When the Government issued guidance on 11 May on the use of face-covering by the public where social distancing was not possible, I asked those who are making essential journeys on London's public transport system to wear a non-medical face covering for their entire journey. It will now be mandatory to do so, unless they are unable to for medical reasons. These should be reusable, non-medical coverings, rather than PPE or medical grade masks.

I have produced a range of content to help support Londoners prepare their own face coverings and to spread the messages about how important they are. These have included; a video by GP Ellie Cannon to highlight why wearing a face covering is important, a video showing how to make a face covering at home, and a dedicated web page on our coronavirus information hub. I am also looking at further ways to spread the message to Londoners, including our many diverse communities and those with additional needs. This will also include more 'how to' advice.

On 20 May, I wrote to the large retailers urging them to stock re-usable face-coverings for Londoners who cannot make their own face-coverings or would choose to buy one. My Business and Skills team and Culture team are continuing discussions with retailers and manufacturers to ensure that there are adequate supplies as we move into the recovery period. I believe that all Londoners should be able to access face coverings, and I continue to work with teams across the GLA to explore how we can make them available to all who need them.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London Nightingale Volunteers

From 31 March – 12 May, my Team London and EURO 2020 volunteers were deployed to assist at the NHS Nightingale Hospital. This was set up very quickly and volunteers supported the operation of the Clinical Training Centre. Upon closure of the centre on 12 May, 216 volunteers had completed nearly 1,200 shifts, totalling 7,000 hours of volunteering. The volunteer roles included welcoming, directing and registering up to 400 clinicians per day. All shifts were filled within two days of being released. The feedback from volunteers has been very positive and NHS staff have taken the time to thank Team London and recognise how vital the support has been to their work. A volunteer survey of those who helped at the Nightingale showed 96 per cent of volunteers felt that this opportunity has given them a sense of pride in contributing to their community/London. We remain in contact with the Nightingale team should there be a need to redeploy volunteers to support with this project at any point.

Community Sport Sector Advisory Group

In May, my Community Sport team convened a group of senior partners and stakeholders to explore learnings to date from Sport Unites, my £8.8 million community sport investment programme for London; and to discuss how this work may develop in the future to tackle key strategic issues of inactivity, social mixing, social isolation, mental health and serious youth violence in the context of COVID-19 and civil sector recovery priorities. The group will meet for a second time in July. In parallel, a series of public-facing discussions are taking place with a range of community organisations and beneficiaries.

Grants for BAME, Deaf and Disabled, Women's and LGBTQ+ led organisations

Funding of £75,000 has been awarded to Ubele, Council of Somali Organisations, London Gypsy and Travellers, Inclusion London, Women's Resource Centre and Consortium by the London Community Response Fund, to which I committed a total of £5 million to in April.

Through these grants we will help BAME, Deaf and Disabled, Women's and LGBTQ+ led organisations access more of the support that is available and enable them to continue helping these affected communities, but I urge the Government to ensure they provide the necessary levels of support to these essential services now and in the future.

Talking COVID-19 and Sport Series

In order to provide practical solutions to the challenges faced by the physical activity and community sport sector amidst COVID-19 crisis, my Community Sport team has delivered four webinars in collaboration with London Sport. These online seminars have been delivered discussing the themes of funding opportunities, adapting delivery, leadership in times of crisis, and mental health. These have attracted over 320 attendees. The latest webinar has demonstrated an unprecedented amount of participant engagement showcasing the relevance of the subject of mental health and need for support and guidance in the sector.

National Volunteers Week 2020

The beginning of June saw the start of National Volunteers week, celebrating volunteering across the nation. London's volunteers have provided urgent and vital support to charities on the front line in fighting COVID-19, and helped our communities to keep functioning. Charities are asking much more of their existing volunteers and recruiting thousands of new volunteers to help during this period of crisis. To recognise this, I have provided £25,000 to be awarded in small grants to charities who have incurred increased volunteering expenses throughout this period.

Culture and Events

East Bank, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

On 11 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended an East Bank Board meeting and updated partners on my response to support culture and creative industries during the COVID-19 crisis. All East Bank partners (BBC, Sadler's Wells, V&A, UCL and UAL) are fully committed to this ambitious capital project, despite challenges to each of the organisations due to the impact of the coronavirus crisis. Construction at both UCL East and Stratford Waterfront sites is now underway with measures in place to ensure safe working and travel. East Bank is a flagship culture and education project and will play a key role in London's recovery.

Culture for All Citizens European Cities Network (ACCESS)

On 11 May, funding of €749,746 was awarded through the Urbact European Commission funding programme to a new EU city network called ACCESS. This two-year programme brings together 8 European cities including Amsterdam, Dublin, Lisbon, London, Riga, Sofia, Tallinn

and Vilnius and will develop policies for enabling citizens to access culture across their respective cities. Tools will be developed to measure, and evidence social impact and cities will share best practice.

Panel Discussion with EUROCITIES

On 14 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, gave a keynote speech in an online webinar about impact of COVID-19 to the culture sector. The event was hosted by EUROCITIES, a network of local governments of over 140 of Europe's largest cities and over 45 partner cities across 39 countries. The meeting was attended by more than 100 people from across Europe and my Deputy Mayor spoke about actions London is taking to support our culture sector as well as sharing global insights on emerging trends.

Culture, Creative Industries and Night Time Roundtables

On 14 May, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held an online roundtable for the LGBTQ+ Venues Forum to discuss exit from lockdown and recovery planning and accessing the Culture at Risk Business Support Fund.

On 15 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, held an Exit online roundtable to discuss exit from lockdown and share learning across culture, creative industries and night time industries attended by leaders and key representative bodies including the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, Film London and the Theatres Trust.

On 20 May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, held a roundtable with cultural organisations led by or serving underrepresented groups to discuss the impact that COVID-19 has had on the communities they serve including Africa Centre, Black Cultural Archives and The Albany.

On 20 May, my Culture Unit hosted an online roundtable with 52 culture officers from London's boroughs to discuss the next steps and challenges in preparing for reopening of culture and community venues. This aimed to support and improve understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on local communities.

On 27 May, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held an online roundtable with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), borough officers and businesses to look at what practical support needed for night time businesses to reopen successfully on the high street.

Regular meetings with industry

My Culture Unit has held regular meetings with officers from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council England and the Creative Industries Federation on the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown measures on culture and the creative industries to provide a coordinated response for London. My Deputy Mayor Justine Simons has had a number of conversations with key industry leaders, including chief executives from theatres and performing arts venues who are at crisis point.

Culture at Risk Office

I have strengthened and scaled-up my Culture at Risk Office, deploying staff to provide support, resources and guidance as new relief measures are announced. In the past eight weeks,

the office has received, responded and followed up on 480 cases, of which, 400 are from premises-based organisations, and 90 from freelance individuals or limited companies.

World Cities Culture Forum

Throughout May, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired webinars with member cities from the World Cities Culture Forum attended by 16 cities including Los Angeles, Milan and Shanghai. The sessions looked at the impact of COVID-19 on cultural tourism, and included guest speakers from London & Partners and San Francisco Travel. Participants discussed immediate challenges over the next three months and how to build public confidence over the longer term.

Creative Enterprise Zones

My six flagship Creative Enterprise Zones are engaging with the local creative community to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on creative businesses, entrepreneurs and artists. They are supporting local creative freelancers and SMEs through newly launched commissioning, skills-sharing and grant initiatives. These include the launch of a £135,000 Relief Fund in the Croydon Zone, and a new scheme in the Hackney Wick Fish Island Zone which matches skilled professionals who are furloughed from their jobs with small businesses and the voluntary sector to provide strategic and practical business support.

International

COVID-19 International update

On 26 May, I joined a video conference with the Governing Mayor of Berlin and Professor Christian Drosten, Director of Germany's Institute of Virology and advisor to the German Federal Government, for a discussion about the lessons we can learn from Germany's response to the pandemic; the importance of mass testing and contact tracing; and what we can do to reduce the likelihood of a second wave, such as continuing with physical distancing and wearing non-medical face coverings in confined public spaces. The video conference was also joined by the Mayors of Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Budapest.

On 2 June, I gave a keynote speech to the Cities Against COVID-19 Global Summit 2020, which was organised and hosted by the Mayor of Seoul, and joined by Mayors and senior representatives of cities around the world. During this event I affirmed London's commitment to future close cooperation with Seoul and a network of other major cities on a coordinated response to any future pandemics.

On 3 June, I participated in a moderated discussion on how COVID-19 will change the future of European cities, part of the programme of events celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Polish Local Government. This was hosted by the Mayor of Warsaw and joined by the other signatories of the Pact of Free Cities – the Mayors of Prague, Bratislava and Budapest – as well as, the Mayor of Stockholm and President of Eurocities, Anna Koenig Jerlmyr.

London Legacy Development Corporation

COVID-19 LLDC update

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has remained open during the lockdown providing a safe and open space for people to use, especially those who do not have access to their own gardens.

LLDC has continued to work closely with other parks around the capital to encourage safe usage and to promote the positive physical and mental benefits of open spaces during Mental Health Awareness Week (18-22 May).

The main external screen at London Stadium was used to carry a special message on Friday 8 May to mark the VE Day celebrations and it continues to be used to promote public health messages and as a focal point to thank the NHS and other key workers.

Construction work resumed on the Stratford Waterfront site for East Bank on 1 June with special measures in place to ensure safe working and travel for staff and contractors.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

COVID-19 OPDC update

On 19 May, OPDC held its first remote Planning Advisory Panel to determine HS2's Old Oak Common Station design and two associated planning applications. Broadcast on City Hall's public webcast, OPDC's Planning Chair granted all three applications through delegated authority, in accordance with the requirements of remote meeting because of the COVID-19 crisis. This decision marks an important milestone for OPDC, as the station will generate huge economic investment, catalysing the Corporation's plans for regeneration in the area.

Officers continue to help local residents and businesses to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, working with London Boroughs, London Funders, voluntary sector organisations, Team London's Rapid Response team and the Local Enterprise Partnership for London (LEAP). Since March, OPDC staff - trained as Business Advisers - have been working with the GLA's London Growth Hub, helping over 650 businesses access support.

OPDC has secured a £255,000 grant from HS2's Business & Local Economy Fund (BLEF). The award will enhance the work of OPDC's new Employment & Skills Hub, in partnership with Job Centre Plus, to help local people get back into skilled employment, with a focus on assisting COVID-19 recovery.

Planning

Planning and Development Control Friday 8 May to Thursday 4 June 2020

Changes to the planning system needed to recover from COVID-19

On 11 May, I called on Government to make urgent changes to planning legislation to support London's economic recovery as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. I believe the government must prioritise good growth that provides for people's well-being, responds to the climate emergency and ensures an increasing supply of affordable homes.

I urged the Government to automatically extend a range of planning timescales for the period of this, and any future lockdowns. This would give the industry some much-needed flexibility to build out their permissions and make payments. I sought an end to sub-standard housing created by office conversions by introducing new standards and controls. I have also asked for minor changes to permitted development rights to support London's businesses, especially our cultural assets such as theatres which are under particular threat.

Planning Decisions (call ins)

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has sent a letter in response to the following statutory referral:

Nine Elms Parkside, South London Mail Centre, LB Wandsworth

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Wandsworth stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Homebase, 229-255 Kingston Road, RB Kingston Upon Thames

My Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Argenta House, LB Brent

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Brent stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Quay House, Isle of Dogs, LB Tower Hamlets

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Northwick Park Hospital, LB Brent

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Brent stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

National Westminster Bank Sports Ground, Beckenham, LB Bromley

My Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Bromley stating that I am content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

My Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, under powers I delegated to him, has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- Land south of 80-92 High Street, Southall, Ealing
- Wembley Park Station, Brent
- Dagenham Film Studio, Dagenham, Barking and Dagenham
- 215 High Street, Yiewsley, Hillingdon
- Colosseum Retail Park, Dearsley Road, Dearsley Road
- Wellfit Street, Loughborough Junction, Lambeth
- IBM Building, 76-78 Upper Ground, Lambeth, Lambeth
- 75 – 77 Chequers Lane, Barking, Barking and Dagenham
- Dawley House, 91 – 95 Uxbridge Road, Ealing
- 250 Gunnersbury Avenue, Gunnersbury, Hounslow
- Footzie Social Club, Lower Sydenham, Bromley
- Lee Valley Ice Centre, Lea Bridge Road, Waltham Forest
- Erith Quarry, Bexley

Key Engagements

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

- I joined a virtual meeting of COBR on 10 May
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 11 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call on 12 May to discuss the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority ethnic groups and to hear from health sector, employer, union and community representatives on the reasons for this disproportionality and the action needed to address it
- I joined a conference call on 12 May, hosted by Unison, with frontline nurses working in the NHS throughout the COVID-19 crisis
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 12 May
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 13 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Economic Recovery Working Group, chaired by Simon Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 13 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 13 May
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 14 May
- I joined a conference call with Sir Edward Lister, the Prime Minister's Chief Strategic Adviser, on 14 May to discuss the agreement with the Government on a funding package to allow TfL to run public transport safely in London

- I hosted a conference call with the GLA Group Leadership on 14 May to discuss the continuing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended the interviews with the final applicants for the position of the Transport Commissioner on 15 May
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, Leader of the Opposition, on 18 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted an introductory conference call with Steve Reed MP, the new Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on 18 May
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 19 May
- I joined a conference call with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland on 19 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 20 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 21 May
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 26 May
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Mayor of Berlin on 26 May, along with four other European Mayors and Dr Christian Drosten, Director of Germany's Institute of Virology and advisor to the Federal Government of Germany, for a discussion on the importance of testing, tracing and isolating, and how to prepare for a potential second wave of COVID-19.
- I joined a conference call with the Metro Mayors (M9) on 27 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 27 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Economic Recovery Working Group, chaired by Simon Clarke MP, Minister of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 27 May to discuss the impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 28 May
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 28 May
- I joined an introductory conference call with Andrew Bailey, the new Governor of the Bank of England, on 29 May
- I hosted a conference call with Carolyn Fairbairn DBE, Director-General CBI, on 1 June to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 and recovery strategy
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 1 June
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 2 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 2 June
- I joined a Mayoral video summit hosted by Park Won Soon, the Mayor of Seoul, on 2 June to discuss the importance of international cooperation between cities to combat the threat posed by COVID-19 and future potential pandemics.
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Sir Stephen House QPM, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 2 June
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 3 June to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London

- I joined the Mayors of Stockholm, Budapest and Prague in a moderated video debate hosted by Rafał Trzaskowski, the Mayor of Warsaw, on 3 June on the 30th Anniversary of Polish Local Government to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the future of European cities and European solidarity
- I hosted a conference call with Rowena Howie, FSB London Policy Chair, on 3 June to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 and recovery strategy
- I chaired the inaugural meeting of the London Recovery Board on 4 June
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 4 June to discuss policing and security

ENDS