

7th Mayor's Report to the Assembly Mayor's Question Time 16th December 2021

This is my seventh report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 5th November – 2nd December 2021.

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

Executive Summary

Covid-19 and Recovery update

Economic data published in November strongly suggests there has not been a substantial increase in redundancies resulting from the end of furlough – this is welcome news. During the pandemic, Londoners experienced relatively high rates of unemployment and furlough take-up. Though the capital has seen a slower recovery in jobs being advertised, over the summer there had been a steady increase in the number of people employed in London, with an increase of 0.9 per cent, compared with the previous three months. However, London is the only region that has fewer people in work now than at the start of the pandemic and is the only UK region where the number of payrolled employees has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Transatlantic air routes have reopened, following the US Government's decision to ease travel restrictions for foreign citizens who are fully vaccinated. This is likely to have a positive impact on the CAZ (Central Activities Zone), where expenditure by overseas travellers forms a significant part of central London's economy. My #Let'sDoLondon Campaign continues to support London's tourism, retail, hospitality and cultural sectors aiming to drive increases in consumer spend and footfall but further support from the government is required to ensure we return to pre-pandemic levels of tourism spend in our capital.

The London Recovery Programme Team, working with the Community Engagement team, organised an information and engagement session with a variety of faith groups on 18 November. The session, which took place in Interfaith Week was an opportunity to reflect on the vital role faith groups, working together, are playing in supporting and shaping London's recovery. Faith groups have been instrumental in building the resilience of their communities and continue to have a positive and integral part to play in the capital's recovery. The session was led by The Venerable Father Luke Miller, in his capacity as London Recovery Board member, and co-chair of the Faith Sector Panel. My deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard co-chaired the session.

I chaired the London Recovery Board which met on 1 December. We discussed priorities including a presentation on a New Deal for Young People, which was introduced by a panel of young Londoners, an update from the Addressing Structural Inequalities sub-group, the Healthy Place, Healthy Weight mission rescope and the latest on the Economic Recovery Framework, which is now live on the London.gov.uk website.

The Board were also updated on the Anchors institutions programme I am looking forward to the 'London Anchors Institutions' Conference' being held on 14 December.

Let's Do London

On 17 November, I launched Winter Lights, the latest instalment in my Let's Do London campaign which has now contributed an estimated £70 million back into London's economy. I am inviting Londoners and visitors to celebrate the most magical time of the year with dazzling outdoor festive events including Southbank Winter Lights, animal-themed winter light display at the Tower of London, Canary Wharf Winter Lights Spectacular, and Illuminated River, a free public artwork, brings moving light and colour to nine of London's bridges. The season includes Northern Lights Borealis light spectacular at Guildhall Yard in the City of London, the free tickets for which sold out within 24 hours. Also, thousands of illuminated white roses will be placed in Grosvenor Square as part of an 'Ever After Garden' by fashion designer Anya Hindmarch, with proceeds going to the Royal Marsden Hospital. A Circa commission by Hetain Patel will use the Piccadilly Lights to explore themes of immigration and identity. I'm urging Londoners and visitors to experience the best our capital has to offer during this festive season and support our hospitality industry as much as possible

On 19 November, I unveiled plans for London's world-famous New Year's Eve celebrations with the first details of a brand-new event in Trafalgar Square. A live broadcast spectacular on BBC One will highlight the most defining moments of 2021 and look ahead to the best of 2022 – including London hosting the UEFA Women's Euro 2022. For the first time Trafalgar Square will be the setting for a brand-new ticketed celebration event, which will include live music, some of London's best stage performers, food stalls and a large screen showing the live broadcast to thousands of Londoners. Information on tickets, which will be by public ballot, will be released in shortly. I am encouraging Londoners and visitors from around the nation and the world to book ahead and welcome in the new year in style at the city's world class restaurants, bars, clubs and attractions this New Year's Eve in the capital.

On the front line with the MPS

One of the great privileges of my role is being able to meet with front-line workers and seeing at first-hand their vital work. I have been fortunate to spend time with a number of Met police teams and colleagues this month. On 10th November, I joined the Commissioner and officers on patrol in Holborn and heard about the work underway in the area to crack down on violence.

The number of police officers in the Metropolitan Police has risen to over 33,000 for the first time in 10 years, following record levels of City Hall investment and the partial reversal of Government cuts. On 12th November I was delighted to attend a passing out Parade to spend time with the latest cohort of recruits to the Met and their very proud families. I wish them all the very best for their careers.

Thanks to relentless effort by the Met Police and record funding from City Hall, violent crime is now falling – but with too many lives still being lost and too many families left grieving, it is clear that there is much more to do. On 25th November I joined Chief Superintendent Trevor Lawry and local officers from the Met's Violent Suppression Unit on a patrol and weapons sweep in Greenwich.

The Met has been taking part in the nationwide Operation Sceptre, which aims to reduce knife crime by targeting those carrying weapons and disrupting the supply of knives. In total the operation, which ran from Monday, 15 November to Sunday, 21 November 2021, resulted in:

- 290 knives recovered;
- 937 arrests;

- 82 warrants executed;
- 186 community meetings and educational events, engaging with 1,206 individuals;
- 264 school presentations and engagements, involving 8,063 young people;
- 2,745 weapon sweeps.

I am deeply grateful to all of the officers, staff and volunteers of the Met for their intensive work to prevent violence and keep our city safe. As Mayor, I will continue to be both tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, doing everything I can to help prevent the terrible loss of young lives in our city. We must stop violence before it happens by addressing the complex, underlying causes, such as poverty, inequality and a lack of opportunity. It is more important than ever that we involve everyone across London – because no single organisation or service will be able to solve this alone.

Trial Operations underway ahead of Elizabeth line opening next year

I am pleased to confirm delivery of the Elizabeth line has reached its next significant milestone with the Trial Operations stage now underway. This marks the final phase of the programme before the Elizabeth line opens for passenger services between Paddington and Abbey Wood in the first half of 2022.

Trial Operations involves operational exercises to ensure the safety and reliability of the railway for public use and to fully test the timetables. More than 150 scenarios will be carried out over the coming months to ensure the readiness of the railway for passenger service. These include exercises to make sure that all systems and procedures work effectively and staff can respond to any incidents, including customers being unwell or signal failures.

The start of Trial Operations is the latest milestone in turning the project into a live railway, which has been the focus since the project's governance was transferred to TfL in October 2020 and it's really exciting to be moving into this phase. The next few months are crucial to making sure the railway can open safely next year, and everyone is working incredibly hard to reach that goal. The Elizabeth line will help transform travel in London and the South East, dramatically improving transport links, supporting regeneration and boosting our economic recovery.

Living Wage Week 2021

On 15 November at Tate & Lyle in Newham, I announced the new London Living Wage rate for the next twelve months of £11.05 an hour, up 20p since last year. This event, hosted by the Living Wage Foundation launched Living Wage Week 2021 and was attended by more than 150 representatives of Living Wage employers, community groups and workers.

I also announced plans for a London as a Living Wage City programme. This will bring together employers, workers, community groups and business groups together in focused action to raise the uptake of the Living Wage in the lowest paid sectors of our economy.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Living Wage movement which began in East London. 100,000 Londoners receive a pay-rise each year when the new London Living Wage rate is announced. Over 2,400 of the country's 9,000 accredited Living Wage employers are headquartered in London, a number that has more than quadrupled since I was elected in 2016.

My Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, promoted living wage week with a visit to Living Wage coffee chain, Rosslyn Coffee, and opening a session for the GLA Group's key suppliers on the importance of the living wage in London.

Launch of Career Hubs

On 2 December I launched the London Careers Hubs, one in each of the four sub-regional partnership areas. Embedded in local skills and employment strategies, they offer support to every secondary school, FE college, Alternative Provision and special school to provide world-class careers education for all their students.

I called on London businesses to connect with their local schools and colleges, to help build comprehensive careers programmes that reflect today's world of work and help to shape their future workforce.

Youth homelessness visit and launch of my winter rough sleeping campaign

On 1 December I visited a new youth homelessness service that City Hall has helped fund in west London. In response to concern about rising youth homelessness, City Hall joined together with London Councils, Depaul, New Horizon Youth Centre, and other homelessness charities to provide a youth-specific, pan-London rough sleeping service. The LHA Hounslow Central provides Covid-secure accommodation for up to 40 young people who are currently or at immediate risk of rough sleeping. On the same day, I also launched my winter rough sleeping fundraising campaign, which will be dedicated to raising money to tackling youth homelessness in our city.

Lewisham LBOC 2022 programme announced

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, launched the artistic programme for Lewisham's London Borough of Culture 2022 alongside Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham. Over 250 people attended including artists, volunteers, community partners and young people.

Highlights include Revolution Through Music concerts which will showcase Lewisham's rich music influence, the Climate Commissions programme which will explore air pollution and the impact of climate change. Liberty, my free festival celebrating the work of Deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists and Mass Dance – the UK's first Black-led mass dance project are also part of the programme.

Remembrance Service

On 12 November, I was honoured to represent the capital in paying tribute to the men and women who have given their lives for our freedom at City Hall's annual Remembrance Service. The service at Southwark Cathedral, which I hosted along with the Chair of the London Assembly, Andrew Boff AM, and Len Duvall OBE AM representing the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion, marked the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion and work they have done supporting Armed Forces throughout the last century.

The ceremony was led by The Dean of Southwark, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, with prayers by members of the Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths.

People's Question Time - Camden

On 23 November, the first in-person People's Question Time since March 2020 took place in Camden, chaired by Anne Clarke, Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden.

With 400 Londoners taking part in person, and many more online, the event was a welcome return for Londoners, who put questions to myself and the London Assembly, both in-person and via our live chat function from those who joined us online on the night. Questions covered a range of topics including transport, policing and safety, air quality and the environment and housing.

Chanukah

As we continue to rebuild our city from the pandemic, we look where we can for examples of strength, resolve and light. So, I was delighted on 25 November to be involved in the lighting of the giant Menorah on Trafalgar Square alongside some of London's Jewish community leaders to mark Chanukah – the Jewish festival of lights. I filmed my Chanukah greeting to all Jewish Londoners and thanked the many Jewish key workers, synagogues and community organisations who have done so much for our city, working day and night responding to the pandemic.

The message of Chanukah is as fitting today as ever, that despite the odds, when we work together, we can ensure light triumphs over darkness.

Diwali and Hindu New Year celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

On 5 November my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended Diwali and Hindu New Year celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden.

Neasden Temple, like so many of London's faith communities, continue to offer crucial support to some of London's most vulnerable people. I am grateful for their huge contributions in supporting Londoners throughout the pandemic.

Guru Nanak Gurburab celebrations

On 19 November my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended Guru Nanak Gurburab celebrations at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hounslow.

The Langar (community kitchen) in this Gurdwara continues to supply free meals to thousands of Londoners. Debbie Weekes-Bernard shared a meal with the Sikh community of Hounslow and heard about the significance of Guru Nanak, this celebration, and why in the Sikh faith the Langar holds such significance.

Policing, Crime and Security

Have your say on the draft Police and Crime Plan for London

On 16 November I published my draft Police and Crime Plan for London and launched a consultation with Londoners on the priorities and actions it sets out. Keeping Londoners safe is my number one priority and my draft Police and Crime Plan demonstrates I will continue to be both tough on crime and tough on the complex causes of crime, taking the action needed to keep our city safe and to ensure that victims of crime are supported.

Thanks to relentless effort by the Met Police and record funding from City Hall, violent crime is now falling – but there is still much more to do in order to prevent violence and stop the terrible loss of young lives in our city. I will continue to support the police in bearing down on criminality, providing record funding to put more officers on the streets, and stopping violence from happening in the first place by funding programmes that divert vulnerable young people away from crime, and providing positive opportunities for young Londoners.

This Plan also reflects my determination to increase the trust and confidence of all Londoners in their police service. I will continue to work with the Metropolitan Police and London's Black communities to deliver my Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in full, including an overhaul of community scrutiny of police tactics including stop and search, use of force and Taser. I will also continue to support the independent review into the Met's culture and standards, to help rebuild women and girls' trust in the police.

It is more important than ever that we involve everyone across London, as we all have a part to play in helping make our city a safer, better place. I want to encourage Londoners to feed into the public consultation on my draft Plan, to ensure I'm taking the action they want to see on the issues that matter most to them. The draft Plan and information on how to take part in the consultation can be found at www.london.gov.uk/policecrimeplan. The consultation is open until 21st January 2022 and I welcome the support of the Assembly in encouraging your constituents to have their say in the coming weeks.

Working together to end male violence against women and girls

I am committed to doing everything in my power to protect victims of domestic abuse. Sadly, we saw a rise in domestic abuse in the capital during lockdown and it's vitally important we focus on addressing the behaviour of offenders to drive down this abhorrent crime as well as working to protect victims.

That is why on 24 November I announced a £2.4m investment in expanding existing programmes and implementing new schemes which focus on addressing the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse and protecting victims. This includes funding for an innovative new pilot programme which will enable services to intervene sooner in cases of domestic abuse to better protect victims and their children. The programme, called 'Restart', will run for three years across five boroughs, and will include evaluating the impact of focusing on changing the behaviour of perpetrators of abuse in reducing violence and safeguarding victims of domestic abuse. It will deliver training for social workers to ensure they have the skills and confidence to challenge perpetrators of domestic abuse – right from the from the early signs of domestic abuse, the response from social workers will be focused on what needs to be done to address the behaviour of the person perpetrating the abuse.

On 25 November we marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the beginning of the 16 Days of Action against VAWG. During this time we will be showcasing and highlighting the work of a wide range of services preventing VAWG and supporting victims, and speaking to victims and survivors of VAWG as part of the consultation for my refreshed Tackling VAWG Strategy.

Remembering Sgt Matt Ratana

It was my honour to attend the memorial service for Sgt Matt Ratana on 30th November. Sgt Ratana's murder as he carried out his duties has robbed his family, friends and colleagues of a dear loved one, and London of a dedicated and respected public servant. We will never forget his service and sacrifice, which serves as a solemn reminder of the risks our police officers face to keep our city

Transport

Intensifying efforts to achieve Vision Zero in London

On 15 November TfL, in partnership with London Councils and the Metropolitan Police Service, published a progress report highlighting the scale of the Vision Zero challenge in London and committed to new tougher measures to eliminate death and serious injury from London's roads by 2041.

We have made huge strides in reducing road death since I launched London's first Vision Zero action plan in 2018. London's world-first Direct Vision Standard, which reduces lethal blind spots on lorries, is now being enforced on all roads in London and TfL's ground-breaking bus safety standard is mandating the latest safety technologies and designs on all new buses.

London has also seen deaths and serious injuries fall faster than the national average with the number of people being killed or seriously injured reducing by 52 per cent in 2020 against the Government's 2005-09 baseline. Despite this progress, too many people continue to tragically die on London's streets. In 2020, 96 people were killed and 2,974 people suffered serious injuries on the capital's roads.

Each and every death or serious injury on London's roads is a tragedy for those affected and their loved ones. I refuse to accept these terrible incidents are inevitable, which is why I am so keen to intensify the work we are already doing to reduce the number of deaths on our roads.

We have already made some good progress - but we cannot be complacent. There is still much more to do to eradicate deaths and serious injuries from our streets.

Essential maintenance work on the A40 Westway

On 22 November TfL confirmed essential maintenance work to the A40 Westway between the A40 Northern Roundabout and the Marylebone Road would start on weekends from the end of November through to Summer 2022.

The A40 Westway is one of the busiest strategic routes on TfL's road network, normally used by nearly 100,000 vehicles a day. To keep the A40 Westway and surrounding road network

running safely and reliably, the works and associated road closures have been planned to avoid the busiest periods, with directional closures taking place at weekends.

Further work will be necessary given the age of the infrastructure and I urge people to plan ahead before their journeys, using alternative modes of transport where possible.

TfL to start work on important new safety measures on Westminster Bridge

On 15 November TfL began the start of works on important new safety measures on Westminster Bridge, with the main work expected to last until the end of January 2022.

It will see the installation of permanent barriers to protect people walking and cycling on both sides of the bridge, replacing the temporary barriers that have been in place since 2017. Once work is completed, there will be a permanent protected cycle lane and footway over the bridge in both directions, making it safer and easier for people to cross the River Thames at this busy location in central London. Enabling more people to walk and cycle safely is vital to the capital's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Safety is my top priority, and the installation of these permanent measures at Westminster Bridge will play an important role in improving the safety on the bridge for those walking and cycling at this busy central London location. There may be some disruption to travel during construction work and I'd like to ask people in the area who need to travel to plan ahead for their journeys, using alternative routes where necessary.

Travel advice ahead of planned 17-week closure of the Northern line's Bank branch

On 5 November TfL issued travel advice for customers who will be affected by the upcoming closure of the Bank branch of the Northern line.

The branch will be closed for 17 weeks between Kennington and Moorgate from 15 January until mid-May 2022 to safely finalise work on the brand-new Northern line tunnel and passenger concourse at the Bank Station as part of the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade work.

The closure was planned and granted in 2015 as part of the upgrade work.

To help mitigate the closure, which will also mean a reduced service between Camden Town and Moorgate, an enhanced service with a train at least every two minutes will run on the Charing Cross branch of the Northern line in the peaks.

TfL is asking customers to travel at quieter times or use alternative routes during the closure, as many lines and stations across central London will be busier.

This much needed renovation of Bank station will significantly increase the capacity of the station and make it more pleasant to travel through, as well as future proofing a key interchange station in the City

TfL continues its vital work in making London's roads safer with new CLOCS contract

TfL has signed a new contract with construction business management consultant SECBE to deliver the Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) scheme, which aims to make construction vehicle fleets safer and greener across the UK. The new contract will begin in December 2021 and last for five years.

Developed in 2013 by TfL as a scheme focused on reducing collisions between vulnerable road users and construction traffic, CLOCS has been instrumental in improving safety throughout the construction supply chain. Participating construction companies are required to sign up to the CLOCS Code of Conduct and undertake safety training for their staff in order to receive accreditation.

I am determined to meet the Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from London's roads and improving the safety of construction vehicles and industry practice on the capital's roads is key to this. CLOCS plays a crucial role in providing safer, cleaner and greener streets for everyone by accelerating safety standards in the construction industry and ensuring the safest construction vehicle journeys from start to finish.

Body worn camera evidence again plays a key role in securing a conviction for assault against TfL officers

On 19 November TfL announced that a man had been sentenced by Westminster Magistrates Court to 12 weeks imprisonment following the physical assault of two TfL Transport, Support and Enforcement Officers in September 2020, who had been deployed to deal with a passenger who was being aggressive towards customer service station staff.

Violence and aggression towards TfL staff is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. TfL, working with its policing partners, will always seek to bring offenders to justice using all available evidence such as CCTV and body worn camera footage. Footage from body worn cameras was successfully used to help secure a conviction in this case.

This behaviour towards our staff, who were just trying to do their jobs, is completely unacceptable. Everyone has the right to go about their day without fear or intimidation and we do not tolerate any form of physical or verbal abuse towards our staff or customers. Body worn video footage, like CCTV, continues to provide vital evidence to the police and serves as a powerful deterrent to those who intend on abusing our staff.

Encouraging Londoners to adopt green shopping habits this Black Friday and festive season

With Black Friday weekend and the beginning of the festive shopping season, I'm encouraging Londoners to choose greener ways of getting their deliveries such as using click and collect or getting to the shops by public transport, helping to reduce the congestion on the capital's roads and improving air quality.

Lorries and vans are essential to London's economy and around half of the value of household expenditure in London relies on freight. In London 90 per cent of all goods are transported by road.

Road freight is a major source of nitrogen dioxide emissions and these can be worsened during busy delivery periods.

With retailers across the capital offering more options to make deliveries more sustainable, it has never been easier to adopt new ways to help reduce the impact of festive deliveries on London's air quality and congestion. Options include:

- Walk, cycle or use public transport to make the journey to and from shops.
- When ordering online, try a click and collect facility near home.

- Ensure deliveries are arranged for when you are at home or nominate an alternative address. Failed deliveries can increase the carbon footprint of online orders by up to 75 per cent.
- Choose standard delivery where possible instead of next day delivery as it is easier for companies to plan and group deliveries, helping to minimise the number of trips and reduce road congestion
- Ordering online from businesses that offer zero emission delivery options

TfL has partnered with InPost to install parcel lockers across the capital, primarily situated within TfL's car parks close to Tube and rail stations. They help to provide the local community and those using public transport with a convenient, cleaner and greener alternative to collect and return parcels as part of their everyday journeys.

Works start to transform Hammersmith gyratory for walking and cycling

On 29 November TfL started work to transform Hammersmith gyratory, reducing danger to vulnerable road users on one of London's most intimidating junctions. The work is the next stage of improvements along the Cycleway 9 (C9) and will provide a vital link in the growing network of routes in west London.

These changes will have huge benefits for both pedestrians and cyclists travelling around the area and protecting vulnerable road users and making London's junctions safer for all is a key part of our Vision Zero commitment.

Improving safety on Battersea Bridge

On 30 November TfL announced that it has completed work to make walking at Battersea Bridge safer. The changes are part of TfL's Vision Zero commitment to improve road safety with the goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the road network. This work was brought forward following the tragic death of Jack Ryan earlier this year, who was killed on the bridge following a collision with a vehicle.

Any death or serious injury on London's roads is a tragedy and should not happen. Making London's streets safer is a top priority for me and I am absolutely committed to making the capital's roads safer for everyone.

Fire and Resilience

On 18 November my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney AM, attended a plaque unveiling at Kings Cross station to lay a wreath in memory of Colin Townsley, the firefighter who died while saving lives at the Kings Cross fire in 1987.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Celebrating National Grid's careers activity

On 9 November Deputy Mayor Jules Pipe visited National Grid's London Power Tunnel (LPT) project site in New Cross along with students from across London. The visit was an opportunity to celebrate National Grid's STEM and careers outreach programme with South London schools, including their work with the London Enterprise Adviser Network, and to speak about my commitment to the provision of high-quality careers education in London.

National Grid is a member of my London Infrastructure Group (LIG) and also participates in the equality, diversity and inclusion sub-group. LIG members have committed to delivering against four key pledges in partnership with the GLA to promote equality and diversity in the infrastructure sector.

Skills for Londoners Board

My Skills for Londoners (SfL) Board met on 17 November 2021. The Board discussed: research commissioned by the GLA on social prescribing to adult education to improve Londoners' mental health; plans for my new Academies Programme Quality Mark ; the Skills Roadmap for London (formerly the Adult Education Roadmap for London), which is due for publication in January 2022; and, as the Skills Advisory Panel for London, the work underway to refresh the Local Skills Report for London, due for publication in February 2022. They also received an update on AEB programme activity since the last meeting, including the amendment I recently made to the GLA's AEB Funding Rules to enable the full funding of eligible asylum seekers for AEB funded provision and waiving the requirement for family members of eligible UK and European Economic Area (EEA) nationals to have three years of ordinary residency to access AEB funded provision.

Adult Education Budget Mayoral Board

My Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board met on 30 November. The Board considered a report outlining the outcome of the Mayor's Academies Programme (MAP) hubs grant award process and proposals to allocate remaining funding to social care hubs.

Members also discussed the Skills Roadmap for London which will set a clear direction of travel for skills and adult education in London over this Mayoral term and is due to be published in January 2022. The Board endorsed the proposed content of the Roadmap which has been updated following public consultation on the draft Roadmap from June to August 2021.

The Board also endorsed the approach to the reconciliation of the AEB for 2020-21. The approach will be used to confirm the outturn funding position for AEB Grant funded providers and AEB Procured providers for the academic year August 2020 to July 2021. The indicative approach to AEB Grant allocations for the 2022-23 academic year was also endorsed, with final allocations due to be considered by the Board in March 2022.

Opening of Future Cube, SEGRO Park Rainham

On 23 November my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe officially launched the Future Cube Innovation Centre. Funded through my Good Growth Fund, with support from the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), it's a first of its kind Innovation

Hub within the industrial estate in Rainham. Designed to boost productivity and skills provision in Havering and across East London, the site is equipped with specialist technical equipment including Virtual and Augmented Reality and immersive technologies for local businesses and students to use. Alongside the Future Cube, the London Riverside Industrial Public Realm project will improve the local public and green spaces for workers, students and visitors to enjoy.

Recruiting experts to help shape the future of London's buildings

On 23 November I announced that I'm recruiting a new cohort of Mayor's Design Advocates (MDAs) – independent built environment sector experts who will ensure quality buildings and public spaces that benefit Londoners are at the heart of the capital's recovery from the pandemic. I will appoint 30 Design Advocates with a wealth of expertise and skills to support my vision of 'good growth', delivering a more inclusive and sustainable built environment.

The original cohort of MDAs was appointed in 2017 and developed guidance and policy in support of the London Plan in relation to housing design, circular economy, public realm, social infrastructure, urban industry, the child-friendly city and high streets. They also developed a handbook to support diversity in the built environment profession. MDAs also design reviewed more than 150 schemes through the London Review Panel, where I am investing funding, making a planning decision or supporting local authorities. These have ranged from high profile schemes like the Tulip, Bishopsgate Goodsyard and Oxford Street pedestrianisation, to supportive workshops for community groups in receipt of Crowdfund London support.

The application can be found at the following link: <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/jobs-and-working-city-hall/current-vacancies/md2021-mayors-design-advocates>

Applications should be submitted via the GLA online recruitment system no later than 23:59 on 15 December 2021.

198 Contemporary Arts and Learning opening

On 25 November my Interim Head of Regeneration attended the official opening of 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning (CAL) - one of very few black-led and owned visual arts organisations in the UK. The refurbishment and considerable extension of the building, newly acquired from Lambeth Council, was funded through my Good Growth Fund, with support from the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). Improvements will allow 198 CAL to expand its exhibition programme; enhance creative learning programmes for children and young people; and host commercial workspace for artists and others in the creative industries, introducing workspace in this suburban high street location and securing the long-term financial stability of the organisation.

Wandsworth Food Bus opening

On 26 November I officially opened the Wandsworth Food Bus which was parked for the launch at South Thames College. Funded through my Good Growth Fund, with support from the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), the Wandsworth Food Bus aims to reduce the numbers of households on low incomes without access to healthy, affordable food. Its onboard supermarket is stocked with surplus healthy food, which is also used in the onboard community café, and strives to tackle food waste. Feeding Britain have partnered with local charity Be Enriched to deliver and run the bus, which now visits four sites across the borough each week. Wrap-around support including advice in connection with benefits, debt, budgeting, mental

health and addiction will take place on the top deck. The project has received £120,000 of investment from my Good Growth Fund.

The Mayor's Prize at the New London Awards

On 26 November my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe awarded my Mayor's Prize at this year's New London Awards Ceremony. This year my prize focused on celebrating projects that demonstrate the role that the high street can play in London's recovery, in line with the High Streets for All recovery mission objectives.

London's high streets are the beating heart of our communities and an essential part of our economy. They are some of the most inclusive, vibrant and accessible spaces in London. But they are also where some of the most damaging economic impacts of the pandemic are being felt. I am delighted to announce that this year's Mayor's Prize was awarded to the client and design team of Nourish Hub – the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and RCKa architects. The winner went above and beyond in demonstrating how our high streets can adapt to structural change and provide new spaces that prioritise community and social value. As we recover from the pandemic, issues like food insecurity, social isolation and unemployment are at the forefront of our minds and this project addresses these issues head-on, demonstrating the power of truly involving local people in processes of change.

My prize also commended Tsuruta Architects and Lewisham Council's Catford Regeneration Partnership for their brilliant contribution to Catford High Street. The Queen of Catford in Lewisham serves as a reminder that small-scale, housing-led development can be architecturally ambitious, driven by sustainable principles and contribute to a sense of place.

High Streets Data Partnership achievements

The High Streets Data Partnership finished in the top 3 finalists in the Big Data Innovation of the Year category for the Digital Leaders 100 annual awards ceremony. It was also a finalist in the 'Recovery Innovation of the Year' category for the World Smart Cities Expo in Barcelona.

As part of the commitment to partnership working my officers recently delivered training to over 70 borough officers on the use of data to enable local insights. The team has also spoken to colleagues in Ireland who are looking at building a similar project for local authorities there.

Mother House Studios in Catford opens its doors

In November Mother House Studios opened its permanent affordable artist's studio with integrated childcare in Catford Mews in Lewisham. The Mother House Studios model is a unique solution that supports the professional development and wellbeing of artists during early motherhood. To facilitate integration and exchange, the model creates two main interconnected spaces; an open art studio with desks for professional arts practice, a children's area where a dedicated team facilitates in-house daily activities and a gallery space for exhibitions. The project was delivered following a successful community crowdfunding campaign to raise almost £50,000 from more than 200 backers, and I pledged £22,500 through my crowdfunding regeneration programme.

Housing

Councils Building Homes Forum

On 9 November my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley spoke at the Councils Building Homes Forum, alongside speakers including Dr Janice Morphet, Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Planning and Kate Dodsworth, Director of Consumer Regulation, Regulator for Social Housing.

As a result of action taken by City Hall since I've been Mayor, London has seen a renaissance in municipal homebuilding, with many councils embarking on large-scale council building programmes for the first time in a generation. In 2019/20, across London, work was started on more new council homes than in any year since 1983.

Key Information Documents for prospective shared owners

On 19 November my housing team published new requirements for GLA investment partners to provide information to prospective shared owners. A suite of templates are to be used by housing providers on grant-funded shared ownership homes that have not yet been reserved.

These 'Key Information Documents' will allow Londoners to make a fair comparison between shared ownership homes, and will ensure that shared owners are fully informed about their responsibilities at the point of reserving a shared ownership home. The content required from providers includes details on expected and potential costs, fees, and charges, and a guide to the obligations contained with shared ownership leases.

The requirement to use these templates is specified in the GLA's recently updated Capital Funding Guide for affordable housing. Different templates apply for the Affordable Homes Programmes 2016-2023 and 2021-2026, and are available to download at london.gov.uk.

What could recovery look like for London's Trans communities?

On 19 November my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley spoke about access to housing and services for Trans Londoners at LGBT+ Consortium's "What could recovery look like for London's Trans communities?" event at City Hall.

As Mayor I'm proud to have provided funding from my Community Housing Fund for the UK's first LGBTQ+ affirming retirement community, Tonic@Bankhouse. I've also funded the Outside Project, which works with homeless LGBTQ+ Londoners. In November I launched a consultation on my draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy, which identifies the need to improve provision of and access to safe accommodation for LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse.

New funding for homes for older and disabled people

On 23 November I announced that I have secured £43.5m of funding to help develop much-needed specialised housing for older and disabled people in London.

Good quality, specialised housing for older people and disabled adults plays a critical role in helping them to live as independently as possible, and enables carers and the wider health and social care system to offer support more effectively.

The funding is being provided through the Government's Care and Support Specialised Housing (CASSH) programme, which is administered in London by City Hall to develop homes for older Londoners with care needs and adults with physical and learning disabilities, autism and mental health care needs.

Following the announcement, on Monday 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley visited Charlie Ratchford Court in Camden, which received £3,800,000 in 2019 to deliver 38 extra-care units for older Londoners who require care and support.

Delivering Quality Homes Action Plan Tool and Handbook

On 24 November my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, opened New London Architecture's Housing Summit, and launched my new Delivering Quality Homes Action Plan Tool and Handbook

Every Londoner should have access to a well-designed, safe, good quality home they can afford. This should be a right, not the preserve of the rich. Yet, too many Londoners continue to face inadequate housing options.

The Handbook and the template Action Plan have been developed by my housing team, Mayor's Design Advocates and the Good Growth by Design team, in consultation with many of London's high-performing housing organisations. These resources offer a roadmap for the delivery of good quality homes and places. The Handbook is available online here:

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mol_delivering_quality_homes_handbook_draftnovember2021.pdf

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Designing London's Recovery Innovations Showcase

On 17 November my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell, opened a showcase for the Mayor's Open Innovation Challenge, Designing London's Recovery. Those attending heard from twenty diverse teams who had come together over the last four months to co-design their ideas with communities on how London can use design-led innovations and a collaborative approach to recover from the pandemic.

Funded through the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), teams and attendees are taking on the feedback and guidance they received. They will now submit bids for up to £40,000 on how they will use their innovations to make London a better place to live, work and visit.

London Covid Business Forum

On 24 November I convened a meeting of the London Covid Business Forum, through which we have been working with business to progress the 'Roadmap to the Safe and Full Reopening of London's Economy'. The forum is considering how to build on the success of 'Let's Do London'

with an international tourism marketing campaign and what we can do to work together to support and accelerate London's recovery through my Anchor Institutions Charter. The forum also agreed to write to the Government to express its concern at the lack of a long term funding agreement for TfL, which is essential to London's recovery and its ability to support recovery across the UK.

Business incubator with the Entrepreneurial Refugee Network

This November, the London Business Hub launched a business incubator with the Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN). The incubator will support 20 entrepreneurs with refugee status in London for five months. The programme has been designed to develop participants' business acumen and help their businesses launch. Participants will be matched with mentors and experienced business advisers to learn about how to start a business and the level of planning required. The incubator will run for six months.

Engaging with Business

On 17 November my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal spoke virtually at the Openfinance 2021 conference hosted in Mexico. Rajesh highlighted London's role as a leader in Fintech and set out how and why the sector continues to attract global investment.

On 17 November my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal attended the Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) London Council Meeting. This session was an opportunity to hear from the CBI and their London business members on the key areas that they think are crucial for London's recovery, namely trade, inclusive skills and decarbonisation.

On 23 November my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal met with Janine Hirt, CEO, Innovate Finance. This was an introductory meeting where Rajesh heard about Janine's priorities for the organisation, and they discussed opportunities for future collaboration.

On 1 December my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal attended the launch of the Ever After Garden to highlight the Let's Do London campaign's winter season. Rajesh met Anya Hindmarch the designer of the 26,000 Rose lights installation at Grosvenor Square created in partnership with the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and business supporters.

Environment

London Schools' Climate Kick-Start

On 5 November, I attended the Climate Kick-Start Prizegiving at the Barbican Centre. I awarded five London secondary schools with £10,000 each to kick-start or accelerate innovative environmental projects. I spoke to students about why environmental action is crucial and what City Hall is doing to address the climate emergency. Hosted by Ade Adepitan MBE, the event concluded a week of practical environmental activities in schools for the London Schools' Climate Kick-Start – a programme to involve thousands of young Londoners in COP26 and support them to act. The project was delivered in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Let's Go Zero 2030. Details can be found at www.london.gov.uk/climate-kick-start.

Meeting with Deputy Mayor of Barcelona

On 12 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Janet Sanz, Barcelona's Deputy Mayor for Environment, Planning, Infrastructure and Mobility. They discussed how cities can work together to address the twin dangers of air pollution and climate change and how the Barcelona Superilla project and ULEZ aim to reduce air pollution and tackle the climate emergency including resilience to climate impacts.

Last Mile Conference

On 16 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave the keynote speech at the inaugural London and South East Manufacturing, Industrial and Logistics Conference – LAST MILE. The conference brought together local government and planning authorities, investors, developers and tenants to discuss the sector's challenges and opportunities. My Deputy Mayor presented on recent progress in London, including the high compliance rate with the Londonwide Low Emission Zone for heavy vehicles and our new Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy for 2030, as well as the swift growth of the industrial and logistics sector and the challenges it faces.

London Flooding meeting with Environment Agency

On 16 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met the Chair of the Environment Agency, Emma Howard Boyd to discuss the serious flooding incidents in London over the summer and how we can plan for future risks more strategically. Shortcomings on the extent to which the UK is prepared for climate change impacts was raised and the need to urgently accelerate action on climate adaptation and Emma offered her support in taking the issue to ministers. The Environment Agency is co-chairing a task and fish group; established through the Mayor's roundtables on flooding, to address longer term climate resilience in London. This will make recommendations on the actions required to make London more resilient to extreme rainfall.

London Councils Transport and Environment Executive Committee

On 17 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (TEC). She highlighted a number of areas including the expanded ULEZ, the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, the retrofitting of London's buildings, and ongoing work around flood response and prevention.

Environmental Funder Network, London's toxic air

On 18 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended a meeting hosted by the Environmental Funders Network for philanthropists and foundations. The meeting discussed the role of philanthropy in supporting climate and air quality action. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues highlighted the actions we have taken to improve air quality since 2016 and emphasised the importance of philanthropic support in delivering the Breathe London Network, the London Schools' Climate Kick-Start and the climate vulnerability maps that were developed with Bloomberg Associates.

Panel for CoMotion LA

On 18 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended CoMotion LA 2021 virtually. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues took part in a panel discussion titled

‘Launching out of COP26: How to Implement the Climate Goals of Today and Tomorrow’ and discussed how London’s transport policies are helping to tackle the twin dangers of air pollution and the climate emergency. The Deputy Mayor also highlighted the importance of the recent expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone, as well as London’s progress toward decarbonising its bus fleet, encouraging modal shift to sustainable forms of transport and delivering electric vehicle infrastructure.

Meeting with Ben Goldsmith

On 22 November, together with my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, I met with Ben Goldsmith, non-exec board member of DEFRA. We discussed opportunities to enhance nature in the capital including the concept of ‘rewilding’ and its relevance to London.

Meeting with David Elliot, Trees for Cities

On 23 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities. They discussed Trees for Cities’ current activities, the forthcoming tree planting season in London and opportunities for further collaboration and tree-planting.

ReLondon Board Meeting

On 25 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the ReLondon Board Meeting. At the meeting ReLondon presented the work on their new Circular Economy Training Academy which will support my work on London’s transition to a low carbon circular economy. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues also heard programme updates on the work of ReLondon, including feedback from the successful launch event at COP26 in Glasgow of their ‘material flow analysis’ of London’s food related consumption based emissions and food waste.

Green New Deal Expert Advisory Group

On 29 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, co-chaired the regular Green New Deal Expert Advisory Group. The meeting covered updates on GLA’s and London Councils’ work around green financing and a look forward to the retrofitting summit in the new year.

Enfield New Woodland launch

On 30 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the launch of a new woodland in Enfield Chase, one of two new woodlands supported through my Greener City Fund. The project is creating 60 hectares of publicly accessible, species-rich woodland across Enfield’s green belt, linking existing woodlands and individual veteran trees as well as providing natural flood management, helping reduce flooding in communities downstream in the Salmons Brook catchment.

Speaking at London’s Green Recovery Conference

On 30 November, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended The London Conference 2021. Deputy Mayor Rodrigues took part in a panel discussion focused on London’s Green Recovery and discussed the ongoing work at the GLA to support the city’s green recovery. The discussion had a specific focus on transport, including the recent

introduction of the expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone, the updated ambitions for London's bus fleet to be zero emission and how London is leading the way on electric vehicle charge points. Key to all this was demonstrating London's investment in green and sustainable transport is helping to grow the green economy and creating high skilled, good quality and diverse jobs, both in London and across the UK.

Meeting with Will Gompertz

On 1 December, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and Deputy Mayor for Culture & Creative Industries, Justine Simons, met with Will Gompertz, Director of Arts and Learning at the Barbican Centre, to discuss their work on environment, climate and culture.

Education and Youth

Igniting potential in young Londoners

On 25 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, delivered a speech at the Young Londoners Fund film screening 'Ignite Your Potential' at RichMix arts centre in Tower Hamlets. The event, attended by an audience of young people and youth professionals, was the culmination of a film project commissioned through my Young Londoners Fund that was led entirely by young people.

The film, which can be viewed [here](#), provided an opportunity for young Londoners to get training in film making, attain a leadership qualification, and share how youth activities have changed their lives. Joanne took part in a panel discussion with the young filmmakers and reaffirmed our commitment to supporting young Londoners. The event was also a chance to recognise the extraordinary achievements of the youth professionals delivering projects funded through the Young Londoners Fund. Despite the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fund has exceeded targets, reaching over 100,000 young people.

Launch of Inclusive and Nurturing Schools (INS) toolkit

On 2 December, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, spoke at the launch of the Inclusive and Nurturing Schools (INS) toolkit, which we have produced in partnership with the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA).

Over the last 11 months the RSA has been working with us to investigate how London schools, multi-academy trusts and local authorities can engage in early intervention work to become more inclusive and nurturing – ultimately reducing the number of formal and informal exclusions. The event shared insights from this research, including eight different case studies which highlight the individual journeys that settings had undertaken and the challenges that leaders have overcome to sustain inclusive and nurturing practice. It also provided attendees with an understanding of how to make the most of using the INS toolkit for creating a more inclusive environment.

This important and helpful resource supports my commitment to decreasing exclusions in London schools through my Violence Reduction Unit's Supporting Inclusive Schools

Programme. It is vital that we support our young Londoners by providing them with an inclusive and nurturing education.

Communities and Social Policy

Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice visit to Thames Water

On 12 November my Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard visited Thames Water, a business on the Workforce Integration Network's (WIN) Design Lab Programme. The meeting took place at Thames Water's Abbey Mills pumping station in the London Borough of Newham. The meeting involved Thames Water's HR Director Lynne Graham and other colleagues to discuss their progress as part of the programme and on diversifying their workforce.

First two cohorts of the Workforce Integration Network's Design Lab programme closing

On 25 November my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, closed the first two cohorts of the Workforce Integration Network's Design Lab programme for 20 businesses across the construction and infrastructure sectors. The Design Lab offers in-depth support to help businesses design and test approaches to building diverse and inclusive workforces, with a focus on young Black men. The event celebrated the 20 businesses on their learning and commitment to building inclusive workforces and changing their industries for the better. The 20 businesses are:

1. SGN
2. J Murphy & Sons Ltd
3. Wates Ltd
4. UK Power Networks
5. Balfour Beatty
6. Mott MacDonald
7. Ferrovial Construction UK
8. Laing O'Rourke
9. Hyperoptic
10. Balfour Beatty Vinci Systra JV – HS2 OOC Station Partner
11. Thames Water
12. Ground Control
13. McGinley Support Services
14. Skanska
15. Kier
16. Morrison Water Services
17. ISG
18. Jacobs Engineering Group
19. Affinity Water
20. Northumbrian Water Limited

Third cohort of the Workforce Integration Network's Design Lab programme launch

On 29 November, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, launched the third cohort of the Workforce Integration Network's Design Lab programme with eight businesses in the technology sector.

The Design Lab offers in-depth support to help businesses design and test approaches to building diverse and inclusive workforces, with a focus on young Black men. The businesses in the third cohort are:

1. Dell
2. Informa Tech
3. Cloudreach
4. D-Ford
5. Profusion
6. Cognizant
7. Panaseer
8. Telent

Anti-Tribalism Movement and Women's Inclusive team meetings

On 3 and 15 November, officers from the GLA and MOPAC met with the Anti-Tribalism Movement and Women's Inclusive team - two Somali organisations who have been responding to the rise in hate crime against Somali Londoners since the death of Sir David Amess MP. MOPAC will continue to engage with these organisations on the Police and Crime Plan, share opportunities for small grants, and work with organisations to improve information sharing on hate crime.

Health

London Health Board

On 16 November, I chaired the London Health Board meeting where I discussed a number of health and care issues with elected leaders from London's Local Authorities and key London professional health leads. Topics that we explored include how the NHS, Social Care and Public Health are supporting the COVID-19 Response, collaborative efforts around Violence Reduction by the GLA, NHS, the Police and other partners, tackling Health Inequalities and the impact of COVID-19 on the Health and Care workforce.

Pandemic Response

I have continued to meet regularly with and receive detailed updates on the current situation from senior leaders from the NHS and the new London Office for Health Promotion and Disparities (OHID). We discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 in London, and other health issues. We have continued to look at what more I can do to amplify health messages, particularly about Londoners protecting themselves against Covid-19 and winter illnesses such as flu.

These meetings have recently included a focus air quality, the expansion of the ULEZ, and ensuring NHS hospitals were signed up to the TfL reimbursement scheme for those patients needing to pay to drive into the zone. We continue routinely to review the vaccine roll-out as more groups become eligible, and to monitor case rates across the city.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London event volunteers at People's Question Time

On 23 November my Team London Major Event volunteers supported the People's Question Time event in Camden. Volunteers were supporting the event operations by welcoming the audience, showing them to their seats and providing microphones to those asking questions on topics ranging from transport to policing, air quality and the environment, housing and London's economic recovery.

Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice visit to Versus Arthritis in Camden

On 12 November my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard, visited Versus Arthritis community project in Camden. Versus Arthritis has received £30,814 in grant funding under round two of the Mayor's Active Londoners Fund. This pilot project supports people living with Arthritis in Merton, Camden and Southwark. Their work addresses inequality and reduces inactivity among people with long-term health conditions - including arthritis.

Culture and Events

East Bank Sadlers Wells New Hip-Hop Theatre Academy and Choreographic School Opening in 2023

On 9 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries spoke at the announcement of a Hip-Hop Theatre Academy and new Choreographic School at Sadler's Wells' East, a new venue at East Bank. It will open in 2023, with the first intake of students enrolling in 2024. The venue will open with Our Mighty Groove, a dance production rooted in the communities of east London, featuring local non-professional dancers. The choreography, by Vicki Igbokwe, incorporates styles such as house, waacking, vogue, African and contemporary dance. These exciting plans from Sadler's Wells demonstrate the vision behind the East Bank project - the most ambitious new project of its kind for over 150 years.

Launch of the Fourth Plinth Guide on the Bloomberg Connects Mobile App

On 12 November, the Fourth Plinth Guide on the Bloomberg Connects mobile app went live. Bloomberg Connects is an educational tool that has been downloaded over 400,000 times. It is a free digital guide to arts and culture spaces around the world directly from your mobile device. The Fourth Plinth guide explores the history of the Trafalgar Square and the empty plinth, and the past and current commissions that have bought great contemporary art to the heart of the city, for free for over 16 years.

Global Innovation Collaborative Creative Cities Challenge winners announced

On 1 December, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, announced the four winners of the Creative Cities Challenge led by the Global Innovation Collaborative. 15 applications were evaluated by four juries comprising international and local industry leaders. The Challenge will support artists, freelancers and small businesses across the culture and creative sectors. The Global Innovation Collaborative was launched by the cities of Berlin, London, New York and Paris in March 2021.

It is a network of partners developing and championing long-term, sustainable and equitable solutions to support the cities' economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership is supported by Bloomberg Associates, Nitrous and Microsoft and a wide range of organisations drawn from across all four cities keen to support the recovery of the arts and culture sectors.

International

UK100 Local Leaders Reception at COP26

On 10 November I spoke at the UK100 Local Leaders Reception in Glasgow for COP26, alongside Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow Council. UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders for cleaner, more powerful communities. We discussed how cities can be more nimble, progressive and responsive to the needs of citizens when tackling climate change. Details about the group's work can be found at www.uk100.org

New York Times Climate Hub - Making It Easy: Sustainable Mobility in the 21st Century' at COP26

On 10 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues appeared on a panel with four other speakers exploring how people travel – from morning commutes to weekend trips and the new innovative ways in which people are moving from place to place. The Deputy Mayor emphasised the importance of modal shift to active modes of travel such as walking and cycling alongside making public transport easier and more attractive to use as well as more accessible for people and quicker journey times.

COP26 UN Secretary General Mayoral Roundtable

On 11 November I attended the COP26 Mayoral Roundtable hosted by Antonio Guterres, (UN Secretary General), with city mayors from across the world. I spoke about how cities will aim to drive climate action after COP26 to ensure that commitments turn into action. I shared my vision as the new chair of C40 Cities about how we could work with the UN. More information about the C40 Cities can be found at www.c40.org/

CBRE Day COP26: Towards Net Zero – greening cities through low carbon connected transport

On 11 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues participated in the panel session aimed at highlighting the importance of green mobility, digitisation and partnerships in supporting the transition to net zero and healthier cities. The Deputy Mayor highlighted the important role that cities have to play in tackling climate change and decarbonising transport, the importance of moving from national pledges to local action and devolving powers to cities to help accelerate the rate of that action, along with emphasising the work I am doing to electrify the bus fleet and the need for government funding to ensure this can happen by 2030.

Meeting with Mayor of San Diego at COP26

On 11 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the Mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria. In this meeting the Deputy Mayor discussed my priorities

as C40 Chair for climate action, the twin dangers of air pollution and climate change and the need to reduce inequality at the same time. The meeting also discussed some of the key issues that San Diego is facing in tackling climate change.

Meeting with Mayor of Prague at COP26

On 11 November my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with the Mayor of Prague, Zdeněk Hřib. In this meeting the Deputy Mayor heard about climate action in Prague, as well as some of the key issues that the city is facing. The meeting also discussed my priorities as C40 Chair for climate action, the twin dangers of air pollution and climate change and the need to reduce inequality at the same time.

UNFCCC Global Climate Action High-Level Event

On 11 November I spoke on the panel for the Climate Champions closing 'Global Climate Action High-Level Event' at COP. This was alongside Gonzalo Munoz (High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP25), Ana Lucia Villela (Member of the Board Itaú Unibanco) and Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Global Leader of Climate & Energy, WWF). At this event I addressed COP delegates to outline how cities are leading the way in tackling climate change and how as C40 Chair I will prioritise immediate climate action rather than focusing on distant emissions reduction pledges. I made the case that cities are doers and that some national governments are delayers and highlighted that C40 has secured US\$1 billion for electric buses in South America.

Meeting with the Mayor of Stockholm

On 2 December I met with Anna König Jerlmyr Mayor of Stockholm. We discussed how London's relationship with European cities remains of vital importance and how we can continue to increase our trade and investment links.

Meeting with the Governor of the Santiago Metropolitan Region

On 2 December I also met with Governor Claudio Orrego of the Santiago Metropolitan Region, the first democratically elected Governor of the region. We discussed my priorities as C40 Chair on climate actions, and exchanged views on how to broaden and strengthen London's link with cities in the Global South.

London Legacy Development Corporation

London Living Wage

On 15 November London Stadium and partners joined organisations across London in supporting Living Wage Week, ensuring that all stakeholders and partners at the venue are Living Wage employers and that all those employed can earn a London Living Wage for the real cost of living.

Sadler's Wells

On 9 November Sadler's Wells held a press conference to launch details of Sadler's Wells East which will open on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as part of East Bank in 2023. The theatre offer will include a new Hip Hop Theatre Academy run by local artist Jonzi D hoping to inspire

the next generation of hip hop theatre artists. The space will also be used by the UK's first generation of Olympic break dancers as they train ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics where breakdancing will make its debut.

Gainsborough and Hackney Bridge

On Tuesday 9 November Gainsborough bridge opened to pedestrians and cyclists, linking Hackney Wick and the Park, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Hackney Council and LLDC. This will improve routes in the area, reduce the use of private motor vehicles and encourage sustainable transport to and from the Park. In addition, a new pedestrian underpass route from Hackney Wick station was also opened, to benefit those who work and live in the area.

These projects are some of the latest examples of the work LLDC is doing in collaboration with partners in Hackney Wick to improve the connectivity of the area and support the delivery of new affordable workspace, homes and jobs.

London Assembly Plenary Session

On 11 November LLDC Chair Sir Peter Hendy and Chief Executive Lyn Garner participated in a London Assembly Plenary session to discuss LLDC's work. Topic areas ranged from the future of LLDC and East Bank to London Stadium and affordable housing delivery.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Local Plan

Following an extensive public consultation, the Inspector has informed OPDC that he intends to hold hearings on OPDC's proposed modifications to its Local Plan in early January, before writing his final report.

There will be two days of hearings on four matters: PTALs; Conformity with London Plan Policy D9 on tall buildings; Employment Policies E1 and E2; and Twyford Abbey site. These will take place remotely on 11th and 12th January, with the 13th as a reserve day. Aside from OPDC, participants will be Old Oak Neighbourhood Forum, St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum, Grand Union Alliance and James Kon obo Wards of London properties.

This is an important step in moving towards the adoption of the Local Plan, which will set the planning policy framework to deliver an inclusive, accessible and connected new urban district for London, delivering tens of thousands of new and affordable homes and job opportunities set to benefit Londoners and the UK.

Planning

London Plan

On 12 November, we began a three-month public engagement on two new draft London Plan Guidance (LPG) documents, the Air Quality Neutral LPG and the Air Quality Positive LPG. These documents build on policy in the London Plan, seeking to ensure that new development helps to improve air quality across the capital. The final versions of the LPGs will be published in 2022.

Local Plans

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham draft Regulation 19 (2) consultation

On 26 November the GLA responded on my behalf to this consultation providing guidance to ensure the borough's emerging Local Plan is consistent with the London Plan 2021. The draft Local Plan is currently considered not to be in general conformity with the London Plan based on the proposed approach to tall buildings and industrial land.

Design Future London – Design Challenge for Young Londoners

I have partnered with architect and TV presenter George Clarke's educational charity MOBIE and the Mayor's Fund for London to launch a Design Challenge for young Londoners to learn more about the amazing range of careers in London's built environment sector. Aimed at young people aged 11-24, the Design Future London challenge involves designing a new home or masterplan for a new neighbourhood in the Royal Docks. The Challenge launched at the London Build expo, where over 250 young Londoners took part in a masterplanning crash course, challenges and workshops. The challenge runs until May next year.

Delegated Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, under powers I delegated to him, has sent a letter in response to the following statutory referrals:

Northolt Road Retail Park, LB Harrow

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Triangle Site, LB Hounslow

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Hounslow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Harrow View East Plot A3, LB Harrow

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Harrow stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Town Quay, LB Barking and Dagenham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Westminster House, 7 Millbank, LB Westminster

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Westminster stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Land bound by Waterloo Road to the east, LB Havering

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Havering stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

TfL Landholdings at Bollo Lane, LB Ealing

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Ealing stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Woolwich Exchange, RB Greenwich

The Deputy Mayor has written to the Royal Borough of Greenwich stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Paddington Green Police Station, City of Westminster

The Deputy Mayor has written to the City of Westminster stating that he intends to call-in the application to determine the application and therefore become the Local Planning Authority.

52-54 New Cross Road, LB Lewisham

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Lewisham stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

550/550A Purley Way, LB Croydon

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Croydon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Southall Sidings, LB Ealing

The Deputy Mayor has written to the London Borough of Ealing stating that he is 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:

- St George's House 5 St George's Road, LB Merton
- Ravensfield House, LB Merton
- White City Living, LB Hammersmith and Fulham
- Newton Close Sheltered Housing, LB Hackney
- Holly House, Land at Chiswick Roundabout, LB Hounslow
- Former Ford Stamping Plant, LB Barking and Dagenham
- NR09 & NR10, LB Havering
- De Beauvoir Estate Phase 1, LB Hackney
- Land at Bridgewater Road, LB Ealing

Key Engagements

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

- I awarded secondary school students with 'Climate Kick-Start' prizes, showing exemplar environmental projects on 5 November
- I met with the General Secretary of GMB and CEO of Uber to discuss higher standards for London private hire vehicle services on 8 November
- I visited Agar Grove, the UK's largest Passivhaus scheme, in Camden on 9 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 9 November
- The Met Commissioner and I visited Charing Cross to meet with officers working on serious youth violence, and to join them on patrol, on 10 November
- I attended COP26 on 10 and 11 November
- I observed a minute's silence at 11:00 on armistice day on 11 November
- I attended the GLA Remembrance Service at Southwark Cathedral on 12 November
- I attended the Met Police passing out parade at Police College, Hendon on 12 November
- I attended the Christmas light 'switch-on' at Piccadilly Circus on 12 November
- I announced the new London Living Wage with the Living Wage Foundation on 15 November
- I chaired the London Health Board on 16 November
- I attended Mayor's Question time on 18 November
- I delivered the George Lansbury Memorial Lecture at Queen Mary University on 18 November
- I met with Paul Scully, Minister for London, on 22 November
- I met with Ben Goldsmith to discuss rewilding on 22 November
- I met with Lord Wajid Khan on 22 November
- I met with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, on 22 November
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 23 November
- I attended People's Question Time on 23 November
- I chaired the regular London Covid Business Forum on 24 November
- I attended a staff event on the Ultra Low Emission Zone on 24 November
- I visited Plumstead Police Station to see the results of Operation Sceptre in tackling knife crime and to join officers on patrol on 25 November
- I met with Sharon Graham, Unite General Secretary, on 25 November
- I attended the installation of the Chanukah Menorah in Trafalgar Square on 25 November
- I officially launched the Wandsworth Food Bus on 26 November
- I attended a memorial for Sergeant Matt Ratana on 29 November
- I attended the Annual Fashion Awards at the Royal Albert Hall on 29 November
- I gave the keynote speech at The London Conference 2021, hosted by the Centre for London, on 30 November
- I chaired a roundtable on tackling Female Genital Mutilation on 30 November
- I chaired the regular Adult Education Board on 30 November
- I visited a youth homelessness hub in Hounslow on 1 December to launch my winter Rough Sleeping campaign
- I chaired the London Recovery Board on 1 December
- I held my regular meeting with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on 1 December

Ends