

15th Mayor's Report to the Assembly MQT – 12th October 2017

This is my fifteenth Mayor's Report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 1 September – 28 September 2017.

Executive Summary

Parsons Green terrorist attack

Our city utterly condemns the hideous individuals who attempted to use terror to harm us and destroy our way of life in the recent terrorist attack at Parsons Green.

As London has proven again and again, we will never be intimidated or defeated by terrorism.

My sincere gratitude goes to all our courageous emergency responders and the TfL staff who were first on the scene at Parsons Green and my thoughts and prayers go out to all those who were injured.

First draft Housing Strategy Published

On 6 September, I published my first draft Housing Strategy which provides a comprehensive plan to address the housing crisis over the next few years. This includes:

- 90,000 new affordable homes started by 2021;
- Ensuring a better deal for private renters;
- Increasing the building of more genuinely affordable homes;
- Supporting new housing providers including community builders; and
- Helping to tackle homelessness, with a way off the street for every rough sleeper.

I also announced my intention to earmark £250 million for City Hall to use for buying and preparing land for new and affordable housing. The money made from selling the land to homebuilders will be recycled to buy further land for new and affordable homes, unlocking opportunities across the capital.

Over 100 million journeys made on 'Hopper' fare during first year

On 11 September, I was delighted to reveal that a year on from its launch, more than 100 million journeys have now been made using my 'Hopper' fare.

Building on the Hopper's success, TfL is now actively testing new technology that will allow customers to take unlimited bus and tram transfers within one hour, which is not possible with current system software. This upgrade will also allow passengers to travel on a Tube or rail service in London between their two or more bus or tram journeys, helping even more customers benefit from the 'Hopper' fare.

Subject to this testing being successful, it is anticipated that customers will be able to benefit from the changes in early 2018.

Air quality audits to protect thousands of London children

On 13 September, I announced the first of 50 'air quality audits' for primary schools in the worst polluted areas in London, to help protect children from toxic air in the capital.

As part of my bold and ambitious plans to tackle air quality, the audits will identify hard-hitting measures to protect pupils' health from toxic air. They will also examine new ways to dramatically lower emissions and exposure to pollution in and around schools.

The audits will be complete by the end of 2017, with reports ready by March 2018.

Green light for Millicent Fawcett statue in Parliament Square

On 19 September, I was delighted that plans for a statue of suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square were given the go-ahead by Westminster City Council. This statue, by artist Gillian Wearing OBE, will be the first-ever monument of a woman, and the first made by a woman, to stand within this iconic central London location.

Policing, Crime and Security

Calling on Chancellor to put safety first in the autumn Budget

On 20 September, whilst attending the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee, I called on the Chancellor to reverse years of underfunding and use the autumn Budget to make sure the police and security services have the resources they need to keep the public safe.

I believe that if the Treasury continues with its policy of real-terms cuts to police funding, officer numbers will fall dangerously low and Londoners' safety will be put at risk.

Police force budgets have been reduced in real terms by the Treasury every year since 2010, completely failing to take into account the increasing demand or inflationary pressure on policing.

In London, the scale of this police funding crisis has already led to the loss of almost 3,000 police community support officers, most of the capital's police station front counters and 120 police buildings in order to protect frontline police officers. Officer numbers are now at risk of falling below 30,000 for the first time since 2003, just as they are needed the most.

I am clear that wider policing, not just counter terror, must be properly funded in the years to come, and that neighbourhood police officers in our communities are the eyes and ears of the security services when it comes to stopping terrorist attacks.

The Government also recently announced a one per cent bonus for police officers above the one per cent pay cap, representing an additional cost of £13.7 million per year for London policing – which must be funded from existing police budgets, meaning more cuts elsewhere.

Zero-tolerance approach to moped crime

On 8 September, I brought together London's police, local authorities and the Motorcycle Crime Prevent Community – which represents motorcycle users – to help drive forward my zero-tolerance approach to tackling moped-related crime in London.

In the last year there were more than 19,385 moped enabled crimes in London – an average of 53 a day – including thefts and robberies. I am clear that this will not be tolerated in the capital.

Chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, the meeting is a key step towards ensuring a major co-ordinated effort to prevent and root out these reckless, intimidating crimes that can have horrific consequences. Most motorcycle crime is carried out on stolen vehicles, so making them harder to steal in the first place is essential.

The meeting aimed to bring to light what more can be done to help, and set out an action plan to drive forward improvements.

Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

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

Sessions so far have focused on Evidence and Data collection and Female Offenders. Future workshop will focus on BAME victims, Perpetrators, Prevention, Enforcement, Support to victims, Prostitution, Harmful Practices, and a VAWG Prevention Campaign.

Public Access and Engagement Consultation

Throughout September, there have been public meetings held in each London borough to discuss changes to public access to Met Police services.

My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, has attended many of these meetings and, in addition, has also discussed the changes with interested MPs, councillors, Council Leaders and Assembly Members.

The Consultation remains open until 6 October 2017 and I would encourage people from across London to read the draft document and to make their views known at: www.london.gov.uk/public-access

London Crime Reduction Board

I chaired the September meeting of the London Crime Reduction Board following the development of new governance arrangements agreed at the meeting in April earlier this year.

I was updated on the progress made against my Police and Crime Plan and our objectives in key areas. The meeting considered trends in crime and policing across London which, despite the effective and professional response to serious recent events, raises worrying concerns about sustainability and safety in the light of the current funding position.

I was also updated on criminal justice devolution for London and progress on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice to facilitate the work.

Transport

TfL's licensing decision on Uber

On 22 September, TfL took the decision not to renew Uber's private hire operator licence after expiry of its current licence on 30 September.

TfL has concluded that Uber is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence and that its approach and conduct demonstrates a lack of corporate responsibility in relation to a number of issues which have potential public safety and security implications. These include:

- Its approach to reporting serious criminal offences;
- Its approach to how medical certificates are obtained;
- Its approach to how Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are obtained; and
- Its approach to explaining the use of Greyball in London - software that could be used to block regulatory bodies from gaining full access to the app and prevent officials from undertaking regulatory or law enforcement duties.

I have made it clear that I want London to be at the forefront of innovation and new technology and to be a natural home for exciting new companies that help Londoners by providing a better and more affordable service. However, I am also clear that all companies in London must play by the rules and adhere to the high standards we expect - particularly when it comes to the safety of customers. Providing an innovative service must not be at the expense of customer safety and security.

I therefore fully support TfL's decision to not renew Uber's private hire operator licence – and it would be wrong if TfL continued to licence Uber if there is any way that this could pose a threat to Londoners' safety and security.

Whilst I have every sympathy with Uber drivers and all those customers affected by this decision, I believe their anger should be directed at Uber. They have let down their drivers and customers by failing, in the view of TfL, to act as a fit and proper operator.

I welcome the recent apology from Dara Khosrowshahi, the Uber CEO, and I am pleased that he has acknowledged the issues that Uber faces in London. I have asked TfL to make themselves available to meet with Uber.

Over 100 million journeys made on 'Hopper' fare during first year

On 11 September, I was delighted to reveal that a year on from its launch, more than 100 million journeys have now been made using my 'Hopper' fare.

The fare, which became operational on 11 September 2016, enables passengers to make a £1.50 pay-as-you go bus or tram journey, and then change onto another bus or tram for free within one hour of starting your journey. It is automatically given to anyone who uses pay as you go with a contactless bank payment or Oyster card, meaning cheaper travel and real savings for millions of Londoners. Of the 100 million journeys made in the first year, almost two million involved travelling on a tram as part of the journey.

Around 325,000 journeys are now being made every weekday using the 'Hopper' fare and its continuing success will help encourage people across London to switch from their cars back to public transport, supporting my wider campaign to clean up London's toxic air.

Throughout the year, the route 18 bus, which runs between Sudbury & Harrow Road station to Euston station via Kensal Green, has consistently been the most popular bus to 'hop' onto, with the most popular overall location where people change buses being at Brent Cross shopping centre. Analysis also revealed that on 30 June 2017, more than 360,000 'hops' took place in just one day.

Building on the Hopper's success, TfL is now actively testing new technology that will allow customers to take unlimited bus and tram transfers within one hour, which is not possible with current system software. This upgrade will also allow passengers to travel on a Tube or rail service in London between their two or more bus or tram journeys, helping even more customers benefit from the 'Hopper' fare.

Subject to this testing being successful, it is anticipated that customers will be able to benefit from the changes in early 2018.

Calling for a major increase in UK infrastructure investment

On 7 September, I called for a major increase in infrastructure spending across the UK in the aftermath of Brexit.

My call came as I met with Lord Andrew Adonis, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, the body that provides the government with impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges.

I outlined to Lord Adonis my view that infrastructure investment should not be seen as a 'zero-sum game', where one region of the UK loses out to another. All parts of the UK will need to see an increase in transport and infrastructure investment from the government in order to support future growth and job creation as Britain exits the European Union.

Earlier this summer, the National Infrastructure Commission published a list of the 12 key infrastructure decisions that need to be taken for projects to go ahead across the country, including the next stages of High Speed 2, which will connect Birmingham, Crewe, Manchester and Leeds, High Speed 3 linking the major northern cities, Crossrail 2 and, increased investment in broadband and 5g mobile.

Launch of consultation for new segregated cycle superhighway

On 21 September, I announced the launch of a consultation for a new segregated cycle superhighway that will bring safer cycling to west London.

Cycle Superhighway 9 will add nearly 6km of new segregated track to the capital's roads and it will also feature significant improvements for pedestrians with new traffic light crossings and improvements to pedestrian crossings.

The superhighway forms a key part of my work to encourage more Londoners to walk and cycle, and to make the capital's streets healthier, safer and more welcoming.

Cycle Superhighway 9 will see roads transformed from Kensington Olympia to Brentford, making it safer to cycle and easier to cross roads in west London, while reducing through traffic on some residential roads.

The proposal includes nearly 6km of segregated cycle tracks on major west London roads, including Hammersmith Road, King Street, Chiswick High Road, Brentford High Street and Kew Bridge Road, and the ability for cyclists to bypass Hammersmith Gyrotory and Kew Bridge Junction. Through traffic will be removed from residential roads Wellesley Road and Stile Hall Gardens, and there will be five new traffic light crossings and more than 20 upgraded pedestrian crossings.

Plans unveiled for new fully-segregated cycle superhighway

On 28 September, I announced plans to introduce the first high-quality segregated cycle route to south-east London. Cycle Superhighway 4 will bring safer cycling to the area as it connects Tower Bridge to Greenwich using more than four kilometres of segregated tracks.

The route has been identified as a priority due to the area's high demand for cycling, with nearly 3,500 daily trips already made on the A200, the high potential for more people to take up cycling, and the need for safety improvements, with 93 collisions involving cyclists along this section of the A200 in three years.

The first part of the consultation includes more than four kilometres of two-way segregated cycle tracks on Tooley Street, Jamaica Road, Evelyn Street and Creek Road.

It features five new traffic light pedestrian crossings, the upgrade of more than 20 existing crossings, and the redesign of the Rotherhithe Roundabout, which was identified as a priority as part of the Safer Junctions programme.

It will also connect to the wider cycling network, connecting with Quietway 14 via segregated lane on Tanner Street. This quietway would link the North-South Cycle Superhighway with the proposed Cycle Superhighway 4. Plans for the section on Lower Road, which will incorporate the regeneration planned for Canada Water, will be consulted on next year.

Thames Forum

On 20 September, my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross, launched the new Thames and London Waterways Forum. Joined by around 100 stakeholders, including my Deputy Mayor for Environment, Shirley Rodrigues, Val set out our vision for the Forum to take forward the full range of shared objectives for the river and London's waterways.

Val is working with TfL to promote the role of the Thames in London's transport offer, but the Forum will also have a role supporting sustainable development, protecting the environment and promoting London's waterways for culture, leisure and sport.

Changes to private hire operator licence fees confirmed

TfL has confirmed that changes will be made to the fees private hire operators are charged for the cost of licensing, compliance and enforcement activity. The new fees, approved by the TfL Finance Committee, more accurately reflect the resources required to regulate firms, based on the size of their operations.

The capital's private hire industry has grown dramatically, from 65,000 licensed drivers in 2013/14, to more than 116,000 today. The number of vehicles has increased from 50,000 to 88,000 over the same period. With this growth, there has been a substantial increase in the cost of ensuring private hire operators fulfil their licensing obligations and in tackling illegal activity to keep passengers safe. It is estimated that over the next five years enforcement costs alone will reach £30 million, up from a previous estimate of £4 million.

As set out in my Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan, income from operator licensing fees will be used to contribute to funding the extra 250 Compliance Officers, with most now in post. The team plays a pivotal role in keeping Londoners safe. They also provide reassurance to those travelling at night through a highly visible, uniformed presence in the West End, City and other areas across London.

TfL recently consulted on the changes and has listened to feedback, which identified that the original proposals penalised small and medium-sized operators and has now created two additional charging bands. To further support successful businesses, TfL has also included provision allowing operators in the largest three categories to pay fees in annual instalments.

Plans to modernise customer service on London Overground

TfL and Arriva Rail London (ARL), which operates London Overground, have announced plans to review and modernise customer service on London Overground.

TfL is delivering an ambitious programme of improvements on the Overground network, which includes Night Overground services from December this year and a new fleet of trains on many lines next year.

ARL will begin meeting with its staff and trade unions to discuss a range of initiatives, including making London Overground staff more visible and available at stations, providing assistance and information where it is most needed, and modernising the process for selling tickets to reflect changes in how people are paying for their travel.

In addition, the number of staff employed in permanent mobile revenue protection and security roles across the London Overground network is planned to be trebled by early 2019. They will act as a deterrent to crime and anti-social behaviour and assist customers once on their journeys.

Future improvements for London Overground that are already confirmed include the introduction of a 24-hour night service for the very first time this December, 45 new air-conditioned walk-through trains replacing older rolling stock.

The London Overground network has improved enormously over the last decade and I want to continue that trend and make sure that we are continuing to provide a first-class service that meets the needs of today's customers.

New TfL app enables passengers to top up their Oyster card 'on the go'

Since 7 September, Oyster card users have been able to check their pay as you go balance and top up their card with just a few quick taps of their smartphone with the launch by TfL of a new free app.

Future improvements to the app include ability to obtain refunds for incomplete journeys and view Contactless journey history.

The app also enables customers to view the last eight weeks of their journey history, check how much pay as you go credit they have on their Oyster card and provides, for the first time, a 'low balance' alert direct to their phone to help ensure they have enough pay as you go credit before they travel.

Additional functionality will be added, including the ability to apply for refunds for incomplete journeys.

TfL commences consultation on cashless trams in Croydon

TfL has begun an eight-week public consultation on plans to make trams in London 'cashless'.

The proposal would see existing cash ticket machines, which only sell a small number of the more expensive paper tickets every week and do not allow customers to top-up their Oyster card, removed from the Tram network.

As the ticket machines, which were installed when the tram system opened in 2000, have such low usage and have now reached the end of their useful life, it is no longer cost effective for TfL to maintain them or have them replaced.

It is therefore proposed that TfL remove the machines and ask any customers who still buy paper tickets to switch to Oyster or contactless. Customers will be able to top up their Oyster cards at Oyster Ticket Stops along the route, at ticket machines at National Rail stations or, via the TfL website and forthcoming TfL Ticketing app.

Subject to the results of the consultation which ends on 29 October, a final decision on whether to remove the machines will be made early next year.

Two specialist engineering trains lead the charge against leaf fall on the Piccadilly line

TfL have announced that an action plan to tackle leaf fall on the Piccadilly line is well underway for the autumn months.

It follows the publication of an independent report, commissioned by TfL, into leaf fall issues on the Piccadilly line that have led to delays and disruption on the line over the past two years.

Two 1973-stock trains have been converted into specialist engineering trains which will travel on the Piccadilly line treating rails to reduce the risk of poor adhesion. The adhesive material they dispense helps the train wheels grip the tracks during braking. When trains brake on slippery tracks it can cause the wheels to lock and subsequently wear down, an issue known as wheel flats.

Elizabeth line permanent track installation is complete

On 14 September, a significant milestone was marked with the official completion of the permanent track for the Elizabeth line – London's newest railway.

Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling and my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross, joined Crossrail Chairman, Sir Terry Morgan, and Chief Executive, Andrew Wolstenholme, in the eastbound tunnel of the new Whitechapel Elizabeth line station – where the final rail clips were affixed to the track.

With the track fully laid, the £14.8 billion project has entered a new phase as construction trains are now able to travel the full length of both new tunnels from end to end. A construction train completed the journey for the first time earlier this summer, entering at Plumstead in east London, passing through 9 new central station platforms and exiting at Royal Oak Portal in the west.

More than 1,000 highly skilled men and women have installed the 63,000 sleepers, 51,419 metres of rail and over 800 sections of Long Welded Rail (LWR) which make up the new 50+ kilometres of Elizabeth line track. Over 13,500 m³ of concrete – enough to fill several Olympic sized swimming pools, was poured by the concreting train as part of the track installation.

Old North Woolwich Station

I have approved the GLA's receipt and use of a £324,000 capital funding contribution from Crossrail toward the costs of the North Woolwich Old Station project.

I have also approved a related variation to the GLA's London Regeneration Fund Grant Agreement with the London Borough of Newham, in relation to the North Woolwich old station project, to reflect the increase in funding available and incorporation of additional milestones arising from the London Borough of Newham's procurement of the Grade II listed former station.

The Economy, Business, Enterprise and Regeneration

Calling on the Government to replace vital European funds

On 21 September, I called on the Government to say how it will replace vital European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding that will be lost once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

Organisations now have a final chance to apply for a share of £22 million from the ERDF – but once Brexit takes place, these funds will no-longer be available.

The ERDF helps to stimulate economic development and growth by supporting innovative jobs and growth projects targeted at small businesses. It is also used to fund environmental projects that benefit the capital, including schemes that encourage low-carbon technology.

As well as calling on ministers to replace these ERDF funds, I also want to ensure that the capital continues to have control over how they are spent and that the government does not take over responsibility and centralise the money.

So far, 33 projects in London are benefitting from more than £50 million of ERDF funding, received since 2016 – helping to grow small businesses, improve the environment, create jobs and deliver economic prosperity for the whole country. Seven further projects worth £12 million are in contract negotiations. A further £75 million will be invested in loans to entrepreneurs and to make London's businesses more energy efficient.

Skills for Londoners - Small Projects and Equipment Fund Launched

On the 6 September, I launched the Small Projects and Equipment Fund, a £3 million pot of funding ringfenced from the wider Skills for Londoners Capital Fund, which enables skills providers to apply for up to £200,000 to invest in improving their facilities and strengthening their education offer.

I am committed to supporting the delivery of skills, which enables Londoners to progress in learning and access the job opportunities available in the capital. That means supporting the delivery of high quality skills that employers say they need, in buildings that are inspiring and fit-for-purpose and reflect the facilities, collaborative spaces and, new ways of working seen in the workplace.

Design Advocates visit City Hall

On 11 September, I invited my 52 Mayor's Design Advocates to City Hall where they were briefed on the priorities of my administration.

My Design Advocates will help me to deliver Good Growth by Design, an ambitious programme that recognises the importance of the quality of the built environment in supporting Good Growth.

The Design Advocates will use their skills and experience from a range of built environment professions to assist and advise me and my agencies in realising my ambition for Good Growth. They will provide important input to decision-making, investment and policy.

Housing and Land

First draft Housing Strategy Published

On 6 September, I published my first draft Housing Strategy which provides a comprehensive plan to address the housing crisis over the next few years. This includes:

- 90,000 new affordable homes started by 2021;
- Ensuring a better deal for private renters;
- Increasing the building of more genuinely affordable homes;
- Supporting new housing providers including community builders; and
- Helping to tackle homelessness, with a way off the street for every rough sleeper.

I also announced my intention to earmark £250 million for City Hall to use for buying and preparing land for new and affordable housing. The money made from selling the land to homebuilders will be recycled to buy further land for new and affordable homes, unlocking opportunities across the capital.

Alongside this major new drive to get more land for homes, I also set out plans to bring together London's private tenants and landlords to develop plans for a new 'London Model' of renting.

I have made it clear that solving the capital's housing crisis will be a marathon not a sprint. The draft Strategy sets out how I plan to use my current powers and resources to their fullest

extent, but that for a really significant step-change in delivery, the Government needs to step up and play its part. The plan sets out that Government should provide a comprehensive and urgent devolution of funding and powers that recognises the scale of the challenge London faces on housing.

Alongside earmarking money to secure land for affordable housing, I will also be recruiting new technical 'deal making' experts for my Homes for Londoners team, to identify and prepare the new sites. I have also made it clear that I am prepared to use City Hall's statutory powers, including Compulsory Purchase, to their fullest extent where necessary to secure land for new and affordable homes.

The new land fund will be used alongside the record £3.15 billion affordable housing budget that I successfully negotiated from Government, and City Hall will work with a range of home builders including councils, housing associations and commercial home builders on housing developments.

The draft Housing Strategy includes a range of other measures to significantly increase the supply of new homes in London, including:

- Diversifying the housing sector –increasing funding for self-build, purpose-built private rented developments, modular and community-led housing projects to speed up delivery of a range of homes;
- Setting clear housing targets for councils, including on small sites, make it quicker and easier to bring small sites to the market, and changing the way that Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL) is levied so that small- and medium-sized builders can pay less up front;
- Ensuring homes are affordable to Londoners on average wages – I will invest the £3.15 billion agreed with Government for 90,000 genuinely affordable homes available at around social rent levels for Londoners with the lowest wages, London Living Rent levels to enable middle income earners to save to buy a home of their own, and Shared Ownership schemes for people struggling to afford properties on the open market;
- Identifying and bringing forward more land for housing: I am significantly expanding my Homes for Londoners team to take a much more proactive role in getting land into development for new housing – and especially affordable homes. I am also prioritising protecting the Green Belt by supporting high quality high density developments on brownfield land to meet as much of London's housing need as possible; and
- Improving the skills, capacity and building methods of the construction industry.

Calling for increase to council tax charges on empty homes

On 4 September, I called on the Government to allow London's boroughs to increase Council Tax bills for high-value homes that are left empty.

Last year, I commissioned a report – the most thorough of its kind ever undertaken in Britain – into the role of overseas investment in the capital's property market. The research, carried out by the London School of Economics and the University of York, looked at the contribution of overseas investment to new housing supply, as well as public concerns over homes being sold to overseas buyers and kept empty.

In its findings, the research found the number of entirely empty homes to be low overall, but suggested there were greater numbers of empty homes in prime and expensive locations.

I have therefore written to the Government asking for boroughs to be able to boost the empty home Council Tax levy on high-value properties above the current 50 per cent of Council Tax allowed.

Councils should be able to charge this levy at a meaningful rate that would incentivise occupation, or at the very least generate a more substantial receipt that could support investment in new affordable homes and other measures to tackle the housing crisis.

Recovery of Capital Grants 2017

I have approved 'The Recovery of Capital Grants from Registered Providers and Recycled Capital Grant Fund (Greater London) General Determination 2017' and 'The Recovery of Capital Grants from Unregistered Bodies (Greater London) General Determination 2017'.

In taking the decision to approve the Determinations, I have taken into account responses to the consultation.

Environment

Asking broadcasters to give Londoners regular air quality updates

On 14 September, I wrote to leading TV and radio broadcasters to ask them to work with me to help inform Londoners about poor air quality through their news and weather bulletins.

I wrote to senior figures at BBC London, ITV London and LBC to ask them to include updates on the quality of London's air during their news bulletins and weather reports and, on their websites and apps, which would be coordinated with the existing city-wide alert system.

Broadcasters are already doing excellent work covering the threat to public health posed by the capital's filthy air and I'm now asking them to go even further and help empower Londoners to reduce their exposure to harmful pollution.

I hope that the growing number of weather apps that many Londoners now use will also follow suit and provide air quality information.

Air quality audits to protect thousands of London children

On 13 September, whilst visiting Prior Weston Primary School in Islington, I announced the first of 50 'air quality audits' for primary schools in the worst polluted areas in London, to help protect children from toxic air in the capital.

As part of my bold and ambitious plans to tackle air quality, the audits – funded by £250,000 from my Air Quality Fund and conducted by global engineering consultancy WSP – will identify hard-hitting measures to protect pupils' health from toxic air.

They will also examine new ways to dramatically lower emissions and exposure to pollution in and around schools.

The audits will be complete by the end of 2017, with reports ready by March 2018. Audit recommendations could include:

- moving school entrances and play areas to reduce exposure to busy roads;
- 'no engine idling' schemes to reduce harmful emissions during the school run;
- minimising emissions from boilers, kitchens and other sources;
- changes to local roads, including improved road layouts, restricting the most polluting vehicles round schools and pedestrianisation around school entrances;
- green infrastructure such as 'barrier bushes' along busy roads and in playgrounds to help to filter toxic fumes; and
- improvements to encourage walking and cycling to school along less polluted routes.

The 50 schools to be audited are part of a pilot, which if successful, will then hopefully prompt boroughs to take the lead and audit every school located in an area of high pollution.

'High' air pollution alert triggered

On 27 September, I triggered a 'High' air pollution alert under my new comprehensive alert system. This is the seventh time in thirteen months that we have had to use the alert system and shows just why air pollution is a public health crisis.

C40 Deadline 2020 Programme

On 18 September, alongside Mayor Hidalgo of Paris and Mayor DeBlasio of New York, I announced London's participation as one of eight pilot cities in C40's Deadline 2020 programme.

Through the programme, London will develop an action plan to show how it will contribute to efforts to meet the 1.5 degree target of the Paris Climate Agreement, working together with the 8 other pilot cities to share knowledge and experience for city action on climate change.

London's participation in the programme, and the resulting action plan, is part of my ongoing support to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and commitment to strengthen London's international leadership and collaboration with other cities on climate action, through global networks such as C40.

Plastic bottle recycling plant

On 19 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, attended the opening of a plastic bottle recycling facility in Dagenham operated by Veolia UK. The Dagenham Plastics Facility is able to recycle all the plastic milk bottles in London into food grade pellets to make new bottles or other plastic goods.

The facility employs 30 people, mostly from the Dagenham area, and produces around 10,000 tonnes of high quality food grade HDPE pellets annually. Recycling this material requires 75% less energy to make a plastic bottle than using virgin materials and this equates to conserving enough energy to power around 20,000 homes and saving 10,000 tonnes per annum of carbon emissions.

The Mayor's Entrepreneur Project: 2018 & 2019

I have approved the receipt of funding, via a funding agreement between the GLA and the Mayor's Fund for London, totalling £306,000 over two-years to deliver the Mayor's

Entrepreneur competition in 2018 and 2019 and approved expenditure of the same amount to deliver the Mayor's Entrepreneur competition for the next 2 years.

Education and Youth

Getting Ahead London

On 8 September, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, attended the launch of the second year of the Getting Ahead London programme, where she congratulated 48 new participants for 'making the grade'.

She also welcomed new headteachers to the coaching team, managed by Challenge Partners. Their expertise and time commitment will help the deputy and assistant heads on the programme to gain the confidence and skills to become the great, new headteachers we need in London.

Volunteering and Community Relations

Team London Ambassadors

On 3 September, my Team London Ambassadors finished their summer volunteering shifts.

This year 314 volunteers, who speak 57 languages, were stationed at Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Tower of London, Parliament Square and St James's Park. Collectively, the group gave 5,800 hours of volunteering to the capital.

Borough Visits

On 7 September, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Matthew Ryder, concluded his summer of borough visits in Brent, where he met with volunteers at Yellow Pavilion, Chalkhill Community Centre and Punch and Juicy.

Over the course of the summer, Matthew visited 17 London boroughs, meeting with volunteers from grassroots community organisations and building on their relationships with, Team London, Sport and the Communities and Social Policy Unit.

These visits helped him to gain insight into the unique needs of these boroughs and an understanding of how he can best support the work carried out by these groups.

EU Capital City Mayors meeting

On 21 and 22 September, my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, represented me at the EU Capital City Mayors meeting in Riga, Latvia. The meeting recognised the need to intensify communication between cities and EU institutions to meet domestic and international challenges. Discussions covered cohesion policy, the future of the EU and the refugee crisis.

The meeting also saw the delegation agree to a joint declaration on 'on strengthening the role of European Union Capital Cities for growth and unity within the Urban Agenda for the European Union'.

Health

Calling for a bigger role in NHS in London

On 12 September, following recommendations from independent experts, I called for a greater role in providing oversight of the NHS's future plans in the capital and I set out six key assurances needed from Government to ensure Londoners get the best healthcare possible.

A report published by The King's Fund and Nuffield Trust shows that greater city-wide leadership is needed to successfully implement the five local NHS Sustainability and Transformation plans (STPs) for London, which set out proposals for the future of health and care services.

STPs are plans for the future of health and care services in England. Five STPs have been developed in London, covering North West, North Central North East, South West and South East services.

In addition, the King's Fund report outlines risks presented by the proposals, including the potential impact on hospital capacity.

The six assurances I have asked for before I give my support to the STPs are:

- **Patient and public engagement** – Proposals must show credible, widespread and ongoing patient and public engagement including with marginalised groups
- **Clinical support** – Proposals must demonstrate improved clinical outcomes, widespread clinical engagement and support, including from frontline staff
- **Impact on health inequality** – The impact of any proposed changes to health services in London must not widen health inequalities. Plans must set out how they will narrow the gap in health equality across the capital
- **Impact on social care** – Proposals must take into account the full financial impact any new models of healthcare, including social care, would have on local authority services, particularly in the broader context of the funding challenges councils are already facing
- **Hospital capacity** – Given that the need for hospital beds is forecast to increase due to population growth and an ageing population, any proposals to reduce the number of hospital beds will need to be independently reviewed to ensure all factors have been taken into account. Any plans to close beds must be an absolute last resort, and must meet at least one of the NHS' 'common sense' conditions¹
- **Sufficient investment** – Proper funding must be identified and available to deliver all aspects of the STP plans.

The independent report is designed to ensure the STP proposals offer the best deal for London's health service.

GP roundtable

On 14 September, City Hall hosted a roundtable discussion with GP leaders across London.

This important forum meets annually and my health advisers, Dr Tom Coffey and Professor Yvonne Doyle, attended the roundtable, where issues such as my Health Inequalities Strategy, the recent King's Fund report and social prescribing were discussed.

Culture and Events

Green light for Millicent Fawcett statue in Parliament Square

On 19 September, I was delighted that plans for a statue of suffragist leader Millicent Fawcett in Parliament Square were given the go-ahead by Westminster City Council. This statue will be the first-ever monument of a woman to stand within this iconic central London location.

The Suffrage Statue Commission which I set up and is chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Culture & Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, selected Turner Prize-winning artist, Gillian Wearing OBE, to create this new statue, which will be unveiled for the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People's Act giving the first women the vote.

The entire statue will be cast in bronze, using 21st century technology, and will complement the heritage of the iconic square. It will also acknowledge the contributions of the many other supporters involved in the struggle for universal suffrage by including the names of people who helped lead the campaign along the statue's plinth.

Throughout the creation of the statue, Gillian will work with an ensemble of historians, academics and artists to ensure the monument properly reflects the suffrage movement and Millicent Fawcett's leadership and character.

Totally Thames Festival

I was pleased to once again support the annual Totally Thames festival which took place between 1 and 30 September. The festival is a month-long celebration of one of our city's major assets, the Thames, bringing its history to life through a fantastic variety of free activities including concerts, exhibitions, installations and performances. From learning about environmental issues facing the river, to hearing about those who live on it

This year my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross, attended a reception to welcome the start of the Totally Thames season, and my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney attended a reception, attended by many young people, for the Rivers of the World exhibition at City Hall.

In addition, I was pleased to provide the facilities of City Hall to enable 400 children from 25 schools to take part in the wonderful 'Sing for Water' choir concert on 17 September.

London Mela

On 3 September, I was delighted to attend the fifteenth London Mela, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, and speak to festival goers from the main stage. This wonderful family event showcases the fantastic diversity of Asian arts and culture in the capital, and invites Londoners from all backgrounds to come together and get involved. It's events like this, taking place in all corners of the city, which showcase London at its diverse, lively and open best.

I look forward to London Mela taking the celebrations to Croydon and Brent on 30 September and 28 October, as part of their Mela Presents programme.

London Fashion Week launch - Fashion SWITCH to green campaign

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, launched London Fashion Week, alongside Caroline Rush, CEO British Fashion Council and supported the launch of Fashion SWITCH to Green, a campaign led by the fashion industry and Vivienne Westwood OBE, asking fashion businesses to commit to switching to a green electricity supplier by 2020. The development of the Fashion SWITCH to Green campaign was a joint piece of work between my Culture and Environment teams.

I also attended the show of a young London designer Molly Goddard, who is a recipient of NEWGEN, a programme that offers financial, showcasing, business and mentoring support through the British Fashion Council and an external network of partners and mentors.

London Music Board

On 19 September, Justine Simons OBE, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries along with my Night Czar, Amy Lame, hosted a dedicated session of my London Music Board to start a review by the Metropolitan Police of Form 696, which is a voluntary risk assessment form for live music events in the capital.

A number of music industry bodies, as well as venues and DJs, had expressed concern over aspects of the form which may be perceived as discriminatory.

The meeting was well attended by a broad range of artists, DJs, promoters and venues, who shared their experiences of Form 696 with representatives of the Metropolitan Police. The review will conclude in the New Year.

London Design Festival

Between 16-24 September, the London Design Festival took place. There were over 400 events and reached an audience of 375,000 people from 75 countries. It is the world's largest design festival and generates £26 million in new sales for 1,200 of the capital's design businesses.

On 18 September, I attended the Design Medal Awards, where I met key figures of London's successful design industry, and presented a lifetime achievement medal to Margaret Calvert OBE, for her outstanding contribution to design, including in her own words "possibly the biggest graphic design job ever" designing the nation's road signs.

London Music Fund - Scholar's Award's Day

On 25 September, the London Music Fund awarded 50 new young people with music scholarships. The new Scholars, aged 8-10 who represent every London borough, came together for a workshop and performance to friends and family, in a ceremony sponsored by Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, the UK's largest music education body. They received their awards from Oscar-winning composer and London Music Fund Ambassador, Rachel Portman, OBE.

The London Music Fund awards four-year scholarships to talented children from low-income families, enabling them to develop their full potential in music and beyond - over 450 Scholarships have been awarded in just 6 years.

In July, I announced an unprecedented grant of £151,000 to directly support this work, which includes the funding of 32 four-year Scholarships - one in every London borough, from 2017-21.

Open House London 2017 launch

On 14 September, I launched Open House London 2017 at City Hall, celebrating the 25th anniversary of this fantastic initiative, along with its founder, Victoria Thornton OBE, and its Chief Executive, Rory Olcayto.

Open House London is a great way to open up our buildings, culture and neighbourhoods to Londoners and visitors across every corner of our capital, and this annual celebration of London's architecture and design helps to show that London is, and remains, an open and diverse city.

Tickets for New Year's Eve fireworks on sale next week

On 22 September, it was announced that the first batch of tickets for the spectacular London New Year's Eve fireworks will be available from midday on Friday 29 September.

This year's stunning spectacle will once again be focused around the Coca-Cola London Eye on the River Thames. More than 3,000 people, from pyrotechnicians to stewards, work together to ensure that the capital's celebrations run smoothly and are the most dazzling on the planet. The renowned pyrotechnic and lighting display will feature more than 12,000 fireworks, 2,000 lighting cues and 30 tonnes of equipment on three barges.

Those wanting to guarantee a view and entry for this year's celebrations will be able to book up to four tickets from midday on Friday 29 September by visiting www.london.gov.uk/nye.

Each ticket is priced £10 – the same price as 2014, when ticketing was first introduced - with every penny being used to pay for the costs associated with the ticketing scheme.

Gigs Grand Final – Winner from Havering

On 3 September, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, attended the Grand Final of Gigs, my young buskers' competition, to announce this year's champion, 16-year-old busker Josh Gleaves, from Havering. Josh has now been awarded with a London Underground busking licence and an Epiphone acoustic guitar.

Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Legacy

Hosting Police and Crime Committee at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

On 20 September, the London Legacy Development Corporation hosted the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to discuss security on and around the estate, which included a guided walk through the Park, a visit to the Park Security

Control Room, and a meeting with partners, including Here East, East Village, Westfield, and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Grenfell Tower Sports Team Response

I have invested £30,000 into a sports project specifically for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire, which is being delivered by Street Games through a network of local sporting organisations.

Activity has been taking place over the summer, including mental health initiatives, family fun days, a neighbourhood festival, regular sporting activities and tickets to the IPC World Athletics Championships.

Planning and Development

Plans with 'unacceptable' levels of affordable housing rejected

On 5 September, I rejected plans which would have lowered the proportion of affordable housing on the site of the former New Scotland Yard building, in line with my tougher approach to tackling the capital's housing crisis.

The site at 8-10 Broadway in Westminster was sold by the previous Mayor, who then allowed planning permission to be granted for a development offering a £10 million payment and only 10 affordable homes – just four per cent of all units – on 27 April 2016, days before the Mayoral election. The site was home to the Met Police for half a century until the force relocated earlier this year.

The developer, BL Developments, then sought to increase the total number of homes by 27, from 268 to 295, with no increase in the number of affordable units or payment in lieu, meaning the level of affordable housing fell further still to only three per cent.

Scrutiny of the application to increase the number of homes at 8-10 Broadway by my viability experts found it offered no extra affordable homes nor any payment in lieu, which would mean it failed to deliver the maximum amount of affordable housing viable.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Parsloes Park, Becontree, 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.

2-3 Finsbury Avenue, Broadgate, City of London

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

Trent Park, LB Enfield

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

Bolder Academy, Isleworth, LB Hounslow

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

1-7 Dace Road, Fish Island, London Legacy Development Corporation

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

902-910 Eastern Avenue, 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.

8-10 Broadway (New Scotland Yard), City of Westminster

I have written to the City of Westminster directing the Council to refuse planning permission.

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- Gascoigne West, Barking, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Grahame Park Estate, Colindale, LB Barnet
- Ark Pioneer Academy, Former Underhill Stadium, LB Barnet
- Lansdowne Road, Croydon, LB Croydon
- Former Richard Cloudesley School, Golden Lane, LB Islington and City of London
- The Orangery Yard, Kensington Palace, RB Kensington and Chelsea
- Graphite Square, Vauxhall, LB Lambeth
- Land adjacent to Jenkins Lane, East Ham, LB Newham
- Land to the north of Grove Lane, Coulsdon, LB Sutton
- Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, LB Wandsworth
- Paddington Central Management Office, Sheldon Square, City of Westminster

Decisions made under delegation to Assistant Director - Planning

- Barnet College, LB Barnet
- Queen Marys Hospital, LB Bexley
- Sampson House and Ludgate House, LB Southwark
- Central Bedfordshire Draft Local Plan Consultation, Central Bedfordshire Council
- Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation Local Plan - Regulation 19 Consultation, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation
- Three Rivers Local Plan - Issues and Options consultation, Three Rivers District Council
- Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation, Uttlesford District Council

Key Engagements

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

- I addressed the London Mela at Gunnersbury Park on 3 September

- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 4 September
- I had my regular meeting with Cllr Claire Kober, Leader of London Councils, on 4 September
- I met with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for DCLG, on 4 September to discuss housing and London's devolution deal
- I met with Gareth Thomas MP for Harrow West on 4 September, to discuss policing in Harrow
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board on 5 September
- I met with Mr Sandro Gozi, Italian Minister for Europe, on 5 September to discuss the UK and EU's positions on the terms of withdrawal and the state of the Brexit negotiations in general
- I attended the GQ Men of The Year Awards 2017 at The Tate Modern on 5 September
- I visited the Blackwall Reach regeneration site in Tower Hamlets on 6 September to launch my draft London Housing Strategy
- I visited the new Watts Grove council estate in Tower Hamlets with John Biggs, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, on 6 September
- I had an introductory meeting with Garrett Emmerson, the new CEO of the London Ambulance Service, on 6 September
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone in at LBC on 7 September
- I had an introductory meeting with Ron Huldai, the Mayor of Tel Aviv on 7 September
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 7 September
- I met with Lord Adonis, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, on 7 September to discuss the work of the Commission, including Crossrail 2
- I opened the new Foundation Stage Unit at Fircroft Primary School on 8 September
- I attended the Habib Bank 50th Gala Dinner on 8 September
- I attended the BGC annual charity day on 11 September
- I met with the new Mayor's Design Advocates on 11 September
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 11 September
- I met with the Rt Hon David Davis MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, on 11 September to discuss the implications of the vote to leave the EU
- I visited the Sir Ludwig Guttmann Centre on 12 September to launch the King's Fund report into the five NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships in London.
- I had my regular meeting with Paul Embery, the London Regional Secretary for the Fire Brigades Union, on 12 September
- I visited Prior Weston Primary School & Children's Centre, LB Islington, the first school to be given an air quality audit as part of my School's Air Quality Audits Programme, on 13 September
- I met with Cllr Nickie Aiken, Leader of Westminster City Council and architects Burns + Nice on 13 September to discuss plans being developed for Oxford Street following the consultation earlier this year
- I had an introductory meeting with Benjamin Grievaux, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Economy and Finance on 13 September
- I attended Mayors Question Time on 14 September
- I met with Mike Brown, the Transport Commissioner, on 14 September ahead of the Transport for London Board
- I had my regular meeting with Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 14 September
- I launched Open House London 2017 at City Hall on 14 September
- I attended COBRA on 15 September

- I took part in the UK Holocaust Memorial Jury Panel on 18 September
- I addressed the London Design Festival dinner on 18 September
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 19 September
- I had an introductory meeting with HE Robert Wood Johnson, the new US Ambassador, on 19 September
- I met with AC Martin Hewitt on 19 September ahead of our appearance before the Police & Crime Committee
- I appeared before the London Assembly Police & Crime Committee on 20 September
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 21 September
- I had my regular meeting with Transport for London on 21 September
- I met with Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley on 21 September to discuss policing and security
- I met with Dany Cotton, the Fire Commissioner, on 22 September to discuss fire safety issues post Grenfell Tower
- I attended the Labour Party Conference in Brighton from 24 to 27 September
- I visited the development site at the old National Institute of Medical Research, LB Barnet, on 28 September
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 28 September
- I had my regular meeting with Craig Mackey, the Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 28 September.

Ends