

16th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 16th November 2017

This is my sixteenth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 29 September – 2 November 2017.

Executive Summary

Government cuts lead to reduction of police front counters

On 1 November, I confirmed plans to reduce the number of police front counters in London and save an additional £8 million – equivalent to the cost of 140 police constables – in order to protect and support frontline policing as much as possible, and keep Londoners safe, in the face of Government cuts to police funding.

These cuts to Metropolitan Police funding mean police officer numbers in London are falling, and this has meant we have had to consult on drastic measures in order to prioritise public safety and police officers on the beat.

Warning police numbers will fall to 19-year low without more funding

On 30 October, I made my strongest warning to date over Government police cuts as I called on the Chancellor to use next month's Budget to end the funding crisis which is putting lives at risk at a time of rising crime, rising population and an unprecedented terror threat in the capital.

I warned that police numbers in London would fall as dangerously low as 27,500 by 2021 without additional funding – the lowest level in 19 years. This would represent one police officer per 326 Londoners, compared to one officer per 242 Londoners in 2010 - a fall of 26 per cent.

London needs to double rate of homebuilding

On 27 October, I released new figures that show that London needs to build 66,000 new homes every year to meet growing need and to put right years of underinvestment. I have therefore called on the government to commit to profoundly boosting the funding and powers available to London at the upcoming Budget on 22 November in order to meet this need.

Toxicity Charge

On 23 October, I launched the world's toughest emission standard, the £10 Toxicity Charge (T-Charge). The T-Charge is part of a package of actions intended to help clean up London's dangerously polluted air, which contributes to thousands of early deaths each year and significantly impacts on our health.

Dagenham East Film Studios Report Launch

On 30 October, I announced plans for Dagenham East to become a world-leading destination for the production of blockbuster movies. Dagenham East represents a rare chance to build a world-class film studio in London. This will support the long-term success of the UK's booming film and TV production industries, bolster Film London's work in attracting major new projects to the capital, whilst also contributing to the regeneration of east London and supporting my ambition for creative production along the Thames Estuary.

Mayors unite to call for major devolution to city regions

On 1 November, I met with Britain's seven regional and city-wide Mayors, and together we issued a united call for the Government to significantly increase the pace and scale of devolution in order to boost economic growth in Britain and to improve public services.

Policing, Crime and Security

Government cuts lead to reduction of police front counters

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These cuts to Metropolitan Police funding mean police officer numbers in London are falling, and this has meant we have had to consult on drastic measures in order to prioritise public safety and police officers on the beat.

Every pound that is spent keeping a police station or front counter open is a pound that would otherwise need to be found from further cuts to police officer numbers.

Just eight per cent of crimes were reported at police front counters in 2016, down from 22 per cent in 2006, and this number continues to fall. Since 2010, the Met's budget has been reduced by £600 million. A further £400 million of savings have to be found by 2021. Yet the opportunities to generate more income or make substantial savings are diminishing as the force has been cut to the bone, and unless the Government's funding cuts stop now, officer numbers could fall below 27,500 by 2021 – a 19-year low.

I understand the very legitimate concerns of Londoners about police front counter closures, which is why I held the widest possible consultation with public meetings in every London borough, as well as responses being encouraged via surveys and written responses. Around 4,000 Londoners submitted their views, and their contributions have been carefully considered. In some boroughs, the draft plans have been changed as a result.

The final plans include:

- Maintaining a 24/7 police front counter service in every borough, with an additional daytime counter in Westminster and proposals to discuss an additional front counter near Grenfell Tower from early 2018 with the local community.
- Changes to the strategy following the strong views represented in the public consultation. These include 24/7 front counters remaining at Dagenham Police Station and Bexleyheath Police Station.

- Disposing of underused buildings in order to raise £165 million of capital to invest in ensuring frontline police are properly equipped.
- Police officers will patrol in crime hotspot areas so they can reach the scene of emergencies quickly.
- London's Dedicated Ward Officers – whose numbers I am doubling by the end of this year - will be based at new hubs far closer to their local ward and the community they patrol, making them more visible and accessible. These will hold new well-advertised community sessions every week in every ward.
- Nine communities which are over an hour from their nearest front counter – five of which are as a result of police station closures under the previous Mayor – will be provided with additional community sessions so that their residents can meet officers face to face more often.
- More focus on telephone services – which account for 70 per cent of crime reporting.
- An improved digital offer - a new online reporting service launched for testing in March and which has already delivered a 350 per cent rise in online reporting.
- New technology will allow police officers to spend more time on the beat in their communities.

I am confident that bearing in mind the government cuts, these final plans maintain the best possible service for Londoners, and will provide the access to the police they need, especially in an emergency.

The combination of one 24/7 front counter in every borough, more Dedicated Ward Officers in every neighbourhood - located closer to communities, with new community sessions in every ward- and a significantly improved online service, will mean that Londoners will be able to contact the police in the way that suits them best.

Lord Harris Review – Progress Report

On 25 October, I published my Progress Report on implementing the recommendations from Lord Harris' review into London's preparedness to respond to a major terrorist incident.

In the face of a growing threat to London and other global cities, I am doing everything in my power to ensure our capital is as prepared as possible to respond to terrorism. Our police officers and emergency services do a fantastic job, working tirelessly every day to keep us safe.

We have worked extremely hard together to deliver on the recommendations made by Lord Harris and to make London safer, whilst also coping with four barbaric terror attacks and the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower this year.

We have now implemented more than two thirds of Lord Harris's recommendations and many of the outstanding third of recommendations are underway, but there is still work to do.

Some of the recommendations directed at the Government are not being taken forward, or not with the required urgency, despite my repeated requests. The Government now needs to put Londoners' safety first: it must step up, stop dragging its feet and take urgent action on the remaining recommendations.

Warning police numbers will fall to 19-year low without more cash

On 30 October, I made my strongest warning to date over Government police cuts as I called on the Chancellor to use next month's Budget to end the funding crisis which is putting lives at risk at a time of rising crime, rising population and an unprecedented terror threat in the capital.

I warned that police numbers in London would fall as dangerously low as 27,500 by 2021 without additional funding – the lowest level in 19 years. This would represent one police officer per 326 Londoners, compared to one officer per 242 Londoners in 2010 - a fall of 26 per cent.

Last week new figures confirmed that recorded crime across the UK has been rising since 2014. In London, violent crime is increasing and there has been a shift in counter terror demand following four deadly attacks this year.

Yet police force budgets have been reduced in real terms by the Treasury since 2010, while inflation has risen to 2.9 per cent. The Chair of The National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Sara Thornton, has warned that Counter Terror funding for policing is being cut by more than seven per cent in real terms over the next three years.

In London, where the population has reached a record 8.6m and continues to rise, the police funding crisis has already led to the loss of almost 3,000 police community support officers, most of the capital's police station front counters and 120 police buildings, as we have sought to do everything possible to make £600 million of savings while protecting frontline police officers.

A further £400 million of savings is needed by 2021, yet the opportunities to generate more income or make substantial savings are diminishing. I have repeatedly called on Ministers to put public safety first and properly fund the police, but they have done nothing. There is now no option but to reduce police officer numbers.

According to the most recent projections, the number of police officer numbers in London risks falling below 27,500 by 2021, the lowest level since 2002. This will mean more pressure on the already overstretched teams who protect the most vulnerable Londoners, and reductions in proactive and preventative work to tackle serious, organised crime and terrorism. It will also limit the capacity to respond to large-scale incidents and maintain a heightened police presence for any length of time.

Knife Crime Education Summit

On 31 October, I opened the Knife Crime Education Summit – a key commitment from my Knife Crime Strategy - which brought together education leaders with Ofsted, the Met police, TfL, as well as parents and young people who have been affected by knife crime, in order to help increase efforts and collaborate on how to best tackle the problem of knife crime in schools.

I addressed the audience at the Summit on my vision for making London a safer place for young people, reducing knife crime and supporting our schools in creating a safe place for their students. I called on education leaders to establish collaborative ways to share intelligence and deal with the very real challenges we are facing around knife crime.

I am working with Ofsted and headteachers to make it mandatory for schools to develop effective measures to help prevent knife crime and support students and parents in the event

of an incident. To support this, MOPAC is working with Ofsted to take immediate action and carry out a review of schools across the capital to investigate how they currently identify and help students who may be at risk, and how this work can be improved.

Since launching my tough and comprehensive Knife Crime Strategy in June, I have been taking steps to help ensure schools are a safe place for students. All schools across the capital have been informed of how they can receive a knife screening wand. This is coupled with a firm policing response to take weapons off London's streets through targeted, intelligence-led stop and search, as well as knife sweeps and test purchasing operations as part of the Met's 'Operation Sceptre'.

Brexit and Public Safety

On 19 October, at the GLA's EU Exit Working Group, I called on Brexit Secretary David Davis MP to provide clarity and updates on six key areas for co-operation with European partners on vital public safety matters.

These are: The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), The European Arrest Warrant (EAW), The Schengen Information System II (SISII), EU Passenger Name Records, The European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) and the Prüm arrangements.

The threats we face are increasingly international. Tackling terrorism, weapons and drug smuggling, human trafficking, illegal immigration, modern slavery, and serious organised crime requires seamless cooperation and joint working across European borders. I am clear that 'no deal' on these complex security issues is simply not an option. Neither are the 'back-stop' options mooted by the Home Secretary as she highlighted her concerns on this issue. I believe that 'no deal' would seriously compromise public safety.

Premier League

On 29 September, I met with the Premier League to discuss how they could contribute to the costs of policing football and reducing crime in our capital. We agreed to work together to consider how the League can invest more in London.

My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, had a further meeting with the Premier League on the 23 October to explore opportunities to work with them around social intervention and crime prevention.

Hate Crime

In October, we were pleased once again to support National Hate Crime Awareness Week. In the lead up to the week, we commissioned a 3-week exhibition called 'We Stand Together' in the City Hall café area.

The exhibition was a celebration of Londoners from different ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds helping and supporting each other. My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, hosted a reception to launch the exhibition with members from many of London's communities in attendance.

Sophie also attended the No2H8 awards on 10 October on my behalf. The awards celebrate those who stand up to hate. Sophie addressed those present and awarded the Lifetime

Achievement award to Dr David Hoffman, who has worked for 30 years to raise awareness of hate crime through photography.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week was formally launched at an annual memorial ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral. The ceremony remembers those who have been victims of hate crime. Sophie joined Mark Hamilton, the NPCC Hate Crime Lead, to talk about how we collectively face up to the challenge of hate and intolerance. The ceremony was attended by around 300 people from all communities, including victims and their families, who joined the sister of Jo Cox in lighting memorial candles.

At a meeting in the middle of National Hate Crime Awareness Week, my Victims' Commissioner, Claire Waxman, gathered statutory and community partners who work at the frontline of tackling hate, to work with us in shaping a new plan and governance structure to tackle hate crime in London.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

As set out in my Police and Crime Plan, I am refreshing the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and as part of that refresh, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, has been attending a series of consultation workshops with key stakeholders.

In addition to the stakeholder work, there is a concurrent survivor consultation which is being overseen by Claire Waxman, my Victims Commissioner. It is important the voices of victims and survivors are heard throughout the strategy development. Key findings from this consultation will be included in the strategy with the complete final report forming an appendix to the strategy.

Police Public Bravery Awards

On 31 October, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, attended the Police Public Bravery Awards. The awards recognise the bravery and civic duty of members of the public who have intervened to foil criminal acts and come to the assistance of others.

Four nominees, Tom Mason, Tom Farrand, Richard Whitehouse and Didier Levenfiche, sponsored by the MPS were awarded 3 Gold and 1 Silver medal for their actions. I extend my congratulations and gratitude to these brave individuals who have rightly been recognised and rewarded.

Transport

Next generation of Santander Cycles roll into London

On 30 October, I announced that the next generation of Santander Cycles have now rolled onto the capital's streets, with thousands set to join TfL's flagship cycle hire scheme over the next few years.

The new bikes will offer riders improved handling, safety and comfort, with a new gel saddle, lower frame, tyres with puncture prevention, new gear hub, improved front and rear Blaze lighting and bluetooth.

The bikes have been built by England's longest established cycle manufacturer, Pashley Cycles in Stratford-upon-Avon, as part of an industrial team assembled by scheme operators Serco. They have been designed to be easier to ride and maintain, meaning more cycles will be available to hire more often and reduce maintenance costs.

Last year was a record-breaking year for Santander Cycles with an unprecedented 10.3m hires - 4.4 per cent up on 2015. This year there have been more than 8.7m hires, with five of the nine months beating year-on-year records for the number of journeys being made.

As well as the new design, 2017 will see Santander Cycles extend into Brixton with seven new docking stations, providing space for up to 200 bikes, installed across the borough this winter.

Brand new Tube signalling successfully tested for the first time

The transformation of London Underground's sub-surface lines took a significant step forward with the announcement that multiple test trains had been successfully run on a brand-new signalling system for the first time.

The new computer-based signalling and control system from Thales allows trains to run closer together, meaning a more frequent service, shorter waiting times and a massive boost in capacity for the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines.

Our customers will start to benefit from the improvements from as early as next year, when the first section of the network to use the new signalling system goes live.

Services will begin to increase in frequency from 2021, when more of the network is operating the new system, and all four lines will be using the system by 2023.

TfL and the police join forces to combat hate crime on London transport

TfL and the capital's police joined forces for a series of over 200 community engagement events across London in support of National Hate Crime Awareness Week which was held between 14 -21 October.

The activity involved police officers, TfL staff and representatives from TellMAMA, a reporting service for victims of anti-Muslim hate crime.

Officers visited communities across-London to stress the importance of reporting hate crime and to reassure them that London's public transport system is safe and welcoming for all.

London's network remains a safe low-crime environment, but reports of hate crime offences have increased as more people feel confident to speak out about incidents.

Deputy Mayor celebrates supplier that helps keep London journeys on track

On 2 October, my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross CBE, officially opened the new factory of Transport for London's Oldham-based supplier, John Bradley and Son (Springs) Limited, along with the MP for Oldham West and Royton, Jim McMahon.

TfL has a strong relationship with the 70-year-old family business, which specialises in the production of a range of materials, including sheet metal and springs for the rail, aerospace and agriculture industries. By supplying tool cabinets for the Tube, which are used both in

depots and for track work, as well as steel parts for rail tracks, they help keep public transport in London working for the millions of people who rely on it every day.

In 2016-2017, TfL spent around £300,000 with the company who employ 110 staff. Their new factory, which is 110,000 square feet in size, combines their three previous sites into one, enabling them to improve efficiency during production and spend more time developing new products.

More than 60 per cent of TfL's procurement is with companies outside London and this investment supports around 50,000 jobs outside the capital. Over the last three years, TfL has spent more than £700 million in the North West and supported thousands of jobs in the area.

BT fined £25,000 for risking public safety

On 6 October, TfL announced that BT has been fined £25,000 after it successfully prosecuted the company for serious lapses in safety, which put the public at significant risk in Lambeth.

This marked the second time in 12 months TfL had taken the utility company to court for unsafe working practices as part of its commitment to tackle poorly managed, or unsafe roadworks.

The prosecution followed unsafe work carried out on Streatham Hill at the junction of Leigham Court Road, Lambeth on 1 March. BT failed to properly sign and guard the working area, enabling pedestrians to walk dangerously close to heavy plant and machinery.

BT had plead guilty to the unsafe execution of streetworks with significant risk to public safety at Westminster Magistrates Court and was fined £25,000 - the highest fine imposed to-date in London for safety breaches - and ordered to pay a further £2,764 in court costs.

Plans to transform the Oxford Street District progress after strong support

Work to make the Oxford Street district a globally renowned public space took a significant step forward with the results of a recent public consultation that showed strong local support for transforming the area.

A second consultation is expected to begin in early November 2017 and will seek to offer a district wide solution that delivers the vision of being the world's best outdoor shopping experience and a great place to live, work and visit.

Several key topics have been identified in relation to the transformation, including addressing concerns raised by local residents, such as traffic impacts on the wider area, provision and relocation of bus services and accessibility issues, providing a better experience, as well as improving air quality around the Oxford Street area.

Almost 12,000 responses from local residents, stakeholders, businesses and visitors from across the UK were received during the initial eight-week consultation conducted by Westminster City Council and TfL.

TfL names partner to develop Blackhorse Road site

TfL has named BLLQ LLP as the preferred bidder in a joint venture partnership to develop a 1.8 acre site opposite Blackhorse Road station in north east London.

Following a Mayoral Decision in March that the site was to be unlocked for development, firms in the TfL Property Partnership Framework were offered the opportunity to bid to become a joint venture partner to develop the site.

TfL will now work with BLLQ LLP to deliver approximately 350 new homes at Blackhorse Road in 2022, 50 per cent of which will be affordable. Subject to permissions, work could commence on site in 2019.

The site is ideally placed for public transport due to its proximity to Blackhorse Road station, served by the Victoria line and London Overground. A number of local bus routes, walking and cycling connections will provide further options for commuters. Future residents will also benefit from the package of measures being delivered in Waltham Forest through its Mini-Holland programme.

New analysis shows how TfL's free open data boosts London's economy

The provision of free, accurate and real-time open data by TfL is helping London's economy by up to £130 million a year, new research has revealed.

The research published on 13 October, was commissioned by TfL and conducted by Deloitte, showed that by providing open data to developers, TfL is improving journeys, saving people time, supporting innovation and creating jobs.

For almost ten years, TfL has been releasing a significant amount of data – timetables, service status and disruption information – in an open format for anyone to use, free of charge. This allows developers and partners to bring new products and services to market more quickly, and therefore extend the reach of TfL's own information channels within stations, at bus stops and online.

TfL has worked with a wide range of professional and amateur developers, ranging from start-ups to global innovators, to deliver new products in the form that customers want. This has led to more than 600 apps, used by 42 per cent of Londoners, now being powered specifically using TfL's open data feeds.

TfL consults on two potential new London Overground stations at Old Oak

On 16 October, TfL announced the start of a five-week consultation on plans for two potential new London Overground stations at Hythe Road and Old Oak Common Lane.

These would provide a link to the Elizabeth line and High Speed 2 (HS2) and support the regeneration at Old Oak and Park Royal in west London and will bring up to 250,000 more people and 150,000 additional jobs within an hour's journey of Old Oak.

The potential new stations would also improve local rail connections and provide links to the future Elizabeth line and HS2 services.

The outcome of this consultation will help determine the next steps for the potential stations. Responses will be considered alongside the overall business case, supplementary feasibility studies, the availability of funding and determining operational requirements.

Should these potential stations be taken forward, powers to deliver them would need to be secured through a Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO). Further consultation would be carried out on the proposals prior to any TWAO submission.

TfL Rail work to improve stations and tracks continues this autumn

On 19 October, TfL announced details of works being undertaken over the coming months to upgrade stations and track on the TfL Rail route.

From late October until December 2017, there will be weekend closures on the Liverpool Street to Shenfield route while Network Rail installs over 10 kilometres of new overhead wires, replacing older ones from the 1950s to improve reliability. Network Rail will also be continuing their work at Harold Wood, Gidea Park, Forest Gate and Goodmayes to refurbish station buildings and provide step-free access.

During this time, TfL will also continue to install new lifts at Seven Kings, Manor Park and Maryland stations to provide step-free access.

Raft of measures planned to raise motorcycle standards in London

A range of new measures have been launched to raise standards within the motorcycle delivery industry, while also improving the confidence and skills of the capital's motorcyclists.

The announcement from TfL forms part of my Vision Zero approach to eliminating death and serious injury from collisions on the capital's roads by 2041.

TfL has been working closely with the motorcycle delivery and courier industry to explore the expansion of the existing Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) to include those companies which use motorcycles in London.

Alongside the development of the FORS accreditation, TfL has created three new training courses for motorcyclists in the capital, which boost rider confidence, skills and knowledge before and after Compulsory Basic Training.

To further improve the standard of motorcycling and training, TfL will be lobbying the government for changes in the way motorcyclists are licensed and support the Motorcycle Industry Association's training provider accreditation scheme.

New Abbey Wood station building and concourse

On 22 October, the new station building at Abbey Wood was opened to customers. Delivered on schedule by Network Rail as part of the Crossrail project, the opening of the striking station building and concourse marks the start of the transformation of transport links for Abbey Wood, which will be served by existing Southeastern rail services and the Elizabeth line from December 2018.

Work will continue to complete the station's full facilities, including the commissioning of new lifts to the concourse and installation of systems required for the Elizabeth line. The temporary station at Abbey Wood, opened in 2014 to keep passengers moving while work progressed on the new station building, will be removed and the car park reinstated. The London Borough of Bexley will also continue its urban realm improvement works to the front of the new station building.

TfL has assumed responsibility for Abbey Wood station from Southeastern ahead of the launch of Elizabeth line services next year.

Latest improvements to TfL app and Oyster Online allow customers to collect orders anywhere

Londoners can now top up their Oyster card and collect their top up, Travelcard or pass from any bus, as well as at any Tube or rail station within London, following the latest improvements to the Oyster system.

These latest upgrades will allow anyone who uses the new TfL app or Oyster Online to buy pay as you go, Bus & Tram Passes or Travelcards can add it to their Oyster card from any yellow card reader 30 minutes after purchase. This means passengers can update their card when travelling on any of London's 9,000 buses, or any Tube or rail station, tram stop or River Bus pier as part of a journey.

In September, TfL launched its new app to enable customers to easily check their pay as you go balance and top up their card with just a few quick taps on their smartphone. The new app is free to download via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Already more than 100,000 customers have downloaded the app, helping them avoid queues at stations or Oyster Ticket Stops.

Metropolitan Line Extension

I have directed TfL to continue to provide up to £49.23 million of funding towards the cost of delivering the Metropolitan Line Extension (MLX).

I have also directed TfL not to take responsibility for any costs above the current £284.4 million funding package and to close out its current activities in respect of the MLX in an orderly fashion. I have also directed TfL not to commence any new activities, including procurement activities associated with the main works, unless and until arrangements to provide additional funding for the MLX are put in place.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

Mayors unite to call for major devolution to city regions

On 1 November, I met with Britain's seven regional and city-wide Mayors, and together we issued a united call for the Government to significantly increase the pace and scale of devolution in order to boost economic growth in Britain and to improve public services.

London held the first of a planned series of summits attended by all of England's regional and city-wide Mayors. The seven of us – four Conservative and three Labour Mayors – jointly agreed that Britain remains one of the most centralised states in the western world and that devolution is the key to unlocking future growth and improving productivity across the UK.

Cities and metropolitan regions are the main engines of economic growth and job creation in the UK – and the seven areas under direct control of England's regional and city-wide Mayors account for nearly 39 per cent of all British growth (GVA), up from 35 per cent in 1997.

Jointly we have called for further devolved control over public services, including skills, training and apprenticeship services, as well as real influence over programmes designed to help people get back to work.

We also called for a significant increase in fiscal devolution, with regions given greater control over existing taxes and the revenues they create, rather than having to rely on Government grants. Greater fiscal devolution will give cities the tools and incentives to increase growth and job creation.

Launch of tech initiatives to boost sector and quality of life

On 2 November, whilst speaking at a WIRED Live event at Tobacco Dock in east London, I launched two major new tech initiatives to boost the sector and help harness the capital's tech talent to make life better for Londoners.

I announced that City Hall will fund 20 investment days over the next four years, to give innovative tech firms the opportunity to attract crucial funding to enable them to grow.

Each event – run by the UK Business Angels Association – will focus on a specific area of tech and will offer coaching to the leaders of these burgeoning companies, as well as directly linking them with experienced investors. The GLA will provide £280,000 in funding, which will be matched in kind by the UKBAA. The programme will be structured so it will be entirely self-funding by the end of the four years.

I also announced that Bloomberg Associates – Michael Bloomberg's philanthropic municipal consultancy – will help shape the new Smart London Plan, in partnership with the Smart London Board. The document will lay out in detail how I plan to achieve my ambition of harnessing the new technologies being pioneered in the capital in order to transform London into one of the world's leading smart cities.

Backing qualified freedom of movement post-Brexit

On 11 October, whilst speaking at the Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) Autumn Lunch in London, I made clear that qualified freedom of movement of people is the best way to protect economic prosperity in London and the UK in the aftermath of Brexit.

I warned that the Government's strategy to look tough on immigration during the Brexit negotiations – at the risk of economic stability – is one of the most severe, irresponsible and selfish mistakes by any political party in decades.

I repeated my belief that for London and the rest of the country to prosper, it's vital that we continue to have barrier-free access to the dynamic European workforce. I also believe that it is possible to address concerns in parts of the country about the pace of immigration, and the impact this has had on communities, without losing membership of the Single Market and keeping our access to European talent.

My speech coincided with the publication of my immigration plan for London and the UK – a blueprint for what the Government should be doing.

The migration plan calls upon the Government to:

- Recognise the benefits that immigration and freedom of movement have brought, and can continue to bring to our economy and society.
- Ensure the continuation of freedom of movement of people and points out that there is scope for the Government, if it chose, to seek to qualify freedom of movement under existing treaties.
- Prioritise jobs, growth and future prosperity over politically driven policies to reduce immigration.
- Provide a cast iron guarantee that EU nationals in the UK are welcome to stay.
- Pursue a transitional arrangement with the EU which maintains the status quo, and seek to negotiate a long-term agreement based on remaining part of the Single Market.
- Introduce a Tier 1, post-study work policy giving international students the chance to work after graduation for 12-24 months.
- Remove international students from the annual net migration target as a matter of urgency and adopt a pro-active approach to bringing global talent to the UK by reforming the current non-EU visa system.

The plan also states that if the Government is unable to ensure a flexible national migration approach – one that responds to demand and meets skills gaps – then it should look at options for allowing London and other regions to deliver this.

London to retain more business rates income in landmark deal

Last spring, the Government published a devolution deal for London that challenged the London boroughs and I to agree a scheme that would give us greater control of business rates generated in the capital.

So on 12 October, I was pleased to announce that, alongside the Leaders and elected Mayors of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, I have agreed landmark proposals that will see the capital pilot 100 per cent business rates retention from next April, if agreed by Government.

We will now have more control to spend more money on the things that matter most to Londoners, including social care, affordable housing, infrastructure investment and support for businesses.

This is an important step towards bringing London in line with most other global cities by allowing the capital's government control over a much wider range of taxes, in exchange for lower levels of government grant.

In the meantime, London Councils and I continue to lobby Government for a fairer business rates system, following last April's revaluation.

That revaluation meant that some businesses were hit with rates increases of as much as 45 per cent, with London businesses facing a collective business rate rise of up to £1.2 billion, which will fund an equivalent tax cut for the rest of the country.

Housing and Land

New figures reveal London needs to double rate of homebuilding

On 27 October, I released new figures that show that London needs to build 66,000 new homes every year to meet its growing need and put right years of underinvestment.

I am therefore calling on the government to commit to profoundly boosting the funding and powers available to London at the upcoming Budget on 22 November, in order to meet this need and, as a first step return government funding for affordable housing in the capital to the level it was at in 2009/10.

The new figures of housing need, calculated by City Hall through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, also suggest that 65 per cent of these new homes would need to be affordable if they are to meet Londoners' needs. With the private sector alone unable to build this many new affordable homes, it serves as a stark warning that the capital's housing crisis will spiral even further out of control without a profound new programme of government investment and action.

My draft London Plan, due to be published next month, will include strong new measures and set ambitious targets for every London borough to move towards this goal. This is roughly double the current rate of homebuilding, and goes alongside my strategic target for half of new homes to be genuinely affordable housing.

Boosting homebuilding to this level will require profound action from the government - including the devolution of new powers to London, such as those over public land, and allowing councils to borrow to invest in homes, and a massive increase in government funding for homebuilding and infrastructure. City Hall modelling suggests a requirement for government to increase funding for affordable housing alone in London to around £2.7 billion a year - more than five times current spending levels.

Overall government spending on affordable housing in London - including the Prime Minister's recent commitments - is well under half the amount spent in 2009/10 when the current Government came to power and cut spending.

City Island London Film School relocation

I approved GLA Land and Property Limited (GLAP) to issue a letter of consent to Ballymore to allow for the grant of two leases to London Film School of property at City Island, and for the use of the property as an educational facility and ancillary office space.

I have also approved that GLAP waives any breach of restrictive covenant and clawback payment due to GLAP.

Royal Docks - Design & Engineering UTC land disposal

I have approved GLAP entering into a set of sale and option agreements with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for four acres of land in the east of the Royal Albert Dock.

Housing & Land IT System Replacement Enhancements

I have approved expenditure of up to £500,000 of capital resources from the affordable housing programme budget to fund phase 2 of the GLA-OPS programme and expenditure of up to £42,250 of revenue resources from the Estates Reserve to continue the backfill for H&L staff seconded to GLA-OPS.

Environment

Toxicity Charge

On 23 October, I launched the world's toughest emission standard, the £10 Toxicity Charge (T-Charge). It is part of a package of actions intended to help clean up London's dangerously polluted air which contributes to thousands of early deaths each year in London. It also impacts our health over the course of our lives – leading to smaller lungs in our children and greater risk of dementia and strokes as we get older.

The most polluting petrol and diesel vehicles will now pay the new T-Charge plus the Congestion Charge – a total of £21.50 – every weekday they drive in the zone from 7am-6pm.

Up to 34,000 polluting vehicles every month could be liable for the T-Charge, which affects those that do not meet the Euro 4 standards for both PM and NO_x emissions. Since 1 January 2017, these polluting vehicles have made around 2.6 million trips within the zone.

On the morning of the launch, I visited UCL Day Nursery in central London, which sits within the new T-Charge zone, to meet some of the children who will be benefitting from my new initiative.

Getting tough on river and construction pollution

On 28 September, I wrote to Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, setting out the additional powers that I believe are required to combat pollution from the River Thames, machinery used on construction sites, and from the domestic burning of solid fuels. Only half of London's pollution comes from on-road transport.

I am asking for:

- Greater powers to combat emissions from construction machinery, known as Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM), which are currently the second largest source of ultra-fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions in London and the fifth largest source of oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). I have an NRMM Low Emission Zone in place which sets minimum emissions standards for this equipment when it is used on construction sites, but at the moment I do not have the powers I need from Government in order to make sure this is more broadly applied or to simplify enforcement.
- A simplified structure for regulating emissions on canal and river boats. At the moment, at least five different regulators play a role in policing emissions. In addition, current emission regulations only apply to new vessels.
- A new Clean Air Act to enable local authorities to effectively tackle pollution from domestic and commercial wood burning, to ensure that only the cleanest fuels and appliances are used.

New air quality research, and the Every Journey, Every Child Conference

On 4 October, I hosted the international Every Child, Every Journey Conference at City Hall, and signed the capital up to the Breathe Life coalition organised by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Environment and Clean Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

On the day, I also released shocking new research which reveals that every Londoner in the capital lives in an area exceeding WHO guidelines for the most dangerous toxic particles, known as PM2.5. The research, based on the latest updated London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, also shows that 7.9 million Londoners – nearly 95 per cent of the capital's population – live in areas of London that exceed the guidelines by 50 per cent or more.

PM2.5 are small toxic air particles which are widely acknowledged to have the greatest impact on health. Children exposed to these toxic pollutants are more likely to grow up with reduced lung function and develop asthma, while PM2.5 is also known to result in 29,000 premature deaths in the UK every year.

In my draft London Environment Strategy, I have outlined ambitious plans to meet the World Health Organization safe levels for PM2.5 by 2030.

Cleaner Vehicle Checker

On 17 October, I launched the world's first Cleaner Vehicle Checker to provide an independent rating of nearly all new Euro 6 standard cars and many vans being sold in London. The scheme will empower consumers who have previously had no way of knowing whether a vehicle is performing as intended when driven in 'real world' conditions. The type of car Londoners choose to buy can make a big difference to the level of pollution in the capital.

The Cleaner Vehicle Checker rates new (Euro 6 standard) cars based on the level of NOx emissions they produce on the road. London's businesses and local authorities will also be able to use a customised 'Fleet Check' service to learn more about the emissions performance of their car and van fleets. By providing details online, operators can identify their most polluting vehicles and consider ways to replace these with much cleaner options as part of their procurement.

Work to improve air quality monitoring

On 20 October, I announced the start of a two-year collaboration with the prestigious Alan Turing Institute to explore ways to improve how air quality is modelled in London by collating existing and new data sources and enhancing the way it is analysed.

Researchers will work with City Hall to develop state of the art machine learning models that will enable better air quality forecasting and modelling. These could then further inform policy to make targeted interventions that reduce the levels of pollution in key areas and at key times.

New hard-hitting air quality campaign

On 18 October, I unveiled a hard-hitting advertising campaign to underline the harm the capital's filthy air can do to Londoners' health and the urgent need to address the problem.

This is part of my commitment to be honest with Londoners about the scale of the challenge and provide them with the information they need on air quality.

Vehicle makers urged to compensate for toxic diesels

On 6 October, I wrote to the UK chiefs at BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen urging them to take serious action on diesel emissions.

These manufacturers have already contributed up to £223 million to the German Government's 'Sustainable Mobility Fund for Cities' and there is no excuse for them not to take action in London and the UK. I therefore urged them to apply the same approach across all the markets that they trade in, including the UK.

I also wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, calling on the Government to do more to secure contributions from vehicle manufacturers on the same scale as the £24 billion received from Volkswagen (including fines, compensation and other settlements) in the US and £223 million from German car manufacturers in Germany. So far, the UK Government has only secured £1 million of funding.

C40 Steering Committee and Fossil Fuel Free Streets Declaration

On Monday 23 October, I attended the Mayoral meeting of the C40 Steering Committee in Paris, alongside Mayors from 11 other cities, including Paris, Tokyo, Los Angeles and Milan.

At the meeting, I shared examples of London's ambitious environment policies, including the launch of the T-Charge and the targets and vision in my draft London Environment Strategy. I also committed London to the C40 Fossil-Fuel-Free Streets Declaration, whereby 12 other Mayors and I pledged to procure only zero-emission buses by 2025 and ensure that major areas of our city are zero emission by 2030, goals that are in line with my draft Environment and Transport strategies.

In addition to attending the Steering Committee, I undertook bilateral meetings with the Mayors of Barcelona and Los Angeles and the Governor of Tokyo.

London Community Energy Fund

On 13 October, I launched my London Community Energy Fund to help get community solar projects off the ground.

This first phase of the London Community Energy Fund will offer grants of up to £15,000 to support the development stages of community solar projects (solar photovoltaics and solar thermal). Funding could be used, for example, to carry out preliminary viability studies for solar energy or develop a financial business case. I want to fund work required to get a community energy project 'investor ready', that means ready to be financed.

Supporting community energy is a key action in my draft Solar Action Plan, which outlines my approach to putting London on track to achieving 2 gigawatts (GW) of installed solar capacity by 2050. Solar energy will make an important contribution to my zero carbon London ambitions as set out in my draft London Environment Strategy.

The London Community Energy Fund is open to London-based community groups. The deadline for applications in phase one of the fund is Friday 24 November 2017.

Mayor's Entrepreneur competition

On 25 October, I launched the 2018 round of the Mayor's Entrepreneur competition, which challenges university students to come up with smart business solutions to clean and green London. I have recruited 20 interns, from 16 universities across London to support the competition.

Decentralised Energy Enabling Project

My £3.5 million Decentralised Energy Enabling Project (DEEP) programme procures strategic, technical, commercial/financial and legal advisory support services to help London boroughs and others to bring larger-scale decentralised energy schemes into operation.

I have commissioned the first two packages of support measures under DEEP to help others develop and deliver larger scale decentralised energy projects in London. These are with the London Borough of Haringey for the procurement of their North Tottenham combined heat and power district heating scheme, and the Old Oak Common Park Royal Development Corporation, in combination with the London Borough of Ealing, to carry out detailed study work for decentralised energy in the North Acton area.

C40 and Bloomberg "Together 4 Climate"

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the Bloomberg and C40 "Together for Climate" event in Paris which focused on galvanizing partnerships between cities and businesses for climate action.

The event was attended by Mayors and City Representatives, as well as CEOs of major private sector companies, many of whom are present in London. The event supported work underway at the GLA to develop a comprehensive strategy for how we will work jointly with London's businesses in support of my ambition to make London zero carbon by 2050.

Draft London Environment Strategy consultation

I have been undertaking extensive consultation on my draft London Environment Strategy.

My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, has met with London boroughs, business groups, the London Assembly and civil society groups.

On 19 October, my officers ran a workshop attended by over 100 stakeholders, and on 27 October my officers hosted a community group engagement attended by over 70 community groups.

In addition, I have received over 4,000 survey responses from the public on my Talk London platform. The consultation closes on 17 November 2017 and feedback will help inform my final London Environment Strategy.

Education and Youth

London's first Early Years Hubs

On 29 September, I unveiled new plans to help tackle inequality in education and to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds achieve their full potential through the creation of my new Early Years Hubs.

The hubs will support quality early-years practice and will engage with families to improve access for the most disadvantaged. They will also provide childcare out of normal working hours and support children with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as promoting careers in early-years education.

Schools for Success Award Ceremony

On 29 September, I was delighted to launch my Schools for Success Programme by opening its award ceremony in London's living Room, alongside my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney.

In London, we have some of the best schools in the country, however there are still groups of pupils that perform below their peers. School for Success recognises primary and secondary schools across London that are ensuring strong progress for their lowest attaining pupils, whilst achieving at least London levels of attainment overall.

The programme also serves as a tribute to the excellent teachers, governors and support staff underpinning London's brilliant schools. The event saw over 100 of my Schools for Success recognised for brilliant work supporting pupils that begin behind their peers.

The aim of this programme is to level the playing field and reduce educational inequality, which begins in early years and grows as children get older. My Schools for Success are a pan London network, that all schools can look to for support with low prior attaining groups.

Professional Languages Network celebration event

On 5 October, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, attended a celebration event for the "Professional Languages Network" run by the University of Westminster.

Joanne was able to congratulate the many participants and mentors involved in the project, which has supported language teachers across London to develop their subject knowledge and leadership skills.

It was fantastic to hear that the project had contributed to the recognition of teachers, particularly at a time when, many schools worry about teacher recruitment. Joanne also spoke to the group about the vital importance of languages in London – not just to our continued economic success, but in breaking down social barriers.

Children in Care Roundtable

On 12 October, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, hosted a roundtable discussion on children in care and care leavers in London.

Attended by key stakeholders that work with children in care across London, and care experienced young people themselves, the discussion included the views and voices of young people, key challenges for young people and highlighted what the evidence says works and good practice examples.

Attendees also discussed how in my role as Mayor, I can add value to and support their work to improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers in London. My Education and Youth Team are currently looking at how we can take forward some of these suggestions.

Communities and Social Policy

Community Engagement roundtables

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, has continued his series of community round tables to listen to the key concerns, aspirations and suggestions of London's diverse communities.

This month Matthew met with the Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller groups, as well as women and gender focused groups.

Diversity and Inclusion Vision consultation

I am extremely grateful to all the fantastic responses I have received from hundreds of people and organisations to my draft Diversity and Inclusion Vision. These included those who attended the consultation events my officers held with Black, Asian and minority ethnic people; deaf and disabled people; faith groups; lesbians, gay men, bisexual people and trans people; migrants and refugees; young people and old people; women; business people; community and voluntary sector organisations and many more.

The closing date for responses was on 11 September and my officers are now busy reviewing the submissions to inform the content of my Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, which I expect to be launching early next year.

Calling on Ofcom to address lack of diversity in broadcasting

On 1 October, I called on broadcasting regulator Ofcom to adopt new measures to improve the current lack of diversity in the UK's broadcasting industry.

Chief Executive of Ofcom Sharon White has recently criticised British broadcasters for a "woeful" lack of diversity among their staff and specifically singled out the BBC for failing to lead the way on this issue.

I agree with Ofcom's assessment that a lack of diversity in broadcasting is creating a "cultural disconnect" between programme-makers and viewers.

I therefore joined forces with actor and comedian Sir Lenny Henry to call on the regulator to provide more robust scrutiny of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) diversity in the sector.

Health

Healthy Early Years' London

On 4 October, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, visited Meath Garden's Children's Centre, Tower Hamlets, to observe what early years settings have done to improve health, wellbeing and school readiness of the children attending as part of the Healthy Early Years London Pilot.

London Health Board

On 5 October, I chaired the London Health Board. The Board was pleased to note the progress being made with national partners towards finalising the London Health and Care Devolution memorandum of understanding.

Professor Chris Ham also presented the findings and recommendations of the King's Fund and Nuffield Trust's report on London's Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs). Members welcomed the report and expressed support for the principle of STPs, but it was agreed that more and better communication was needed to convey the purpose of STPs and manage expectations. It was hoped that the refresh of STPs would be undertaken with greater engagement and ultimately provide the assurances that would enable this. The Board wished to exercise some oversight of the process to ensure it was evolving and properly communicated.

Board members also considered mental health, including the Section 136 Crisis Care pathway, where members want to see strong links to local transport networks as the plans are developed and received an update on Thrive LDN.

Professor Yvonne Doyle updated the Board on the consultation on my Health Inequalities Strategy. Members were encouraged to engage their stakeholders and submit responses by 30 November.

Healthy Schools London

On 19 October, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, visited Hendon School in the London Borough of Barnet to congratulate them on their fantastic work as part of my Healthy Schools London programme. They have achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for their work on pupil's mental health and healthy eating.

Team London and Volunteering

London Enterprise Adviser Network

On 19 October, the London Enterprise Adviser Network, managed by Team London, hosted 'Explore Your Horizons: Speed Networking and Work Skills Event'.

The event matched over 190 business volunteers with students from across London at Lord's Cricket Ground to take part in speed networking. The event promoted the breadth of opportunities and careers available to all young people across the capital. My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, spoke at the event and took part in the speed networking.

Young London Inspired

I have approved the GLA's receipt of #iwill funding from the Big Lottery Fund as follows:

- £450,000 as a 50 per cent contribution towards the costs of the Team London Young Ambassadors programme 2017-20;
- £383,000 as a 50 per cent contribution towards the cost of the small grants programme 2017-20.

I have also approved expenditure of up to:

- £900,000 (£450,000 coming from existing planned GLA resources) on the Team London Young Ambassador programme 2017-20;
- £766,000 (£383,000 coming from existing GLA resources) on the small grants programme 2017-20;
- £50,000, in the form of grant funding, from the GLA to v·inspired as a contribution to the costs of its v·Rewards project.

Culture and Events

Dagenham East Film Studios Report Launch

On 30 October, whilst visiting the set of *Humans 3* at Barking Power Station alongside the Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council, Cllr Darren Rodwell, I announced plans for Dagenham East to become a world-leading destination for the production of blockbuster movies, as a study which I co-commissioned shows how the area is the ideal location for Hollywood-style studio space.

The study outlines how Dagenham East represents a rare chance to build a world-class film studio in London. This will support the long-term success of the UK's booming film and TV production industries, bolster Film London's work in attracting major new projects to the capital, while also contributing to the regeneration of east London and supporting my ambition for creative production along the Thames Estuary.

From the outset of my Mayoralty, I have pledged to make London the most film-friendly city in the world. Therefore, last year, I teamed up with Film London, the London Local Enterprise Panel and, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, to commission this study into creating the capital's first new TV and film production studios for at least 25 years, following increasing demand and pressure on existing studio space in the capital.

Key findings of the Report outline that:

- Demand for studio space has never been higher. The value of feature film production spend in the UK in 2016 was £1.6 billion, an all-time record. The large majority of this sum was associated with inward investment feature films, most of which are big-budget US-financed pictures. Much of this growth is focused on studios in and around London.
- Trends in the film and TV markets currently favour large, permanent studio spaces. Big-budget productions typically look for at least 125,000 square footage of stages, which this study demonstrates Dagenham East can accommodate. Other successful UK film studios are planning expansions but will not meet growing demand on their own, with modelling suggesting that the UK could need a further 800,000 square feet to 1.22m square feet of studio space by 2032.

- A studio of this size at Dagenham East could generate around 780 full time jobs in the local area and £35 million for the economy.
- Barking and Dagenham is well connected, and the proposed site is midway between the City and the M25. It's directly opposite the tube station and close to the A13 and M11 motorways, providing excellent transport links for cast, crew and industry professionals. Its location would provide a clear trajectory for studio South East,

Barking and Dagenham Council is now inviting expressions of interest from investors, entrepreneurs and businesses to create the huge studio space and will start the formal tender process in 2018. The potential site for the new studios at Dagenham East is located in front of Londoneast-UK business and technical park and was scoped out because of its significantly large size, which presents the opportunity to build a new, bespoke facility.

Thames Estuary Growth Day

On 5 October, my Cultural Ambassador John Newbigin OBE, gave a keynote speech at the Thames Estuary Growth Day, hosted at London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, about my vision for a Thames Estuary Production Corridor as a new hub for the creative industries to provide future jobs and growth.

BFI London Film Festival - Mayor's Gala

On 9 October, I attended the 61st BFI London Film Festival Mayor's Gala, with the film premiere of 'Call Me By Your Name' by Italian director Luca Guadagnino.

The BFI London Film Festival showcases films from across the world and celebrates London's global reputation as a capital for film. I outlined my ambitions for London to be the most film friendly city in the world.

Dance Umbrella Festival Launch

On 11 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, launched the 39th Dance Umbrella festival alongside Emma Gladstone, Chief Executive and Artistic Director, and Dance Umbrella's Chair, Robin Price, at Battersea Power Station.

Dance Umbrella is the UK's foremost dance festival and celebrates international 21st century contemporary dance presenting performances in 20 indoor venues and outdoor sites across 13 boroughs.

Night Surgery for venue security workers

On 12 October, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, held a night surgery dedicated to the night time security industry. It brought together accredited security companies, as well as freelance security workers and the Security Industries Authority, the industry body that issues licenses. The event was the first of its kind and was hugely welcomed across the industry.

Night Time Commission

On 13 October, the first meeting of my Night Time Commission took place at City Hall. It was chaired by Philip Kolvin QC and attended by 26 members, representing boroughs, night time economy businesses, public authorities and the culture sector. The commission input into the research and consultation plan that the GLA has developed. This research will ensure that

Londoners' views inform the work of the commission and the recommendations to me at the end of 2018.

Launch of Bridge Theatre

On 26 October, I attended the opening night of the Bridge Theatre to watch the play 'Young Marx', alongside my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE.

This new theatre in One London Bridge is the first large scale commercial theatre to be built in London for over 80 years. It is run by the London Theatre Company, established by Nick Starr and Sir Nicholas Hytner, former directors of the National Theatre.

Frieze Art Fair

On 4 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE attended the opening of Frieze Art Fair, including Frieze Masters. In its 15th year, the fair attracts galleries worldwide and contributes to London's position as the second largest art market in the world.

UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre Design – Competition Winner

On 24 October, I announced the winner of the UK Holocaust Memorial International Design Competition alongside the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid MP.

The winning design by architect David Adjaye Associates, with designer Ron Arad and landscape designers Gustafson Porter + Bowman, will be built in Victoria Tower Gardens next to the Houses of Parliament. The competition panel was chaired by Sir Peter Bazalgette and the memorial is expected to open in 2021.

The winning design was selected by a panel of 13 jurors including myself, Design Council CEO Sarah Weir OBE, V&A director Tristram Hunt, and holocaust survivor Ben Helfgott, following a public consultation.

Black History Month

On 14 October, Africa on the Square took place on Trafalgar Square, where Londoners and visitors to the capital came together to mark Black History Month. Up to 30,000 people attended the event, which celebrated the different cultures of African communities in London. The event included music and food, alongside a line-up of entertainment and activities, all inspired by the traditions and cultures of the African continent, including performances from artists representing Sudan, Cameroon, Madagascar, Ghana, Morocco and Mali.

It was great to see the involvement of cultural and educational groups on the day, including Black Cultural Archives, The Africa Centre, SOAS, Film Africa, The Unremembered Project and MOBO's. The Voice also supported the event as the media partner.

I also hosted a reception at City Hall to celebrate and recognise the fantastic contribution London's African and Caribbean communities make to the capital and hosted an exhibition by The Voice, celebrating 35 years of championing diversity at City Hall.

The exhibition featured front pages and other features from The Voice newspaper each year from 1982 – 2016. From its small beginnings in an office in Mare Street, Hackney, the first issue of The Voice was printed to coincide with the Notting Hill Carnival in August 1982. Since then it has won a number of awards and is Britain's longest running Black newspaper.

Diwali Festival

On 15 October, I attended the annual Diwali Festival on Trafalgar Square, where over 60,000 people came together to enjoy the wonderful festival of lights. Marking triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and friendship over enmity, it was fitting that Londoners from all backgrounds and faiths were able to come together for this festival showing once more that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Diwali's central message of peace and mutual respect is one that we can all learn from. It reminds us that London succeeds when it is open to all.

The event included a colourful spectacle of song and dance on stage, vegetarian cuisine, and informative and fun activities based around Indian traditions such as Yoga, Rangoli, diya lamps and sari wearing. This year also incorporated a partnership with the UK-India Year of Culture and with Soho Theatre - showcasing Asian comedy. A collaborative project, Silk River – the culmination of a year's artistic exchange between communities along the Thames Estuary and India's Hooghly River - opened the event with an impressive procession of flags and dhol drumming.

I also hosted a Diwali Reception at the Lalit Hotel on Tuesday 10 October prior to my upcoming visit to India.

People's Question Time in Barking and Dagenham

On 2 November, I attended my second People's Question Time of the year, which took place at Castle Green Community Centre in Barking and Dagenham.

The audience questioned me and Assembly Members on issues affecting the borough and across London, including housing, transport, and policing.

Fourth Plinth programme 2017-2021

I have approved revenue expenditure of up to £800,000 between 2017-2021 for the delivery of the Fourth Plinth Programme and the application for, receipt and expenditure of Arts Council England grant income of up to £160,000, to supplement the programme up to 2021.

I have also agreed capital expenditure of up to £400,000 between 2017-2021 for the Fourth Plinth programme.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

Leading London Conference

On 9 October, I addressed the 'Leading London: London at the heart of business innovation' conference at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where I talked about the centre of gravity in London shifting to the east, with thousands of jobs in tech, science and media having been

created since the 2012 Games. I also outlined my support for the development of the new world-class culture and education district in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The conference coincided with the release of the Oxford Economics report which shows 110,000 jobs were created in the 6 host boroughs since the 2012 Games, with another 125,000 additional jobs expected by 2030.

World Para Taekwondo Championships 2017 & World Taekwondo Grand Prix

I am delighted to report on the success of the World Para Taekwondo Championships and World Taekwondo Grand Prix which took part at the Copper Box Arena between 19 – 22 October. It's the first time world-class Taekwondo has come to London since the summer of 2012.

The GB squad won five medals, including gold for Jade Jones, Bianca Walkden and Lauren Williams. Great Britain's Amy Truesdale secured gold at the World Para Taekwondo Championships.

FIFA Awards 2017

On 24 October, I was pleased to attend the Best FIFA Awards 2017 at the London Palladium. I formally welcomed the awards to London, the first time that they had been hosted outside of Zurich.

East London Tour to the Vatican

I am delighted to report on the multi-faith cricket trip to Rome and the Vatican where a 30 plus group of people, billed as an East London Multi-Faith Cricket Team, travelled to Rome to play against St Peter's (The Vatican) Cricket Club.

The trip followed an invite from the Vatican and was organised through Essex County Cricket Club as part of their ongoing drive to promote cricket in east London boroughs. The tour brought together over 30 people, of five different faiths, and demonstrated the power of cricket and of sport to bring people together whatever, their faith or background.

Fire

London Fire Brigade campaign - #FirefightingSexism

On 16 October, I supported London Fire Brigade's #FirefightingSexism campaign which calls on people to stop using the outdated term fireman and encourage more women to become firefighters.

Our firefighters do one of the most important jobs there is – helping to keep the rest of us safe – regardless of their gender or background.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Deputy Mayor kick starts the UK's largest regeneration project

On 29 September, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray, and the Chairman of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), Liz Peace CBE, started construction work on the first homes at Old Oak and Park Royal – the largest regeneration project in the UK, providing 25,500 homes and 65,000 jobs.

The two joined QPR and Genesis Housing Association in demolishing a derelict hostel that will make way for a new West London neighbourhood consisting of 605 new homes, including a high proportion (40%) of affordable homes. They are the first homes that will be built at Old Oak and Park Royal and will start the transformation of the area. With the first residents expected to move in from early 2020, Genesis and QPR will create a place to be proud of and make a major contribution to delivering the OPDC's overarching vision for the area.

Appointments

Appointment of the GLA's Monitoring Officer

I agreed, noting that it is a joint decision with the London Assembly, the appointment of Emma Strain, Assistant Director of External Relations, as the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

Budget and Finance

Funding to Maximise Business Rates and Council Tax Income

I have approved up to £50,000 per billing authority in 2017-18 (equivalent to up to £1.7 million) and, up to £75,000 in both 2018-19 and 2019-20 (up to £2.5 million in total), to enhance the property inspection functions in the 33 London billing authorities. It is anticipated that these costs will be recovered in full through the additional council tax and business rates income generated.

Planning and Development

Increased number of affordable homes in Wandsworth

On 17 October, I used my planning powers to boost the number of genuinely affordable homes being delivered on a new housing development in Wandsworth.

I intervened after Wandsworth Council refused permission for the development of the site of a current Homebase store in Swandon Way in April this year, due to the height and scale of the development, and its proximity to a nearby conversation area. The development included just 23 per cent affordable housing, or 84 of the 348 homes in the scheme.

However, I used my planning powers to 'call in' the development and have achieved an increase in the level of affordable housing to 35 per cent – meaning 136 of the 385 homes in the approved plans will be affordable.

The delivery of affordable homes has also been brought forward, with 55 per cent arriving in the first phase – all of which would have been built much later under the previous plans.

I have also agreed a review mechanism, which could see affordable housing increase to as much as 50 per cent if an agreed level of progress is not made on the development within two years.

The developer will also contribute £2.5 million towards a new entrance to nearby Wandsworth Town station. The plans also include substantial cycle parking, retail and commercial units, and improvements to public spaces.

Doubling affordable housing in Mill Hill scheme

On 6 October, I approved a major new residential development in Mill Hill after intervening to double the level of affordable homes and to include homes at social rent levels within the development, underlining my tough approach to accelerating the delivery of new and genuinely affordable housing in London.

Barnet Council refused permission for the development on the former National Institute for Medical Research site in February this year, against the advice of its own planning officers.

When I first saw the plans in December last year, they included just 20 per cent affordable housing – 92 homes, all of which were for shared ownership. Earlier this year, I called in the planning application and have now secured twice as much (40 per cent) affordable housing on the site – 185 homes, including 131 for shared ownership and 54 at social rent levels.

I also ensured that 119 trees which would have been felled across the site will now be retained and an additional 91 new trees will be planted. The development will also see a number of sports pitches previously in private hands transferred to the local council for community use.

Planning Decisions (Stage III representation hearings)

National Institute for Medical Research, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, LB Barnet

Having decided to become the local planning authority for the above case, at the hearing on 6 October 2017, I decided to grant planning permission, subject to planning conditions and prior written conclusion of a section 106 agreement.

Homebase, Swandon Way, Battersea, LB Wandsworth

Having decided to become the local planning authority for the above case, at the hearing on 17 October 2017, I decided to grant planning permission, subject to planning conditions and prior written conclusion of a section 106 agreement.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Standard Wharf, Erith, LB Bexley

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

Shoreditch Village (phase two), LB Hackney

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

Cranford Community College, LB Hounslow

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

Waste Depot, Hayes, LB Hounslow

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

Site C, Former Alfa Laval Site, Great West Road, LB Hounslow

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

Gunnersbury Avenue, LB Hounslow

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

Former Homebase site, 195 Warwick Road, RB Kensington and Chelsea

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

44 Clapham Common Southside, LB Lambeth

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

Cherry Park, Stratford City, London Legacy Development Corporation

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

Royal Docks Service Station, North Woolwich Road, LB Newham

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

Forest Works site, Walthamstow, LB Waltham Forest

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Land East of Wembley Stadium (site E05), LB Brent
- VDC/Careys Site, Wembley, LB Brent
- 294-295 High Holborn, LB Camden
- Morley House and City Temple, 26-30 Holborn Viaduct, City of London
- Former Essex House, 101 George Street, Croydon, LB Croydon
- 1-3 Chalkmill Drive, Enfield, LB Enfield
- Watermeadow Court, Fulham, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Edith Summerskill House, Fulham, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Triangle Site, Hammersmith, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- 68-72 Hammersmith Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Highways Depot and Workshop, 423 Rainham Road, LB Havering

- Beam Park, Rainham, LB Havering and LB Barking and Dagenham
- 1 Nestles Avenue, Hayes, LB Hillingdon
- Dukes Meadows Tennis and Golf Club, Chiswick, LB Hounslow
- 1-83 High Street, Hounslow, LB Hounslow
- Ropemaker Street, Moorgate, LB Islington
- Clapham Common, LB Lambeth
- 22 Wyvil Road, Vauxhall, LB Lambeth
- Clapham Park Estate, LB Lambeth
- Former Tesco car park, 209 Conington Road, LB Lewisham
- UCL East, Stratford, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Land at Imperial Street, Bromley-by-Bow, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Land at Clockhouse and Access House, Imperial Street, Bromley-by-Bow, London Legacy Development Corporation
- Kensington Aldridge Academy, Wormwood Scrubs, Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation
- 198 York Road, Battersea Riverside, LB Wandsworth
- North West House, 119-127 Marylebone Road, City of Westminster
- Berkeley Hotel, Knightsbridge, City of Westminster

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

My Deputy Mayor for Planning has asked officers to send letters giving comments about the following stage one referrals:

- Former Parcel Force Depot, Stephenson Street, West Ham, LB Newham

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- 78 River Road, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Ealing Filmworks, Former Empire Cinema, LB Ealing
- 25-27 Merrick Road, LB Ealing
- Former Contractor's Compound, LB Hillingdon
- Land at Thurston Road to the North of Sherwood Court, LB Lewisham
- Land at Thameside West and Carlsberg Tetley, LB Newham
- Site 3 Brewsters Waste Management Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Keltbray Ltd, LB Newham
- Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Site 4 Docklands Waste Recycling Ltd, Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Site 1 McGee Bedrock Ltd, Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Site 2 G and B Compressor Hire Ltd, Thames Wharf, LB Newham
- Leamouth Peninsula North, LB Tower Hamlets
- 72 Broadwick Street, City of Westminster
- Hammersmith and Fulham Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- New Southwark Plan Proposed New and Amended Policies and Draft Old Kent Road Area Action Plan Proposed New and Amended Policies, LB Southwark
- City of London Freight and Servicing SPD, City of London
- Havering Local Plan - Regulation 19 Consultation, LB Havering

- Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review and Detailed Policies and Proposals, LB Croydon

Key Engagements

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

- I addressed the Mayor's School for Success Programme Awards Ceremony on 29 September
- I met with Richard Scudamore, Executive Chairman, The Premier League, on 29 September to discuss the cost of policing football matches in London
- I attended the funeral service for the late Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Jim Maddan OBE, at St Mary's Church, Putney on 30 September
- I addressed the CST Real Estate and Finance Lunch on 2 October
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 2 October
- I had my regular meeting with representatives from the South-East Region TUC on 3 October
- I addressed the Mumsnet Family Friendly Awards Ceremony on 3 October
- I addressed the Every Journey, Every Child Conference at City Hall on 4 October
- I chaired the London Economic Action Partnership Board Meeting on 4 October
- I met with Peter Kavanagh, Unite on 4 October to discuss transport issues
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 5 October
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 5 October
- I chaired the London Health Board meeting on 5 October
- I chaired the National Institute of Medical Research Representation Hearing at City Hall on 6 October
- I addressed the LLDC/ES Conference at Here East on 9 October
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 9 October
- I hosted the Mayor's Film Gala at the London Film Festival on 9 October
- I attended the London Councils Congress of Leaders on 10 October
- I had an introductory meeting with Jim O'Neill, the New York Police Commissioner, on 10 October
- I met with the Prime Minister on 10 October on to discuss my submission to the Budget
- I addressed the Diwali Reception at the Lalit Hotel on 10 October
- I addressed the CBI London Autumn Lunch on 11 October
- I attended Mayors Question Time on 12 October
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 12 October
- I met with Rt Hon David Gauke MP & Richard Harrington MP on 12 October to discuss the Metropolitan Line Extension
- I visited the Swandon Way Homebase development site in Wandsworth on 13 October
- I attended the Infrastructure Summit hosted by the National Infrastructure Commission in Birmingham on 13 October
- I addressed Diwali on the Square on 15 October
- I met with Hilary Clinton at the South Bank Centre on 15 October
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 16 October

- I chaired the Swandon Way Homebase Representation Hearing at City Hall on 17 October
- I met with the Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education, on 18 October to discuss the provision of education in London
- I addressed the Pink News Awards Ceremony on 18 October
- I addressed the London Transport Museum Fundraising Dinner on 18 October
- I appeared before the GLA EU Exit Working Group on 19 October
- I had an introductory meeting with Mrs Yordanka Fandakova, the Mayor of Sofia, on 19 October
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London and Crossrail on 19 October
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley on 19 October to discuss policing and security
- I attended the ES Progress 1000 Reception at the Tate Modern on 19 October
- I visited Thames House on 20 October
- I visited the UCL Day Nursery on 23 October to launch the T charge
- I attended the C40 Steering Committee in Paris on 23 October
- I had an introductory meeting with the Mayor of Barcelona on 23 October
- I had an introductory meeting with the Mayor of LA on 23 October
- I had an introductory meeting with the Governor of Tokyo on 23 October
- I welcomed The Best Fifa Football Awards 2017 to London on 23 October
- I attended the opening of the new Bloomberg building in Queen Victoria Street on 24 October
- I attended the announcement of the winner of the Holocaust Design Memorial Competition on 24 October
- I chaired the Business Advisory Board meeting on 25 October
- I had an introductory meeting with Sir David Adjaye on 25 October
- I had my regular meeting with the Transport Unions on 25 October
- I had my regular meeting with Craig Mackey, the Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 26 October
- I attended the opening of the Bridge Theatre on 26 October
- I hosted the James O'Brien show on LBC on 27 October
- I attended the Minnesota Vikings & Cleveland Browns NFL game taking place at Twickenham Stadium on 29 October
- I visited the set of Humans 3, a Channel 4 TV programme filmed at Barking Power Station on 30 October to announce plans for a large-scale film and TV studio in Dagenham East following a jointly-funded feasibility study
- I had my regular meeting with Fiona Twycross, Chair of LFEPa and Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 30 October
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 30 October
- I had my regular meeting with Liz Peace, the Chair of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, on 30 October
- I launched the London Poppy Day appeal at Euston Station on 31 October
- I addressed the Schools Knife Crime Summit at Friends House, Euston Rd on 31 October
- I addressed the Black History Month 30th Anniversary Celebration Reception taking place at City Hall on 31 October

- I hosted a meeting at City Hall of the 6 Metro Mayors on 1 November
- I had an introductory meeting with Simon French, Chief Inspector of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch, on 1 November
- I opened Wired Live 2017 on 2 November
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 2 November
- I attended People's Question Time in Barking & Dagenham on 2 November

Ends