

# **47<sup>th</sup> Mayor's Report to the Assembly**

## **Mayor's Question Time – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

This is my forty-seventh report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 6<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

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

## **Executive Summary**

### **COVID-19 update**

Londoners have done exactly what has been asked of them since the start of this pandemic, and their monumental sacrifice managed to keep the number of cases lower in our city than most other parts of the country since the summer.

Cases are falling in most boroughs across the capital, and that's why it was the right decision for London to have been placed in Tier 2 of the new COVID-19 restrictions when the second national lockdown ended on the 2nd of December. However, there must be no complacency – we know how quickly this virus can spread and we all need to keep playing our part to drive numbers down further across our city.

The decision to place London in Tier 2 was a welcome boost for London's shops, businesses and hospitality venues who were forced to close just as preparations for the Christmas period began. Businesses across London have worked incredibly hard to make their premises COVID-safe, and I am really pleased that they are able to open their doors again.

I welcomed the Government's decision to place London in Tier 2 and was pleased we persuaded the Government to get rid of the 10pm curfew. But extending it to 11pm, when it should be scrapped altogether, is a mistake. It is a real blow to pubs, bars and restaurants which have endured such a difficult year, and deserve better.

London's Tier 2 status will be reviewed again next week, and it's absolutely vital that Londoners continue to follow the rules and reduce the spread of the virus; now and over Christmas. With the positive news of vaccines giving us hope and encouragement we must still do all we can to protect the NHS and save lives.

### **Remembrance Service**

On Friday 6 November, I, alongside the Chair of the London Assembly, Navin Shah AM, and the Chair of Royal British Legion City Hall Branch, Len Duvall OBE AM, led a special online Remembrance Service in honour of those who lost their lives fighting for their country.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this multi-faith service marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II was pre-recorded and held online. It was opened with an address from The Dean of Southwark, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, with faith leaders from Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Islamic faiths also giving their prayers of remembrance.

Our annual Remembrance Service gives us the opportunity to reflect on the dedication and sacrifice of all those who served our nation. Although we couldn't join together in person this year, it is important that we paid tribute to the men and women who gave their lives for our freedom. As we commemorate 75 years since the end of World War II, we must never forget what our Armed Forces have done and continue to do for us and future generations.

### **Blossom Commemoration Project**

On 27 November, I announced in partnership with the National Trust and with support from Bloomberg, that a lasting living memorial at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will be created. The 33 blossom trees will allow all Londoners and visitors to the capital to contemplate and reflect on the thousands of lives that have been lost in London, the vital efforts of key workers, and the city's shared experience of the pandemic.

This lasting memorial will be the first planting in a National Trust spring blossom campaign to be launched in 2021.

### **Tackling social media disinformation related to COVID-19**

GLA officers met with Facebook (18 November), Youtube (20 November), TikTok (16 November), Twitter (25 November) and Nextdoor (23 November) to raise concerns I have about the role misinformation and disinformation is playing in driving vaccine hesitancy in London, and to explore how the platforms can work more closely with partners in London to promote uptake of COVID vaccines.

All of the platforms have policies in place enabling the removal of medical disinformation and misinformation that is likely to cause real-world harm and have asked that GLA officers forward on any content they become aware of that may breach these policies.

All of the platforms have made commitments to work with the GLA and other London partners on an ongoing basis to help promote public health messaging. This support includes content and influencer partnerships, technical advice on improving the reach of campaigns and anonymised insight and intelligence about online discussion in London.

### **London COVID-19 Business Forum & Roadmap to the safe and full reopening of London's economy**

On 18 November, I convened a new London COVID-19 Business Forum. This continues the collaboration and consultation over the last year between City Hall, London Councils and London's business community to support the recovery of our economy.

The Forum brings together key business groups such as London First, NWECC, UK Hospitality, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CBI London, FSB London and the Creative Industries Federation.

We discussed a meaningful and achievable roadmap for the safe reopening and recovery of our economy, with recommended actions for Government, boroughs, City Hall and other partners.

On 22 November, myself and a number of the participants signed a letter to the Prime Minister, enclosing the roadmap and highlighting five immediate steps the Government must take as a route out of this crisis for business, culture and tourism in our capital.

The forum will continue to meet monthly to discuss and track progress of the Roadmap.

### **Launch of Green New Deal Fund**

On 19 November, I launched the first part of my Green New Deal fund with £10 million invested in projects to boost green jobs, tackle the climate emergency and address inequalities. This sits alongside the investment I am making to support action on the climate and ecological emergency through other City Hall programmes on housing, adult education, skills and transport. The first phase of the fund will secure around 1,000 jobs for Londoners, and support the green industries that are crucial to meeting the city's climate targets and recover from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19. This initial £10m investment covers three areas:

- **Decarbonising the Built Environment**  
Tackling emissions from heating and powering London's buildings.
- **Green Transport and Public Realm**  
Tackling transport emissions and encouraging walking, cycling and electric vehicles.
- **Green Foundations**  
Supporting growth of new and existing businesses in the green economy.

The Green New Deal Fund supports the London Recovery Board's ambition to double the green economy in London to £100 billion by 2030, an ambition that would kick-start greater job growth over the next decade.

Alongside the launch of the Green New Deal Fund, I also released new data on the status of London's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in 2019/20. It showed the sector, pre-pandemic, was thriving and was worth nearly £48bn in sales and employed around 317,000 people across nearly 14,000 companies.

### **Mayor's Contribution to Wave 4 of the London Community Response**

I have contributed £2.15 million to Wave 4 of the London Community Response. The fund will give priority to: organisations led by and for marginalised communities and those most affected by the COVID-19 crisis (particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic; Deaf and Disabled; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender; and/or women's-led groups); groups who have a strong reach to people at high risk of negative impacts from COVID-19 and smaller organisations. The purpose of the fund is to help charities and community groups in navigating crisis in the next six months. This will particularly focus on funding to support organisations tackling food poverty and social isolation.

It will also resource advice services, volunteer management, hyper local community action, essentials for people facing crisis, and necessary adaptations to services. The deadline for applications is 3 December 2020.

## **New London Living Wage rate announced**

On 9 November, I announced the new London Living Wage rate of £10.85 per hour, an increase of 10 pence per hour, in an online event hosted by the Living Wage Foundation. Over 2,000 London employers are now Living Wage accredited, with 80,000 Londoners, including many key workers, receiving an uplift in pay. I also supported Living Wage Week and a celebration of London's key workers by making advertising space available on the Transport for London network.

My Deputy Mayor for Business also hosted a roundtable with 25 GLA group suppliers to encourage further take-up of the Living Wage and my Good Work Standard in our supply chain.

## **People's Question Time Online**

On Thursday 12 November, Londoners were given the opportunity to put live questions to me and the London Assembly at our very first online People's Question Time (PQT Online), chaired by Chair of the London Assembly and Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow, Navin Shah.

Over 650 audience members logged into the event on the evening, with over 6,000 views of the event too. The registered audience were able to put their questions to the panel via a live chat function on the night. For the first time for PQT, Talk London members were also able to submit questions to be asked live (or pre-recorded) via video at the event.

## **Diwali**

On Saturday 14 November 2020, I marked Diwali - the festival of lights celebrated by Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities across London and around the world.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, we were unable to hold the popular annual public Diwali in the Square event on Trafalgar Square, but I'm pleased that we were still able to mark this important celebration through video messages to the communities and a light display on Trafalgar Square. The light display included Rangoli designs and the message 'Happy Diwali' being projected onto Trafalgar Square.

In addition, the Diwali in London committee hosted an online event 'Remembering Diwali on Trafalgar Square', under the theme 'Compassion, Care and Gratitude'.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **A new Action Plan - Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November I published my Action Plan to improve trust and confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and to address community concerns about the disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners.

The Action Plan has been developed following a series of consultations facilitated by MOPAC, the GLA and the VRU with more than 400 individuals and groups that either work with or within Black communities, in response to concerns raised about disproportionality in the use of some police powers, about the need for greater transparency and accountability, and for further action to ensure that the MPS represents the communities it serves.

I recognise and welcome the progress made by the MPS since the Macpherson Inquiry more than 20 years ago. It is more transparent and more accountable than at any time in its history and is more representative of London with more than 5,000 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers, up from just over 3,000 a decade ago. But it is clear more needs to be done. MOPAC figures show Black Londoners have less confidence in the MPS than white Londoners and that there remains a persistent disproportionality in the way certain police powers affect Black Londoners.

The Action Plan sets out a range of steps we will take to address these disparities, by more closely involving communities and ensuring they have proper oversight and scrutiny of stop and search, the use of Tasers and the use of force, as well as in the training of new police officers so they can better understand the impact that the disproportionate use of police powers can have on Black Londoners.

We need all communities in London to have trust in the use of police powers as the MPS goes about the vital work of tackling crime. As a result, the whole city will be a safer place for all Londoners.

### **New investment to tackle violence against women and girls in London**

Statistics have shown a large increase in abusive behaviour and violence this year, with calls to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline increasing by 49 per cent in the three weeks after the first lockdown on 23 March, and the Metropolitan Police recording a 37 per cent increase in domestic abuse cases between March 2020 to July 2020 compared to the same period last year.

From prevention to bringing perpetrators to justice, I am determined to do everything in my power to ensure dangerous offenders are dealt with, and that victims and survivors get access to the support they need quickly to help turn their lives around. On 25<sup>th</sup> November – the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, I announced an investment of £3.7 million as part of a major new package of measures to support victims of domestic abuse and tackle violence against women and girls.

The new funding, comprising money from City Hall and the government, includes provision for safe spaces for domestic abuse victims during lockdown, funding for new training for

police officers to improve the response given to survivors of domestic abuse, and cash for schemes focused on addressing the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse.

## Transport

### **TfL and Mayor partner with Halfords to help curb bike theft**

On 10 November TfL unveiled a new collaboration with leading cycling retailer Halfords to encourage Londoners to safely and securely lock up their bikes and reduce the risk of theft.

There are fears that many owners of new bikes aren't aware of the latest advice or using high quality locks to keep their bikes as secure as possible.

Everyone who completes TfL's free online Cycle Skills course will receive 15% off Halfords' own brand locks - making good quality deterrents more affordable - as well as lights and helmets.

Despite fewer journeys being made across the city overall, cycling is up by 20%, with Santander Cycles use up by 20% too.

On some routes, there has been a massive 200% increase in cycle trips. Halfords have reported a 60% year-on-year increase in sales of new bikes since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as record numbers of Londoners take up cycling.

TfL will continue to work hard to ensure a green recovery by building on Londoners' record-breaking demand for cycling over the past few months.

### **TfL and London Councils look for e-scooter operators to take part in year-long rental trial**

On 17 November, Transport for London and London Councils launched a competition to select up to three operators for a twelve-month trial of rental e-scooters

In partnership with London Councils and London's boroughs, TfL has been working on plans for a trial of rental e-scooters in the capital. This trial aims to promote safety standards and develop a better understanding of the impact of this emerging mode of transport on London's roads. The competition is open to all e-scooter operators and up to three will be selected to take part in the 12-month trial, which is due to start in spring 2021.

Guidance issued by the Department for Transport in summer 2020 now allows local authorities in the UK to trial e-scooters as part of a rental scheme. The use of privately owned e-scooters on public roads is not covered by these changes and remains illegal in the UK. The Metropolitan Police will continue their work engaging with e-scooter riders, and where necessary, will enforce the legislation regarding the use of privately owned e-scooters.

The trials are part of a wider approach across TfL, London boroughs and national government to enable people to use greener forms of transport and help avoid a damaging, car-led recovery from COVID-19, which would make air quality worse and increase congestion.

## **Essential escalator work at South Kensington Tube station starts in late February 2021**

Transport for London has been advising customers who use South Kensington Tube station that essential work to replace the escalators starts in late February 2021. It means that Piccadilly line trains will be non-stopping at the station from this date until early spring 2022.

The vital replacement programme will see all five Piccadilly line escalators at South Kensington station replaced. The escalators, which were installed in 1973 and are at the end of their lifespan, have become unreliable and are the highest priority escalators for replacement on the Tube network.

South Kensington station will remain open for Circle and District line customers. Customers will be able to use these lines if they need to alight at the station or alight at Gloucester Road, which is an eight minute walk to South Kensington. Detailed travel advice is set to be published in the new year.

The essential work will mean that the station, which prior to the pandemic saw almost 34 million customer journeys each year and provides an important gateway to the world-famous cultural attractions in the area, will have five new high-performing escalators for decades to come. All work will be carried out according to the latest social distancing guidelines for staff and customers.

## **Fire and Resilience**

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

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

### **London Resilience Brexit Contingency Planning Group**

On 6<sup>th</sup> November and 30<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual Brexit Contingency Planning Group meeting as Chair of the London Resilience Forum.

### **London COVID-19 Leaders Committee**

I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross and my Chief of Staff David Bellamy, continued to attend regular virtual meetings with London Councils Leaders and representatives of London's Strategic Coordinating Outbreak Control Group to consider London's response to COVID-19 throughout the month.

### **London Strategic Coordinating Group**

From 11<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend fortnightly meetings of London's Strategic Coordinating Group, which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19.

### **LRF and BRF**

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a meeting of the Borough Resilience Forum Chairs from London. The Forum discussed COVID-19 winter preparations, as well as a number of wider resilience issues and presentations on current resilience topics.

### **London MPs call**

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting to update and consult London MPs on London's response to COVID-19.

### **Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended and spoke at the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network. The Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) brings together strategic leaders, practitioners and academics to share city-level policies and practices that build resilience and keep our cities and communities safe from terrorism.

### **Call with Lord Greenhalgh**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government, to discuss the work of the London Fire Brigade.

### **National Preparedness Commission**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended the inaugural meeting of the National Preparedness Commission.

### **London Transition Board**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, I co-chaired the London Transition Board with Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Board oversees London's strategic transition out of the emergency response phase of the pandemic, bringing together senior representatives from national, regional and local government, business, health, communities, arts and culture and education.

### **Winter Preparedness**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting of the London Resilience Forum on Winter Preparedness.



# Growth, Skills and Regeneration

## Good Growth Fund

A range of my Good Growth Fund projects, funded through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), are making good progress, with positive impact felt across London's diverse communities. Recent achievements include:

- The retail section of the Inclusive Growth in Finsbury Park project opened its doors last month, providing local fashion designers with a high street outlet to sell their work.
- The National Youth Theatre has now started construction works and is due for completion in March 2021.
- Mercato Metropolitano's community market has now commenced construction and the project is due to complete in spring 2021, and open to the public shortly after that. In support of the project, Mercato has launched a business support programme for aspiring market traders and will create enterprise stalls within the market.

My Good Growth Fund programme also invests in pipeline projects through development funding. This supports projects with design and development costs including feasibility, viability and business planning.

Funding has recently been awarded to the East End Women's Museum to develop the proposal for a new museum building in Barking: the first of its kind in England. The museum will create civic space by using history to engage and inspire local people, particularly those from marginalised groups - empowering people to share their stories, discover new role models, and build community connections.

## Architecture + Urbanism Framework (A+U)

On 20 November, I announced through a [Prior Information Notice](#) on the OJEU my intention to procure a new architecture and urbanism consultant framework. The procurement of the A+U Framework will begin in early 2021 and will take the place of the existing Architecture Design and Urbanism Panel 2 multidisciplinary supplier framework. It will provide a comprehensive, OJEU compliant, design framework for use by the Greater London Authority (GLA) Group and other public sector commissioning authorities for architectural, placemaking and urban planning services.

The A+U Framework is being procured to:

- Support the delivery of 'good growth' and quality in the built environment across London.
- Address the under representation of women and people from minority groups in public procurement processes and promote equality of opportunity in accessing public sector work.
- Support the renewal and recovery of London post COVID-19.
- Showcase innovation in public sector procurement processes.
- Promote best practice in responsible procurement objectives.

- Develop and provide a showcase for London's architecture/built environment sector.

Ahead of the procurement beginning and the launch of the Standard Selection Questionnaire, my Regeneration and Procurement Officer's will be hosting a series of supplier workshops in early December. <https://www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/mayors-architecture-urbanism-framework>

### **High Streets for All mission – Stakeholder engagement**

On 25 November, my Regeneration and Economic Development team reconvened the High Street Network to introduce and discuss the High Streets for All Mission, one of the nine missions endorsed by the London Recovery Board. The event was opened by Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council and Chair of London Councils.

The High Streets for All Mission aims to deliver enhanced public spaces and exciting new uses for underused high street buildings in every Borough by 2025, working with London's diverse communities. Led by local partnerships, it will foster a culture of ideas, experimentation and invention, supported by enabling funds, expert advice and best practice sharing. As well as developing tools that respond to recent planning and licensing changes and promote the growth of new uses and innovative service delivery.

The High Street Network has been arranged with the support of London Councils and in line with the London Recovery Board ambitions. The event highlighted early thinking on actions and mission wide collaborative approaches, as well as learning from boroughs and others delivering initiatives for high streets and town centres renewal, ensuring that we harness the full potential of collaboration among London stakeholders.

### **Skills for Londoners Capital Fund - COVID-19 contingency support fund**

On 1 December, I approved, on behalf of the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the twelve college projects that will share £10.2 million of my COVID-19 contingency support fund. Providers, including general Further Education colleges, private skills providers and Institutes of Adult Education, have been allocated between £30,000 and £2.8 million to support their existing Skills for Londoners and Further Education Capital projects. This extra capital will help providers meet the funding shortfall in their existing projects caused by the effects of COVID-19. I previously approved £2.55 million for two projects for COVID-19 contingency support funding and £10.3 million for 91 projects for COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund (ERSF). I have responded to the urgent needs of skills providers in London by committing £23 million to 105 projects since the onset of the pandemic.

### **Supporting locally led recovery projects**

On 3 December, I announced Make London, my new £500,000 funding programme to support communities across London recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

It builds on the experience and ethos of my internationally recognised Crowdfund London and Culture Seeds programmes and delivers on the London Recovery Board's 'Building Strong Communities' and 'High Streets for All' mission objectives. Through Make London, I will pledge up to £50,000 to a range of creative community-led projects that bring people together safely, improve neighbourhood spaces and help support high streets and local economies.

This is a joint programme from my Regeneration, Culture and Creative Industries teams, in consultation with the Community and Social Policy team.

Deadline for project pitches is 28 January 2021. [www.london.gov.uk/make-london](http://www.london.gov.uk/make-london)

### **Creating a cross-sector expert group to support London's 'Mission' for Good Work**

The London Recovery Board, which I co-chair, has agreed a set of nine 'missions' to drive the efforts of GLA and its partners in supporting the capital's social and economic recovery. One of the missions is to promote 'Good Work for All Londoners' through the skills and employment system. I have assembled a diverse and cross-sector group of experts to help us plan and oversee the ambitious actions and projects that will help us deliver this mission. This will not be a typical advisory group. They will provide critical challenge, actively work with us to develop innovative ideas and help us tap into new networks and bring in new voices, including Londoners themselves. Details of the group will be shared soon.

### **Evaluation of the first year of devolved Adult Education Budget in London**

On 9 November, I published an independent evaluation of the first year of Adult Education Budget delivery following delegation of the Budget to the Mayor in summer 2019. The evaluation findings are "largely very positive", with IFF Research concluding that "the delegation of the AEB has worked effectively in its first year, for the majority of providers who receive funding from it". Many providers were found to have increased their provision in priority areas relevant to Londoners, including support for low-income learners, and provision of training related to priority sectors. The research also found that most providers thought the communication and support provided by the GLA in response to the COVID-19 pandemic had been effective. Findings from the evaluation will be used to refine the Mayor's approach to management of the AEB, and will inform future policy development.

The evaluation can be viewed online at:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/devolved\\_aeb\\_evaluation\\_report\\_gla\\_iff\\_controlled\\_v02.00\\_clean.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/devolved_aeb_evaluation_report_gla_iff_controlled_v02.00_clean.pdf)

## **Housing**

### **Non-UK nationals Rough Sleepers**

On 6 November, I joined with 27 borough and charity signatories to write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel MP and Housing Secretary, Robert Jenrick MP, about non-UK nationals who find themselves sleeping rough. In the letter, I urged Ministers to scrap plans for rough sleeping to become grounds for refusal or cancellation of permission to be in the UK, act to prevent European Londoners from becoming undocumented and take all necessary measures to avoid pushing refugees and asylum seekers into homelessness.

The letter can be viewed online in full at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-calls-for-compassion-for-homeless-migrants>

## **Community Led Housing London conference**

On 16 November, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley gave the keynote address at Community Housing London conference, 'Doing Housing Differently'. My Deputy Mayor spoke about our support for community-led housing across London, including through my London Community Housing Fund which funds developments that allow local residents to get directly involved in building and managing new homes, through co-operatives and community land trusts.

## **Property License Checker**

On 18 November, I launched a new online tool to help renters discover if their landlord has properly licensed their home. Some tenants could be owed thousands of pounds in rent repayments if their landlord has failed to obtain the correct licence.

Property licensing is an important tool that boroughs can use to enforce decent standards in the private rented sector, and for landlords to demonstrate that their property is suitable for occupation and managed to an acceptable standard. However, it can be difficult for tenants to know if their landlord has secured the correct licence, so the new Property Licence Checker will help renters find out whether their home needs a licence and allow them to report their landlord to the council if they have not obtained this. I am encouraging all renters to check their property and take steps to reclaim any rent they may be owed if their landlord has not complied with the law.

You can view the online tool at this link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/licence-checker-could-lead-to-rent-refunds#:~:text=The%20Mayor%20of%20London%2C%20Sadiq,has%20properly%20licensed%20their%20home.>

## **Launch of new Affordable Homes Programme**

On 24 November, I launched the new Affordable Homes Programme prospectus for 2021-2026. The £4 billion programme will fund the development of a new generation of safe, sustainable, well-designed homes across the capital, building on the record-breaking delivery of affordable homes since I became Mayor. I have successfully negotiated with Government to allow more than half of the new programme to fund social rented homes, given that the most acute need in London is for low-cost, genuinely affordable homes to rent. The new Affordable Homes Programme will run concurrently with the current 2016-23 programme, which has been extended by one year due to the pandemic. Together the two programmes will result in the delivery of 82,000 new homes from April 2021 onwards.

I have set ambitious targets for London to be a zero-carbon city by 2030 and have introduced new sustainability requirements in the programme to meet this objective, including requiring all developments of ten or more homes to be net zero-carbon as a condition of funding. Housing providers wishing to bid for funds from the new AHP will also have to meet new conditions on building safety and design and live up to new equality, diversity and inclusion standards, with training for all employees, a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination and a commitment to recruiting from diverse and under-represented groups.

As part of the decision to approve the receipt of the funding for the London Affordable Homes Programme 2021-26, I extended the programme longstop date for starts on site in the London Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 to 31 March 2023.

Consequentially I also approved minor amendments to the Affordable Homes provisions in paragraph 19 of the Mayoral Decision Making in the GLA, namely:

- the delegation to be exercised by either the Interim Deputy Executive Director of Housing and Land, or the Executive Director of Housing and Land, in either case to approve individual allocations within the funding envelope;
- the delegation to apply to both the extended Affordable Homes Programme 2016-23 and to the new London Affordable Homes Programme 2021-26; and
- adding the role of Interim Deputy Executive Director, Housing and Land, to the list of Specified Senior Members of Staff at Corporate Director Level in the document.

You can view the prospectus online at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/homes-londoners-affordable-homes-programmes/homes-londoners-affordable-homes-programme-2021-2026>

### **Publication of Intermediate Housing Consultation Report**

On 24 November, I published the intermediate housing Part 1 Consultation Response Report following the GLA's [Consultation on Intermediate Housing](#), which sets out the proposed policy interventions in response to the issues raised in the consultation – including policies to mitigate the affordability challenges of the current Shared Ownership model. This initial report focuses on consultation questions which relate directly to the new Affordable Homes Programme and has informed a number of policy approaches in the programme. A Consolidated Consultation Response Report, which addresses all the questions asked in the consultation, will follow in due course.

You can view Part 1 Consultation Response Report at this link:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/intermediate\\_housing\\_-\\_part\\_1\\_consultation\\_response\\_report.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/intermediate_housing_-_part_1_consultation_response_report.pdf)

## **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

### **London's workspaces**

On 19 November I hosted a roundtable with the CEOs of some of London's largest landowners and developers. They spoke of the impact of decreased footfall and increasing vacancies and the need to build confidence among shoppers and employees returning to offices. Attendees will feed into the research I have commissioned on London's Central Activity Zone.

My Workspace Advisory Group has also progressed work on models for converting empty premises into flexible workspace, workspace accreditation and the growing need for 'move on' spaces for expanding businesses.

### **Pay It Forward London scheme exceeds £1 million raised**

Over 390 small businesses have raised over £1.3 million through my Pay It Forward London platform, helping them to recover and rebuild from the impact of the COVID-19.

The scheme is still open, including the opportunity to receive up to £5,000 in match funding for eligible businesses through my Back to Business Fund. I urge any small business which has not yet taken advantage of this support to do so.

### **CleanTech London launch**

As part of London's Climate Action week, my Deputy Mayors for Business and Environment and Energy announced the CleanTech London partnership on 18 November. With nine founding partners, CleanTech London aims to support London's growing cleantech sector, promoting solutions to climate change and delivering job opportunities for Londoners.

### **Business Engagement**

In the past month I and my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal continued to engage and work closely with businesses to respond to the pandemic and prepare for transitioning out of lockdown.

On 9 November, I met with Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBI President to discuss what businesses need as we transition out of lockdown and support Central London's recovery.

On 10 November, I took part in a fireside chat with Natalie Campbell, CEO of Belu Water and member of the London Local Enterprise Partnership at the annual Silicon Valley Comes to the UK Good Growth Summit. We covered the themes of sustainability, responsible growth and Good Growth within London's tech ecosystem. The summit connected over 1000 tech entrepreneurs across the UK, Silicon Valley and other global hubs.

On 23 November, I met with Kate Nicholls, CEO UK Hospitality to discuss the challenges and priorities for hospitality and explore how we can work together to build consumer confidence in the run up to Christmas and beyond. We also discussed what hospitality businesses need to recover from the pandemic and as we exit out of lockdown into the Tier system and emerging proposals.

On 2 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal, participated in a CBI Annual Conference live webinar, where he shared with the business community the impacts of the pandemic on London, and what further support is needed to empower local services, and support jobs and livelihoods in London.

On 27 November, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal, spoke to 150 professionals from academia, business, industry and government at the Barcelona

Innovation Summit to strengthen the relationship between both ecosystems and promote international exchange of knowledge and talent between London and Barcelona.

## Environment

### London Flood Awareness Week

London Flood Awareness Week (LFAW) ran from the 9 -15 November alongside the Environment Agency's national Flood Action Week (part of their broader Flood Action Campaign). My officers worked closely with the Environment Agency and others to raise awareness of the sources of flooding in the capital, highlighting surface water flood risk in particular and the simple actions that Londoners can take including checking their flood risk and how to be better prepared for flood events. LFAW engaged partners and wider supporters including Thames Water, London boroughs, London Resilience and Age UK who shared messages on social media. Advice and guidance was set out in online resources including a webpage and [blog](#) which also highlighted the work I am undertaking to tackle flooding in London and to help better protect Londoners from future flood events.

You can view the guidance online at this link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/fire-and-resilience/london-resilience-partnership/ldn-flood-awareness-week>

### New London Schools Pollution Helpdesk

On 10 November, as part of my work to tackle air pollution around London's schools, I announced the new London Schools Pollution Helpdesk. Starting in the new year, the helpdesk will support schools across London to deliver air quality audits and will prioritise the few remaining schools in areas of London still exceeding or nearly exceeding legal pollution levels.

Some audit recommendations for measures to help cut pollution could include closing surrounding roads to traffic at school pick-up and drop-off times, walking and scooting campaigns, adding green screens and tackling engine idling.

### COP 26 Event with Danish Embassy

On 11 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues spoke at an event hosted by the Danish Embassy to kick off action towards COP26 in a year's time. This event discussed how we can keep the momentum towards COP26 and keep ambitions high in reducing both global and national emissions. The event was opened by Nick Bridge, the UK Government Special Envoy for Climate Action. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues spoke on our work in London to tackle the climate emergency, including working together with London's Businesses, and how I plan to collaborate with global cities through C40 on achieving Paris Agreement goals ahead of COP26.

### Green New Deal Advisory Group meeting

As part of my efforts to drive forward London's Green Recovery, and specifically the Green New Deal Mission, I have established a "Green New Deal Advisory Group" of key experts

from community, business and NGOs to provide advice to us as we implement the mission. The group is a diverse group from across London sectors who will give insight and reflections to ensure the Green New Deal is successful in its objectives. On 12 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy chaired the first meeting of the group for an initial discussion on the role of the group and the recovery progress. A second meeting is planned in December to discuss stakeholder engagement in light of key climate change milestones in 2021 such as COP26.

### **Future of Electric Vehicles**

On Friday 13 November, I hosted an event with C40 Cities outlining the future of electric vehicles (EVs) in London. The event included speakers from the EV sector, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, Mark Watts Executive Director at C40 and Drew Kodjak Executive Director at the International Council for Clean Transportation (ICCT) and Natasha Robinson Head of the UK Government Office for Low Emission Vehicles. Speakers reflected on our recent achievements in London including the delivery of London's first rapid hub at Stratford International carpark, the setup of the London Councils Co-ordination Body to oversee borough charge point delivery, and UK Power Networks provided a new online tool for identifying energy grid constraints. ICCT revealed that London came top of all European cities on EV policy. The Speakers also outlined some of the challenges ahead, in particular what role will EVs play in a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and reaching my ambition of a zero emission city by 2030. The event had over 230 attendees from the EV and EV charge point operator industry, campaign groups, academia, policy and the public. Two reports were also published to coincide with the event; a 'one year on report' since my EV Infrastructure Taskforce Delivery Plan was published here <http://luc.content.tfl.gov.uk/london-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-delivery-plan-one-year-on-november-2020.pdf>, and a report by ICCT on EV charging needs in London at the borough level <https://theicct.org/publications/London-ev-charging-nov2020>.

### **London Climate Action Week 2020**

I pledged my continued support and participated in the launch of the second London Climate Action Week on 16 November. I paid tribute to the important role that the week plays in advancing collaboration within London's climate community which is essential to achieving a green recovery. As part of the week I took part in Make My Money Matter's "Pension Party" to speak on my work on divestment from fossil fuels, encouraging all Londoners to join the call for net zero pensions. My Deputy Mayor also took part in events hosted by the LSDC and E3G on decarbonising heat.

### **Develop Croydon Conference**

On 16 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at the Develop Croydon Conference. The conference focussed on how the borough can continue to build future foundations to ensure it benefits the environment, the economy, its residents and businesses. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues highlighted why a green recovery is so important to London's economic recovery and future growth and presented on the £10m Green New Deal funding which the Mayor has launched. The audience included representatives from local authorities, investors, developers, businesses and community interest groups.



## **World Bank's Climate Smart Cities event**

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor was invited to present at an event hosted by the World Bank's Climate Smart Cities on London's recovery programme. The Climate Smart Cities is a group within the World Bank supporting cities and local governments in moving towards low-carbon, resilient and climate-smart pathways. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues highlighted the leading work in London to develop the Green New Deal mission, including the funding of priority projects, and the role it can play in mobilising the finance required to deliver high quality and impactful climate and environment outcomes.

## **Local Energy Accelerator Programme**

On the 17 November, I announced the new Local Energy Accelerator (LEA). A brand new £6m programme to provide expertise and support organisations to develop clean and locally generated energy projects as part of my efforts to make London a net zero carbon by 2030 and support a green recovery. These projects will include district energy networks that use renewable heat sources (such as waste heat from London Underground), and energy technologies such as heat pumps, solar panels, batteries and smart electric vehicle charging to transform the way London generates, supplies and uses clean local energy in buildings and transport.

## **Taskforce reconvening workshop**

On Monday 23 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues reconvened members from my Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Taskforce to explore how the public and private sector can work together to address challenges facing electric vehicle (EV) uptake and EV infrastructure delivery. They discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the roll out of EVs and the role of EVs in a green recovery from the pandemic. The taskforce also discussed how to work towards my ambition of a zero emission city by 2030 and the UK government's commitment on a ban on new petrol and diesel cars from 2030. The Taskforce agreed to a future session to discuss the issue of ethics and sustainability of the EV supply chain.

## **IPPR Transition of Electric Vehicle**

On 25 November, Deputy Mayor Shirley Rodrigues attended an event hosted by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Uber on decarbonising transport. Speakers reflected on how the private and public sector can work together to ensure that decarbonising transport unlocks social benefits, creates economic opportunities, supports better mobility and builds on the positive steps towards cleaner modes of travel that have been adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **London Community Energy Fund**

I opened the fourth phase of funding for my London Community Energy Fund (LCEF) to applications. As part of my Green New Deal, £665,000 of grant funding is being offered to community energy groups to develop projects that save carbon emissions, aid their communities as well as contributing to the green recovery. The funding will be a combination of development funding and, for the first time, capital funding to help accelerate project delivery.

## **Grow Back Greener Fund**

On 1 December, I awarded almost £700,000 from my Grow Back Greener Fund to 34 community projects that will create or improve green spaces across London and help to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

As part of London's green recovery from COVID-19, my fund has prioritised projects in neighbourhoods with poor access to open space and those that will provide skills and volunteering opportunities for a diverse range of Londoners. Projects will take place across 20 boroughs between now and September 2021, and include:

- Greening streets by depaving, creating parklets, planting trees and installing sustainable drainage measures, including in Kensington and Chelsea, Hackney and Haringey
- Opening up previously inaccessible or unused spaces to create new community gardens, including in Lambeth and Ealing
- Improving the quality of green spaces on housing estates, working with residents to create space for wildlife and food growing including in Lambeth, Bexley and Waltham Forest

A full list of projects can be found on my website at [www.london.gov.uk/growbackgreener](http://www.london.gov.uk/growbackgreener).

## **Education and Youth**

### **Letter to the Secretary of State for Education**

I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education in early November to raise my concerns over the Government's proposals for exams and assessments in 2021 and digital device allocations.

I called on the Government to communicate contingency plans and any future changes to assessment to schools, parents and students well in advance of next summer. Students due to take exams are experiencing considerable anxiety after missing months of teaching and are facing continued uncertainty as the pandemic goes on. The Government needs to be upfront and clear about their examination plans, to give these young people the confidence that they will be fair, whatever the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on their studies.

The Government must also provide early clarity on how key stage two assessment results will be used, and whether league tables will be reinstated in 2021. Schools should not be penalised without taking each school's individual circumstances into account.

I sought clarity from the Government on their proposed reduction in the numbers of laptops previously promised to schools. This decision will undermine schools' ability to meet the Government's new duty to provide a remote education to any students unable to attend lessons due to the pandemic. The Government must increase its digital allocations for students most in need and provide licenses and data packages which extend beyond March 2021.

## **Business support for London's early years sector**

On 19 November, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, took part in a virtual roundtable event, co-hosted by the Early Years Alliance and Ceeda. The GLA has commissioned them to conduct research into the sector specific business support needs of London's early years sector and how they can be met.

We know that the sector has been hit hard by COVID-19 and that supporting its long-term sustainability will be essential to London's economic and social recovery from the pandemic. The roundtable event brought together key stakeholders from across the sector, including Local Authorities, PACEY, Hemsalls, National Day Nurseries Association, the London Early Years Foundation, Coram Family and Childcare and Ofsted. Emerging findings from the initial research phase (which included surveys and focus groups) were presented, before opening up group discussion to help shape key recommendations. A final research report and recommendations will be published in December.

## **Early Years Hubs network meeting**

On 20 November, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, had the pleasure of welcoming attendees to a virtual network meeting for those involved in my Early Years Hubs programme.

Since January 2018, I have funded three early years hubs in London, located in Barnet, Newham and Wandsworth and Merton. This was the hubs' final network meeting and - as usual - it was well attended by hub members and partners, all keen to celebrate what the programme has achieved and consider what comes next.

As Joanne reflected, the hubs had a huge task on their hands back in 2018 - aiming to bring together local early years providers and partners in order to improve access to quality early education for the capital's most disadvantaged children. Despite the huge challenges posed to the sector by COVID-19, the hubs have risen to the challenge. To date, they have collectively supported over 450 early years providers and over 2,000 practitioners.

An independent evaluation and online toolkit, capturing impact and key learning from the programme, will be published next spring.

## **The Future Speakers event**

On 30 November, my Peer Outreach Team ran their fantastic 'The Future Speaks' event for 100 young Londoners, dedicated to discussing issues around Black Lives Matter since the death of George Floyd. The event was opened by Debbie Weekes-Bernard, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement. There were a number of performances, presentations and workshops, as well as a panel discussion to close these event. This was chaired by Debbie and a peer outreach worker, Mwila Chilufya, and included Tabari Wallace - 2018 North Carolina Principal of the Year, from West Craven High School. 'The Future Speaks' aimed to give young Londoners (especially those of colour and from the BAME community) the opportunity to meet with practitioners and decision-makers, to discuss how discrimination, racism and inequality affect their everyday lives.

## **Meeting of London Transition Board's education sub-group**

On 9 November, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, attended the most recent meeting of the London Transition Board's education sub-group. The group is coordinated by London Councils and brings together stakeholders from across London's education sector to coordinate transition from lockdown to recovery from COVID-19.

The group welcomed speakers from the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. They shared information about the Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) programme - a cost-effective system for training and supervising parent-led parent groups and courses for parents who experience a range of difficulties with their children. There are a number of EPEC hubs delivering the programme across London.

There was also input from colleagues at Universities UK, who updated the group on how universities are responding to the pandemic. The higher education sector continues to face a number of significant challenges - from how to offer high quality online or blended learning, to the logistical challenges of managing track and trace and ensuring that students can return home safely over the Christmas period. There are wider concerns about student mental health (with increased demand for support services) and the labour market that awaits students upon graduation.

## **Communities and Social Policy**

### **Virtual roundtable with East and Southeast Asian community groups**

On Thursday 26 November I hosted a virtual roundtable meeting alongside Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard with East and Southeast Asian community groups. This roundtable explored the experiences London's East and Southeast Asian communities have had during the COVID-19 pandemic this year, including a significant rise in hate crime. I am committed to working with East and Southeast Asian Londoners to stamp out the racism and injustice they face.

### **Letter to the Home Secretary on people seeking asylum**

On 26 November, I wrote to the Home Secretary to raise urgent concerns regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of people seeking asylum housed in contingency hotel accommodation in London during the pandemic. I called on the Home Secretary to introduce a tailored approach to COVID-19 prevention and outbreak management and to improve access to NHS services, including registering with a GP.

### **Grants to deliver advice and outreach for digitally excluded audiences**

This month I awarded seven community and civil society organisations working with European Londoners a total of £70,000 to deliver advice and outreach for digitally excluded audiences and support on complex cases.

## Health

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

I have continued to meet regularly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the COVID-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with COVID-19 and other health needs. This has included discussions on the preparation for roll-out of the Covid-vaccine, the introduction of new mass testing technologies and London's approach to supporting the health of homeless Londoners during the pandemic.

## Team London, Sports and Volunteering

### **Talking COVID-19 and Sport webinar**

On 18 November, my Community Sport team hosted an online webinar in partnership with London Sport, the latest in our series supporting the sector, this time focused on national lockdown. This 'Talking COVID-19 and Sport' session brought together 70 community sport stakeholder representatives, answering their questions about the latest restrictions and providing a funding overview from a pan-London perspective. Webinar speakers included representatives from the GLA, London Sport, and Sport England.

### **Impact of COVID-19 on the Community Sport Sector report**

In November, my Community Sport team published the third status report for the Sport Unites programme, focusing on the response of the sector to the COVID-19 pandemic, adaptations made to projects, and the importance of the community sport sector in supporting Londoners through times of crisis and recovery.

The report ensures the impact and challenges faced by the sector are captured, as well as learnings in responding and adapting to the crisis in the first six months. This will ensure the sector is capable of first 'bouncing back' to pre-COVID-19 levels of implementation and progress, whilst also considering how the sector can 'build back better' to ensure a more resilient and equitable future for community sport.

The Major Sports Events Engagement Fund Impact report was also published in November in partnership with London Sport. This report includes impact breakdown across the five key Sport Unites issues (inactivity, mental wellbeing, social isolation, social mixing, and serious youth violence) as well as the programme's impact on the community sport workforce and volunteers.

### **Active Londoners Fund Open**

In November, 260 community sport organisations applied for grants between £5,000 and £30,000 under my Active Londoners Fund. These are projects using physical activity and

sport to support physical and mental wellbeing of Londoners currently classed as physically inactive.

Funding is available for 15-25 organisations only, demonstrating an extremely high demand-to-offer ratio and evidencing a severe need for support within the sector.

### **Sport Unites Stakeholder Update**

On 17 November, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard hosted a virtual conversation with Sport Unites' key current and prospective partners. This call has been extremely beneficial in acknowledging the key role these organisations have all played – individually and collectively – in making Sport Unites such a success to date, as well as in helping scope and develop the proposed next phase of the programme.

## **Culture and Events**

### **World Cities Culture Forum**

On 19 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, opened an afternoon of online discussions led by the city of Buenos Aires. She shared examples of London's response to COVID-19 to support culture, and summarised key learnings from the World Cities Culture Forum in October. The event included speakers from Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Mexico City and Bogotá among others.

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, took part in an online panel on Cultural Participation organised by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), supported by the World Cities Culture Forum. The panel was part of a three day policy webinar series on Strategies for Recovery.

### **Commission for Diversity in Public Realm – Public Engagement Programme**

On 2 November my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard took part in a virtual panel discussion at The London Conference 2020. Organised by the Centre for London the panel was chaired by Sharon Ament, Director of the Museum of London and included historian, Professor David Olusoga. They explored the question of how London, a global city with a history of slavery and colonisation, comes to terms with that history, and explored how it should be represented and contextualised in public.

On the 16 November Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke at the launch of London Borough of Lambeth's review and public debate about the borough's links with the slave trade and British Colonial History. This online webinar was attended by around 1000 people.

### **Creative Enterprise Zones**

On 6 November, I launched £1.3 million in creative sector skills funding to support my Creative Enterprise Zones programme. The fund, which is matched by European Union money through the European Social Fund, will support three new projects in Croydon, Hounslow and Lambeth. Collectively these will provide skills, training and career advancement opportunities for over 250 local people. 50 per cent of the intake will be

women and 50 per cent will be from BAME backgrounds. The projects will support local sector recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and create a talent pipeline for future opportunities.

On 17 November the 'Made by Tottenham' website launched in my Tottenham Creative Enterprise Zone. The site will support the local creative economy during recovery from COVID-19 by providing a platform for local artists and makers, helping them to be discovered by potential clients and connect with collaborators.

### **Creative Industries Meeting**

On 20 November, I met with my Creative Economy Growth Programme delivery partners Film London, British Fashion Council and the London Design Festival to explore how the creative industries can help drive London's recovery. The Creative Economy Growth Programme delivers an annual return of investment of £1.13 billion. This includes one billion in new film production, £12 million of new investment for games businesses, £26 million of new sales for design businesses and £90 million in new orders at London Fashion Week. During lockdown, Film London delivered the COVID-19 safety guidance which enable £900 million of film production to resume; London Design Festival took place in September throwing a £3 million lifeline to SMEs in new design sales; and British Fashion Council repivoted funding to get £1 million in emergency funding out to struggling fashion businesses. The creative industries are key to London's recovery, creating jobs, and supporting a huge variety of businesses, freelancers and supply chains.

## **International**

### **Meeting with the Ambassador of Belgium to the UK, HE Mr Bruno van der Pluijm**

On 9 November, I took part in a virtual meeting with the Ambassador of Belgium where we discussed the future relationship between London and Belgium and the rest of the European Union. During this meeting, I assured the Ambassador that London will always be open and welcome to Belgian and European trade, investment and business, and restated my commitment to continued cooperation and engagement with Belgium and other EU Member States.

### **Co-founded CHANGE - a new international city network dedicated to gender equality**

On Monday 23 November, I launched a ground-breaking international network of cities dedicated to advancing gender equality - the City Hub and Network for Gender Equity (CHANGE). London will serve as a Co-Chair of this world-first network alongside Los Angeles, Barcelona, Freetown, Mexico City and Tokyo to share best practice in tackling sexism, misogyny and gender-based injustice. The virtual launch event saw almost 400 people tune in from around the world as the fight for gender equality touches every corner of the globe.

Women and girls around the world continue to face numerous forms of discrimination including lack of opportunities, unequal pay, physical and sexual violence, a disproportionate share of unpaid labour and low levels of political representation. I am a proud feminist and while I know that progress has been made towards gender equality in London, it is clear that too many women still face barriers to success and are now facing

increasing challenges from the impact of COVID-19. I want our capital to be a place where everyone can fulfil their potential and be hopeful for their future – regardless of gender.

We have seen the success that international city networks can have, such as the environmental work of C40 or the work to promote and protect culture through the World Cities Culture Forum. I am proud that London will play a key role in making this happen through this new and pioneering network.

### **Web Summit Panel Discussion with the Mayor of Toronto and the Mayor of Lisbon**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, I took part in a virtual panel discussion with John Tory, the Mayor of Toronto, and Fernando Medina, the Mayor of Lisbon. Facilitated by Web Summit, one of the world's largest technology conferences, this panel discussion centred on how cities can best use technology to their advantage in a responsible and sustainable way. I focussed on London's strengths as a world leading tech hub, where I have set out ambitious plans to use data, digital technology and innovation to tackle the climate emergency and to serve those who live, work and visit London. For example, I shared with the panel further details on my Emerging Technologies Charter, which is being developed by my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell.

## **London Legacy Development Corporation**

### **Venues**

The London Aquatics Centre and Copper Box Arena reopened on 3 December, in line with government guidance and operating under strict conditions to ensure safety and social distancing are maintained. The ArcelorMittal Orbit is expected to open on 11 December. Premier League football continues behind closed doors at London Stadium with West Ham recently taking on Fulham and Aston Villa at home.

On Tuesday 24 November, it was announced that the London Aquatics Centre will be hosting the 2021 British Swimming Championships next April, which will feature highly in the qualification process for the Tokyo Games.

### **East Bank**

Construction on and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park continues in a COVID-secure way, including both the UCL East and Stratford Waterfront East Bank sites. At Stratford Waterfront, the £24 million fit-out contract for UAL's London College of Fashion has been awarded to Portview.

As construction progresses, an updated East Bank business case analysis recently highlighted the important role East Bank will play in London and the UK's recovery from COVID-19. The project's benefit to cost ratio (BCR) shows that for each £1 million spent by the public sector there is a projected socio-economic return of £1.7 million between now



and 2045; bringing a total return of £1.5 billion to the local community and wider UK economy.

### **STEP Programme**

LLDC's Shared Training and Employment (STEP) Programme 2019/20 ended in early November. Delivered by Create Jobs and Creative Access, STEP is a traineeship for young east Londoners that aims to increase representation in the creative industries.

Over the past year, 14 young creatives have taken part in two 6-month placements at some of London's leading cultural and creative organisations, including with East Bank partners such as the BBC, V&A, Sadler's Wells and UAL's London College of Fashion. The next programme is set to be launched in early 2021, with modifications to accommodate employer partner restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

### **RICS Social Impact Awards 2020**

I was delighted to see Here East awarded national winner of the RICS Social Impact Commercial Award 2020. This is testament to all those involved in regenerating the site from the former 2012 press and broadcasting centre, to the innovation and technology campus it is today.

Here East received the award in recognition of the work it does to create social impact in the community through employment, education and enterprise development, with a sustainable approach to environmental matters.

### **East Autumn School**

Following the success of this year's East Summer School, the LLDC is expanding its offer to present a pilot, East Autumn school for local young people, in collaboration with UCL. Running from 25 November to 16 December, the programme offers a series of courses for 15-18 year olds interested in materials and making, art and design, or, science, technology and engineering.

### **Legacy Youth Survey**

LLDC's Legacy Youth Board is undertaking a survey to understand the experiences of other local young people living in east London. Aimed at those aged 13-25, feedback from the survey will shape the work of the Board and allow them to better represent the views of young east Londoners. The survey can be found here: [bit.ly/LegacyYouthsurvey](https://bit.ly/LegacyYouthsurvey)

## **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**

### **Appointment of permanent CEO for OPDC**

On 27 November, I was pleased to announce the appointment of David Lunts as OPDC's permanent CEO. Since taking the role of OPDC's Interim Chief Executive last year, David has

taken the lead in driving the Corporation's new approach for regeneration at Old Oak and Park Royal.

With HS2's Old Oak Common Station construction underway and OPDC's overarching planning framework in its final stages of development, David's appointment cements the foundation for OPDC to drive the delivery of homes and jobs in one of London's most important regeneration opportunities.

### **Local Plan modifications**

On 24 and 30 November, OPDC held two public engagement sessions to share proposed modification to its draft Local Plan which sets out a development framework for the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area for the next twenty years. The sessions were well attended and supported by an online engagement exercise to raise awareness about the changes and seek public feedback. The engagement exercise will last until 18 December. OPDC will submit its revised Local Plan to the Planning Inspector early next year, with the aim of securing the adoption of the Plan before the end of 2021.

### **Statement of Community Involvement**

On 26 November, OPDC's Board approved a revised Statement of Community Involvement. This has been updated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that the Corporation informs and involves the public in planning policy and decisions remotely in a meaningful and effective way, enabling plan-making in the area to continue. OPDC consulted the public on the updates during September and October.

## **Planning**

### **Planning London DataHub**

On 16<sup>th</sup> November I launched the Planning London Datahub. This new database includes data about all development proposals in London.

Unlike previous versions, the datahub includes live data fed from boroughs and applicants to enable a live picture of how the city is changing, how planning policies are impacting that change, and how that is impacting the environments we live in.

The data is an open dataset, which means it will be fully accessible. It replaces the London Development Database in its entirety.

### **Local Plans**

On 10<sup>th</sup> November the GLA responded on my behalf to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. On 27<sup>th</sup> November the GLA responded on my behalf to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation.

### **Planning Decisions (Stage 3 call-ins)**

#### Bishopsgate Goodsyard, Hackney & Tower Hamlets

I held a Public Representation Hearing on 3<sup>rd</sup> December to consider the planning application for 5 Kingdom Street. Following the hearing, I resolved to grant permission for the scheme subject to a s106 legal agreement.

### **Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)**

#### *Edith Summerskill House, LB Hammersmith & Fulham*

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

#### *Lee Valley Ice Centre, 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.

#### *39-47 East Road, LB Hackney*

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

#### *Sampson House, LB Southwark*

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

#### *Barking Wharf Phase 2, LB Barking and Dagenham*

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

#### *Whitechapel Central, LB Tower Hamlets*

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

#### *Land at the Corner of London Road and North Street, LB Barking and Dagenham*

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

#### *74-76 High Road, Ilford, LB Redbridge*

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

#### *York Road and Winstanley Estates, LB Wandsworth*

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

#### *148-192 New Road, LB Havering*

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

*Fulton Quarter, LB Brent*

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

*31-43 Putney High Street, LB Wandsworth*

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

*Lyle Park West, 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.

*Felix Post Unit and Old Age Psychiatry Unit, LB Southwark*

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

*Bianca Warehouse, 43 Glengall Road, LB Southwark*

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

### **Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)**

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

- Swan Lane Pier, City of London
- B&Q Cricklewood, Barnet
- Woodcote Grove House, Sutton
- Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing
- Moorfield Family Centre, Enfield
- Custom House, City of London
- Nine Elms OSD, Lambeth
- The Seedbed Centre & Rom Valley Retail Park, Havering
- Land East of Sainsbury's
- Homebase, Fulbourne Road, Walthamstow
- Stanmore and Edgware Golf Centre, Brockley Hill, Harrow
- Site between Varden Street and Ashfield Street (Whitechapel Estate), Tower Hamlets
- 164-196 Trundleys Road and 1-9 Sandford Street, Lewisham
- Land at Holmesdale Road, Croydon
- 267 Barking Road, Newham

## Key Engagements

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

- I attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on 8 November
- I attended the online launch of Living Wage Week on 9 November to announce the new London Living Wage rate for the next 12 months
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 9 November
- I hosted an introductory conference call with Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE, the new President of the CBI and the Chairman of Cobra Beer, on 9 November
- I hosted an introductory conference call with HE Mr Bruno van der Pluijm, the new Ambassador of Belgium to the UK, on 9 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 10 November
- I chaired the London Recovery Board meeting on 10 November
- I addressed the NEU London Region Reps meeting on 10 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 12 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended the first virtual People's Question Time on 12 November
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 13 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 16 November
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 17 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 17 November
- I chaired the first meeting of the London COVID Business Forum on 18 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 18 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 19 November
- I hosted a conference call with Dame Louise Casey & Cllr Georgia Gould, Chair of London Councils, on 19 November to discuss options for the GLA and London Councils to support local authorities and voluntary and community sector organisations to address food insecurity in London
- I hosted a roundtable with senior representatives of some of the largest property landowners and developers in London on 19 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with the British Fashion Council, Film London & the London Design Festival on 20 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 20 November
- I joined an event hosted by Excluded UK on 20 November calling for fairness and equality for small limited companies excluded by the Government's COVID-19 financial support packages
- I hosted a conference call with Kate Nicholls, CEO of UK Hospitality, on 23 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 23 November

- I co-founded CHANGE, the world's first international city network dedicated to gender equity, on 23 November
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 23 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with the M9 Mayors on 23 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 24 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London and Crossrail on 24 November
- I joined a conference call of the M9 Mayors on 25 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget Mayoral Board meeting on 25 November
- I chaired the London Transition Board meeting on 25 November
- I hosted a roundtable for East and Southeast Asian London Community Groups on 26 November
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 26 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 26 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 30 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 30 November
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 30 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with William Shu, CEO of Deliveroo, on 1 December to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London and support for small hospitality businesses during the pandemic
- I visited the Bishopsgate Goodsyrd Development site on 1 December
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 2 December
- I visited the Peter Jones & Partners department store on 2 December to mark the end of the national lockdown on the day that London moved into Tier 2 of COVID-19 restrictions
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 2 December to discuss policing and security
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 2 December
- I joined an event hosted by Excluded UK on 2 December calling for fairness and equality for small limited companies excluded by the Government's COVID-19 financial support packages
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 3 December
- I visited London Transport Museum on 3 December to mark their reopening after the end of the national lockdown
- I joined HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall on a visit to Soho Theatre on 3 December to celebrate London's night-time economy and to highlight the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector

- I joined a moderated panel discussion with the Mayors of Toronto and Lisbon as part of 'Web Summit' on 3 December
- I chaired the Bishopsgate Goodsyrd Representation Hearing on 3 December

**Ends**