

46th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 19th November 2020

This is my forty-sixth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 2nd October – 5th November 2020.

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

Executive Summary

Paying tribute to Sgt Matiu Ratana

On 7 October, I joined my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM, to visit the Croydon Custody Centre following the tragic killing of Sgt Matiu Ratana while on duty there on 25th September. During the visit I had the opportunity to lay a wreath in remembrance of Sgt Ratana, and to speak with some of his colleagues about his life and the impact of his loss. Sgt Ratana was an example of the very best of London, and will never be forgotten.

COVID-19 update

Acting early and decisively is the best way to control the COVID-19 virus, which is why I and many others urged the Government to listen to SAGE and introduce a short, national, circuit breaker weeks ago when it could have saved lives and done the least damage to our economy. Instead, the Prime Minister chose to completely ignore the expert, scientific advice.

We have now entered a second month-long national lockdown because the Government's delay meant that case numbers were too high for a short, sharp, circuit breaker to be effective.

It is vital that new restrictions come with support for those affected, and on 1 November the Chair of London Councils and I wrote to the Government to seek immediate action to support for London's economy, local government and vulnerable people, and to re-state the vital importance of a fully functioning national test and trace system.

The Chancellor's subsequent announcement of the extension of the furlough scheme beyond the end of November was welcome, and it's right that this continues to provide 80 per cent Government support. It's a shame this decision took so long, and I worry Londoners may have lost their jobs due to the premature reduction in the furlough scheme over the last 3 months. Other support schemes should now be extended – for businesses, through increases to the Local Restrictions Support Grant and the Discretionary Grant schemes, and for individuals, through better economic support for those who have to self-isolate and take time off work.

I am making an appeal as Mayor to all Londoners: Thank you for the enormous sacrifices you have made over the last seven months. You may not agree with or like the Government's latest restrictions. However, we must all follow them. Please continue following the restrictions and public health guidance. We must act to protect each other.

It won't be easy, but history tells us that Londoners always pull together in times of crisis. We must once again make huge collective sacrifices now in order to prevent even greater suffering later. We will continue to lobby the government to finally sort out a fully functioning test and trace system and the financial support London needs, and our city will get through this together.

Transport for London funding agreement

Minutes before the 1 November deadline, I reached an eleventh-hour agreement with the Government on a funding deal to keep Tube, bus and other Transport for London (TfL) services in the capital running until March 2021.

The six-month deal means £1.8 billion of Government grant and borrowing is made available on current projections to TfL to keep services running until March 2021. TfL will make £160m of savings this financial year, and City Hall will need to raise additional income if we are to protect concessions for older and younger Londoners for future years.

These negotiations were not easy, but I succeeded in killing off the very worst Government proposals, which were confirmed in writing by the Transport Secretary during the negotiations. The only reason TfL needs Government support is because its fares income has almost dried up since March, and I had to do all I could to protect Londoners from this Government's determined attempts to punish our city for doing the right thing to tackle COVID-19.

I rejected the extension of the £15 daily Congestion Charge to the North and South circular roads as ministers had wanted – in a proposal which would have hit four million more Londoners hard. The Government has now backed down from this condition.

The Government also wanted to scrap free travel for under-18s and over-60s. On 12 October, I hosted a virtual roundtable with young people who were campaigning against this damaging proposal, and thanks to a huge collective effort from Londoners, these proposals have also been successfully defeated.

The Government also wanted TfL fares to rise by more than the previously agreed RPI+1 per cent. This has also been successfully fought off.

These negotiations with Government have been an appalling and totally unnecessary distraction at a time when every ounce of attention should have been focused on trying to slow the spread of Covid-19 and protecting jobs. This is not a perfect deal, but we fought hard to get to the best possible place for London.

Despite providing the private rail operating companies with 18 months of funding with no conditions attached, the Government has refused to give TfL more than a six-month deal and even this has come with conditions. This means another financial agreement will have to be negotiated just before next year's Mayoral election, a far from ideal time to negotiate a fair long-term deal for London.

Black History Month

Throughout October, I joined many across our city and country in celebrating Black Londoners, raising awareness of London's black history and highlighting the importance of tackling racial injustice as part of Black History Month.

- **Rapid Evidence Review on Disproportionate impact of COVID**

On 1 October, I published my rapid evidence review. This independent study, commissioned earlier this year, highlighted the shocking disproportionate effect of Covid-19 in relation to ethnicity, disability religion and other factors. It outlined how Black Londoners are at almost twice the risk of death from COVID-19 than White Londoners. I again called for the Government to take urgent action to tackle the stark and structural inequalities that have led to a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black Asian and Minority ethnic Londoners. Since then the Government listened to my calls and have u-turned, finally agreeing to record ethnicity on death certificates so that we have more transparency when tackling the disproportionate impact of the virus.

- **Black Curriculum Partnership**

On 2 October, I announced my partnership with Black Curriculum to review London curriculum history resources helping us to provide future generations with a more complete perspective on our shared past. I also wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, to call on the Government to take similar action with the National Curriculum, ensuring that it reflects the diverse histories and identities of all students.

- **Public Engagement on Diversity in the Public Realm**

On 8 October, we launched a public engagement exercise to inform the new Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. This was launched through a community event hosted by the Black Cultural Archives. Talk London also launched a discussion on the public realm, aimed at targeting a range group of Londoners, on 7 October.

- **Launching WIN Inclusive Employers Toolkit**

On 13 October, I launched the WIN Inclusive Employers Toolkit which aims to help companies increase recruitment, retention and progression of young Black men within their workforces. Over 300 business professionals attended the launch, during which I set out the steps I was taking to ensure the GLA is an actively anti-racist organisation.

- **In Conversation with Bernardine Everisto OBE MBE and Reni Eddo-Lodge**

On 27 October, I held a virtual In Conversation event with record breaking authors and Black pioneers – Bernardine Everisto OBE, MBE and Reni Eddo-Lodge. The conversation about their careers and on race, identity and the Black British experience was watched by over 1,300 people. This event was held in place of the annual Black History Month reception, which we were unable to host this year due to COVID-19.

These activities were in addition to a month-long digital campaign to recognise London's Black Pioneers, which we hosted through our social media channels.

Free School Meals

Following the Government's decision not to extend Free School Meal support over the upcoming school holidays, I have publicly urged the Government to reverse its position and joined Marcus Rashford, charities and campaigners to campaign against child food poverty.

On 16 October, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, joined a coalition of charities, food campaigners and health experts calling on the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, and minister Vicky Ford, to urgently commit to funding benefits-related free school meals during the autumn half term and Christmas holidays, including for children from households with no recourse to public funds.

City Hall relocation

On 3 November, I confirmed that the Greater London Authority (GLA) will leave its current City Hall home next year and move its headquarters to The Crystal building in the Royal Docks. The move will save £61m over five years - £6m more than originally forecasted - helping us to protect front-line public services and invest in London's economic recovery. It will also act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the Royal Docks, which is set to lead to 25,000 new homes and the creation of 60,000 new jobs within the next 20 years, supported by the arrival of the Elizabeth line.

Dramatic improvement in London's air quality since 2016

On 3 October, City Hall published new data showing dramatic improvements in London's air quality across the capital since 2016. New modelling of pollution in 2019 shows that, even before lockdown, measures implemented by the Mayor since 2016 helped transform London's air.

I was elected on a mandate to deliver hard-hitting measures to tackle our toxic air crisis. The report confirms the transformative impact that my policies have had in just four years. I am pleased that Londoners are breathing cleaner air, that we're saving the NHS billions of pounds and preventing over a million hospital admissions.

However, air pollution remains a major public health challenge and it is time for Government to step up, set ambitious national targets and provide the powers and funding we need to consign air pollution to the history books.

Affordable Homes Programme negotiations conclude

Negotiations with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have concluded, and we have reached an in-principle agreement on the next Affordable Homes Programme. Through the programme, £4 billion will be allocated to London from 2021 to 2026. My priority in negotiations has been to reach a settlement that will enable me to build more homes at social rent levels. A prospectus inviting bids will be published in late November setting out the full details and requirements from partners.

Council home building for COVID-19 recovery

Since becoming Mayor, I have put new council housing at the heart of my ambitions for our city, and I am proud that last year councils across London started more new council homes than in any year since 1983.

As we grapple with the impact of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we address our city's inequalities and build the good quality council homes that future generations of Londoners will be proud to live in.

The fantastic reaction to our 'Building Council Homes for Londoners' programme showed there is a big appetite from councils to build the homes Londoners so desperately need. That is why, on 21 October, I called on Government Ministers to stop blocking the aspirations of London's councils to build and give London the funding and powers we need to build new council homes at scale.

There has been huge progress in recent years, but I know we can do more. We have laid the foundations for a new era of council homebuilding to be at the heart of our post-COVID recovery – it is now up to ministers to back us to deliver.

Funding for more than 900 homes for rough sleepers

On 29 October, I announced that City Hall will be funding the creation of 903 new longer-term homes for homeless Londoners to provide accommodation and support for people currently living in hotels, hostels or other supported housing. Since the £93.4 million Government grant was announced in July, City Hall's rough sleeping team has been inundated with bids from charities, boroughs and housing providers to deliver homes and to provide support.

There is still much more to do to tackle rough sleeping that will require greater support from the Government. This includes better protection for London's private renters, increased funding to keep providing hotel accommodation for as long as it's required, and immigration support for rough sleepers who are non-UK nationals or have no recourse to public funds.

On 7 October, I wrote to the Housing Secretary, Robert Jenrick MP, demanding that vulnerable homeless Londoners be given the same protections afforded to the rest of society and called for guidance to be issued immediately about how winter shelters can be made COVID-secure, alongside urgent funding to ensure safe, self-contained accommodation for all those who need it.

Grenfell Tower Inquiry - Ninth Progress Report

The Grenfell Tower fire was a national tragedy in which 72 innocent Londoners lost their lives. We owe it to the people who died, their loved ones and those who survived to ensure that nothing like it ever happens again.

Published on 30 October 2019 – the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase One report made 46 recommendations directed at the London Fire Brigade, other fire and rescue services, the emergency services, Government and owners and managers of residential buildings.

One year on, my ninth progress report shows that four of the 29 recommendations directly aimed at the Brigade are completed. This included the completion of one of the

recommendations ahead of other fire and rescue services – introducing smoke hoods to aid in rescue situations.

Due to the demands placed on the Brigade by the COVID-19 pandemic, the face-to-face training that is needed to meet the Inquiry's recommendations has been delayed, but the Brigade has restarted its programme of training and is on track to complete the vast majority of the remaining recommendations by March next year.

This year the London Fire Brigade has introduced vital new equipment and guidance and rolled out an extensive programme of training to put in place changes for how it responds to high-rise fires. Together, we have called for the Government to urgently introduce new national guidelines for the total or partial evacuation of residential high-rise buildings.

Since the fire, I have been calling for urgent changes to building safety regulations, including for the Government's ban on combustible cladding to be extended to all buildings, and for sprinklers to be made compulsory in all purpose-built blocks of flats. The Government has not yet provided a timed delivery plan for the phase one recommendations it is responsible for implementing.

Helping skills providers cope with COVID-19

On 27 October, I announced on behalf of the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) that 91 Further Education providers, including general Further Education colleges, private skills providers, charities, local authorities and Institutes of Adult Education, will share £10.3 million of my COVID-19 Emergency Recovery Support Fund (ERSF). Providers have been allocated between £25,000 and £200,000 to support them in meeting the costs associated with online learning and creating safe physical learning environments. The fund was originally £6 million but due to sector demand I increased this to £10.3 million.

London's dynamic skills sector has a huge role to play in helping many thousands of Londoners retrain and get new jobs amidst the terrible economic and social disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

London's Adult Education Budget has been halved since 2008 – now is the moment for the Government to reverse that damage and devolve more adult education funding to our city to support our recovery.

New analysis shows tourist spending to plummet

On 23 October, we published a new analysis that shows spending by tourists in central London is set to plummet by £10.9 billion this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – far more than the amount lost from fewer commuters traveling into the city.

I am determined to do all I can to support London's economic recovery now, and in the years to come. But these sectors will not be able to sustain pre-pandemic levels of employment until tourists return in significant numbers. Government must act swiftly to prevent widespread job losses and the financial hardship this will bring for Londoners, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet. As I said in my letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government this week, and in response to subsequent announcements, this must include an extension of the business rates holiday to next year and assurance that the 80 per cent self-employed grant will continue beyond November, to truly reflect the scale of

the problem. I welcome the Chancellor's announcement that the furlough scheme will now be extended beyond November, but wider support is still required for London's economy.

11,000 Londoners support local businesses through Pay It Forward

On 20 October, figures showed that Londoners have demonstrated how much they value their independent local businesses by making more than 11,000 contributions through Pay It Forward London – so far raising in excess of £750,000 to help more than 300 businesses.

The COVID-19 pandemic will have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on our economy, and the amount of support Londoners have shown so far is nothing short of fantastic. The scheme is still open and I am urging any small business which has not yet taken advantage of this support to do so. I also hope all Londoners will consider how they can play their part in helping their independent, local businesses through these challenging times.

Over the coming months, financial support for businesses in hospitality, retail, leisure and culture will be even more important. The Government needs to step up and provide a proper, targeted package of support for business that will otherwise be unable to continue trading through further periods of social distancing and restrictions.

City Hall declared an anti-racist organisation

Our capital's diversity is its greatest strength, but the makeup of too many organisations, especially at their highest levels, fails to present a true picture of modern London.

Your background, gender and ethnicity should have no bearing on what you can achieve, which is why part of becoming actively anti-racist involves acknowledging the fact systemic racism remains pervasive across society. Employers and businesses must do more to embed anti-racist practices in their operations and their company culture. That is why, on 13 October, I declared City Hall an actively anti-racist organisation, and I was proud to unveil a new toolkit to help businesses cultivate genuinely inclusive working environments.

Policing, Crime and Security

Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Reference Group October meeting

On 14 October, I chaired the Violence Reduction Unit's (VRU) Partnership Reference Group, which provides strategic direction, support, and challenge to the Unit's work and comprises leading figures in the public sector, alongside representatives from voluntary, community, and youth groups. The meeting provided an update on key VRU areas of work.

Community therapeutic Interventions

On 14 October, Ben Lindsay, Dr Elaine Williams and Dr Zeyana Ramadhan gave a presentation on Power the Fight's Therapeutic Intervention for Peace report funded and supported by the VRU.

This excellent research aims to evidence the experiences of young people, families and youth practitioners to improve the effectiveness of therapeutic responses to violence affecting young people. The report is a powerful reminder of the importance of developing culturally competent support for young people affected by violence and recognises the paramount importance played by youth workers in young people's lives – and the strong link that exists between them and the mental health and physical wellbeing of the young people in their care.

MyEnds

In some parts of London, violence is very localised and is often concentrated in areas as small as an estate or a cluster of streets. MyEnds is the Violence Reduction Unit's ambitious new £3.3 million place-based fund to connect communities to develop sustainable, effective responses to violence in neighbourhoods across London that have been affected by violence.

This programme aims to build and strengthen local networks and groups who are at the forefront of local efforts to tackle violence. Having been launched in September, throughout October these groups began to come together to form various strong consortiums capable of delivering effective local interventions. The deadline for applications was 23 October 2020.

Supporting Parents

Over the last year, the London Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has consulted with and listened to communities, including parents and carers, on key challenges and the actions required to reduce violence. One consistent theme raised has been the need for support for parents on a peer-to-peer basis, to provide them with a network, access to information and good practice, and a means by which to share their concerns and support each other.

A new initiative launched by the VRU on 6 October is enabling all London boroughs to work with parents organisations and voluntary community services. Through this £1m programme, a network of place-based parent champions will be developed consisting of parents and carers of adolescents who may be at risk of serious youth violence, grooming, and exploitation.

A New Deal for Young People

On 14 October, I heard from the Assistant Director of Camden Council, Martin Pratt, and my Director of VRU, Lib Peck, who, along with Jeremy Crooks, CEO of the Black Training and Enterprise Group, are chairing the Young People Recovery mission.

A New Deal for Young People has set an ambitious target: every young person in need is entitled to a personalised mentor and access to quality youth activities by 2024. The chairs spoke about the importance of addressing the hugely negative impact COVID-19 has had on young people's physical and mental well-being and how important those key and transformational relationships are to young people.

Virtual visit to the Lambeth and Southwark Violence Suppression Unit

On 21 October, my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, made a virtual visit to the Lambeth and Southwark Violence Suppression Unit, led by Chief Inspector Dan Smith and his team. These new Violence Suppression Units (VSU), supported by funding from City Hall, tackle violent activity at a local and neighbourhood level through, for example, the targeted patrolling of 'micro hotspots' - areas disproportionately affected by street violence and robbery.

VSUs are made up of about 620 officers across London, who are solely deployed on preventing violence. The MPS has been using these units to proactively visit up to 1,000 of London's most prolific violent offenders during lockdown, when many of these individuals were at home. By visiting them personally, the officers could offer them support to turn their lives around. Between May and September, the VSUs made nearly 2,000 arrests and seized more than 190 knives, 36 firearms and 223 offensive weapons. I am deeply grateful to the officers involved in these teams for the work they are doing to rid our city's streets of violence.

Transport

Minority of people failing to wear face coverings on public transport warned 'wear one or face a fine'

Since 15 June, it has been mandatory for customers to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth for their entire journey on public transport, including in stations and on platforms, unless they are exempt.

The majority of customers are protecting others by wearing a face covering properly unless they are exempt, and most people are very responsive when they are spoken to and will put one on or adjust it. But sadly, there is a minority who are showing disregard for everyone around them and who think it is ok to ignore the law.

From 4 July, TfL enforcement officers moved to an enforcement phase after previously explaining the requirement and encouraging compliance. Up until 21 October (latest data), officers had carried out around 113,000 interventions with people not wearing a face covering or not wearing it in the correct way covering the nose and mouth.

Most complied after being spoken to by an officer. Around 8,200 were stopped from boarding and 1,800 people removed from services. Fixed penalty notices are a last resort, as the majority of Londoners do want to keep themselves and others safe, but they are used where necessary - 800 people reported for fines for refusing to comply so far.

Cockfosters becomes 80th step-free London Underground station

On 12 October, TfL announced Cockfosters Tube had become the 80th step free station on the Tube network, following the installation of a new lift.

The lift shaft was craned into the station in a complex overnight operation, with the lift itself built on site. Serving both platforms, it will vastly improve access to the station and wider transport network for people with accessibility needs.

New tiling and brick work around the new lift was carefully selected to match the Grade II listed station's heritage design.

Ola found not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator's licence in London

On 12 October, TfL announced it has refused to grant Ola a new London private hire vehicle (PHV) operator's licence as it found it not fit and proper to hold one after discovering a number of failures that could have risked public safety.

TfL's regulation of London's taxi and private hire trades is designed to ensure passenger safety. Private hire operators must meet rigorous regulations, and demonstrate to TfL that they do so, in order to operate. Before granting a licence, TfL must be satisfied that an operator is fit and proper to hold one.

Ola has been operating in London since February 2020 and recently made TfL aware of a number of failures that had potential public safety consequences. These included:

- Historic breaches of the licensing regime that led to unlicensed drivers and vehicles undertaking more than 1,000 passenger trips on behalf of Ola
- Failure to draw these breaches to TfL's attention immediately when they were first identified

Installation of UV light devices on Tube escalators is latest step in TfL's extensive anti-viral cleaning regime

Transport for London has introduced a further measure to make the transport network cleaner than ever.

Following a successful six-week trial earlier this year using ultraviolet (UV) light to clean the handrails on escalators at Heathrow T123 Tube station, more than 200 sanitising devices are being installed on 110 escalators in the coming weeks, meaning almost a quarter of all escalators on the network will be fitted with the devices.

Designed to supplement TfL's existing extensive anti-viral cleaning regime, they are connected to the escalator handrail and use its motion to power a UV bulb that breaks down contamination to sanitise the surface continuously.

Devices have already been fitted on six escalators at King's Cross St Pancras Tube station and in the coming weeks will be installed at stations including Bond Street, Charing Cross, Green Park, London Bridge, Paddington, Tottenham Court Road, Victoria and Waterloo – some of the busiest stations on the network. The devices are currently being installed on one-way escalators.

Tunnelling complete at Bank Tube station

Tunnelling work has been completed at Bank Underground station, marking a major milestone in the project.

The tunnelling, which forms part of the programme to expand the size of the station by 40%, has seen more than 1.3km of tunnels constructed since May 2017.

The project to enlarge the station has involved constructing a new southbound running tunnel for the Northern line, with the existing tunnel to be converted into a passenger concourse with six new cross passages linking to the platforms on either side.

Three new escalator barrels have also been excavated to link the Northern line to the DLR and to the new entrance that is being built on Cannon Street, and a new link tunnel will connect the Northern and Central lines.

The new parts of the station delivered by the project will open in 2022.

Fire and Resilience

COVID-19 Assembly Member Leaders updates

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

London COVID-19 Leaders Committee

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

London MPs call

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and my Deputy Mayor for Planning Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, continued to chair virtual meetings to update London MPs on London's response to COVID-19.

London Strategic Coordinating Group

From 7 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, continued to attend weekly meetings of London's Strategic Coordinating Group, which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19.

Faith and Community Sector

On 8 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke at a Faith and Community call to thank faith groups and community organisations for their work during the first wave of COVID-19.

London Fire Commissioner meeting

On 9 October, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of the London Fire Brigade.

Secretary of State update for London Leaders COVID-19 Committee

On 13 October, I, alongside Leaders of London Councils and my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, met with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding London's response to COVID-19.

London Building Safety Action Summit 2

On 15 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, and my Deputy Mayor for Housing, Tom Copley, attended a virtual Building Safety Action Summit chaired by

Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Homes Affairs and Housing, Communities and Local Government, which focused on ACM remediation in London.

London Transition Board

On 15 October and 4 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, co-chaired the London Transition Board with Lord Greenhalgh, Minister of State for Building Safety and Communities.

London Resilience Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual Brexit Contingency Planning Group meeting as Chair of the London Resilience Forum.

London Resilience Forum

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting of the London Resilience Forum. The forum discussed some of the initial learning from COVID-19 in relation to potential future protracted incidents and received updates from members about their ongoing preparedness for COVID-19 and other incidents.

HMICFRS Covid-19 Inspection

On 27 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke to HMICFRS as chair of London's Resilience Forum regarding London's response to COVID-19.

Old Kent Road Fire Station visit

On 28 October, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, visited the London Fire Brigade's Old Kent Road station to meet with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, to see a demonstration of the new equipment the Brigade has introduced as part of its response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations, published a year ago.

Eurocities Annual Committee

On 4 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, participated in the Eurocities annual conference, this year held online on the topic 'Reinventing cities – beyond the urban crises'. She spoke in a session with European mayors and EU Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič to share London's approach to Recovery from the economic and social crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Roundtables with London's Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutions

Over the last month I have held two roundtables with senior leaders from London's Further and Higher Education sectors, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 and key challenges they have faced since the start of the new academic year.

On 26 October, I and my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, and my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, met with the Association of Colleges (AoC) and representatives from eight of London's Further Education Colleges. We discussed issues surrounding enrolments and learner confidence, digital inclusion, future priorities for the Adult Education Budget and student and staff mental health and wellbeing.

On 2 November, I met with Vice-Chancellors and senior leaders from London's Higher Education Institutions. We discussed their experiences to date of returning to campus, student and staff mental health and wellbeing and ways in which London's HEIs can support London's Recovery missions.

Good Growth By Design Recovery Roundtables: Social Infrastructure

On 28 October, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, and my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, hosted a roundtable session as part of my Good Growth by Design programme. The programme promotes quality and inclusion in the built environment to support my ambition for good growth. The session formed part of a series in which my Design Advocates, alongside external experts, are invited to discuss the most pertinent topics facing London's built environment in the wake of the global health crisis and the ensuing social and economic impacts.

The focus of this session was on social infrastructure; the spaces and networks that bind communities together and support a healthy public life. These spaces are at the heart of local resilience and the incredible community response we have seen across the city in dealing with the pandemic. They're also under threat, facing unprecedented challenges with limited funding and resources available. Social infrastructure is crucial to social integration – encouraging Londoners to mix with people unlike themselves – and building communities where people feel they can play an active role and influence local decisions. The discussion helped shape our understanding of how best to support social infrastructure and will inform the development of a 'High Streets for All' mission aimed at securing a strong recovery for Londoners.

Housing

London First webinar

On 13 October, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, addressed members of London First to mark his first six months in post. Tom reflected on the changes in housing policy in recent years, including the success of the current Affordable Homes Programme in delivering record starts of new genuinely affordable homes last year. He also set out the action needed from central Government to help safeguard jobs and affordable homes in response to COVID-19, drawing on the recommendations endorsed by the COVID-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce he chaired, which reported over the summer.

Deputy Mayor addresses London Councils housing cabinet members

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Housing, Tom Copley, addressed a meeting of London's housing cabinet members, organised by London Councils. Tom thanked councils for their work, including their collaboration with City Hall which led last year to more new council homes being started than in any year since 1983. He also outlined expectations for the new Affordable Homes Programme.

City Hall publishes new council homebuilding research

On 21 October, I published a new piece of research examining what more can be done to increase council homebuilding in London. This research started in October 2019, one year after City Hall released over £1 billion in funding to councils as part of the landmark Building Council Homes for Londoners programme. Under my leadership, City Hall has also invested £10 million to help boost skills and capacity to facilitate council house building in London. This research reflects on the achievements to date and identifies the next steps in improving the capacity of local authorities to build council housing.

The ['Building London's Future'](#) report identifies three key challenges faced by councils wishing to build more homes. The areas identified were:

- The supply and acquisition of suitable land by councils on which to build affordable homes;
- The funding crisis facing many local authorities after years of austerity;
- Increasing the levels of skills and expertise available to councils, many of which are starting to build council homes again for the first time in decades.

The report examines each of these areas and makes suggestions for actions that can be taken by the GLA, councils and Government for an increase in the supply of council housing in London. The report also draws on complementary research undertaken by Bloomberg Associates on skills and capacity challenges faced by council housing delivery teams, which was published on the same day.

APPG for Ending Homelessness

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, addressed the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness, alongside new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rough Sleeping & Housing, Kelly Tolhurst MP, and other speakers. Tom outlined the steps the Government needs to take to ensure the safety of

rough sleepers this winter, including fully funding self-contained accommodation for all those who need it.

Visit to Gascoigne East Phase 2 housing development in central Barking

On 3 November, I visited the Gascoigne East, Phase 2 housing development in central Barking to see the work being carried out by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the GLA's biggest council homebuilding partner.

In August, Barking and Dagenham secured grant funding from City Hall of £87 million to deliver 1,551 homes, nearly half of which will be at social or London Affordable rent levels. Gascoigne East, Phase 2 is being developed by Barking and Dagenham Council as part of the wider regeneration currently underway at the Gascoigne Estate in Barking. The work underway at the Gascoigne Estate and across the borough shows what can be achieved when councils and City Hall come together to deliver the homes Londoners so desperately need.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Launch of Virgin Media's Gig1 upgrade

On 5 November, I launched Virgin Media's Gig1 upgrade in London. Virgin Media investment is set to ensure that around 6 million Londoners can access gigabit speeds. This launch represents the largest ever gigabit switch on in the UK and has the potential to benefit around two-thirds of homes in our city. During a period when it's never been more important for us to stay connected, this couldn't come at a better time and is fantastic news for London. My Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, provided the foreword for a report published alongside the launch.

Environment

Global Action Plan: Clean Air Summit

On 7 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a keynote address in the Clean Air Day Health Summit organised by Global Action Plan. The summit convened experts from across the health sector and central and local government to explore the potential for the UK health sector to further support the country-wide efforts to minimise emissions of and personal exposure to air pollution. Shirley outlined how City Hall is working to support the health sector and detailed our commitment to further support the NHS, both in addressing the public health crisis created by air pollution and seizing opportunities to improve air quality.

Tree and Woodland Awards

The Tree and Woodland Awards, also known as the 'Tree Oscars', took place online from 7-9 October. Each year, the awards, held in partnership with the Forestry Commission, showcase the fantastic work taking place all over the city to protect and increase London's urban forest. My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, provided a video to introduce this year's Tree Oscars and congratulate the winners. This year included a new peoples' vote

category for Lockdown London Tree Champions which attracted plenty of online competition, with over 4,400 votes cast.

CPRE: London After Lockdown; Priorities for a Green Economy Event

On 8 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in a panel discussion hosted by CPRE London. This online event was chaired by Tony Burton, Chair of CPRE London, with a panel that included Ben Rogers, Director, Centre for London, and Dr Clare Melhuish, Urban Laboratory, UCL. The discussion focused on the main impacts of the pandemic on London's natural environment, the opportunities and challenges this has presented, and how the capital's communities and environmental NGOs can best support a green recovery.

The winning entry of CPRE London's first #PictureGreenLondon photography competition was also announced, with my Deputy Mayor being one of the judges. Brockwell Park featured in the winning image, which perfectly captured the competition aim to show the interaction of London's green spaces with urban surroundings and illustrate how we have come to rely on and appreciate our green spaces during the pandemic.

Meetings with Sarah Bentley CEO Thames Water

I wrote to the new Chief Executive of Thames Water in September, congratulating her on her new role and thanking the company for supporting Londoners with a reliable service through the early weeks of the pandemic and lockdown.

My Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe met with Sarah Bentley on the 9th and 28th of October, respectively. In her introductory meeting, Shirley set out my expectations on Thames Water's performance, recognising the improvements they have made in the last year on incident management, but clearly setting out that Thames Water have more to do, particularly in terms of greater levels of investment in London's ageing water supply network, reducing complaints, driving down leakage, further improving incident response and tackling pollution.

In his meeting Jules discussed how Thames Water can support my efforts to reduce disruption in London caused by street works and uncoordinated infrastructure planning. My Infrastructure team is working with Thames Water, along with other utilities that operate in London, to identify programmes they can accelerate as a means of boosting jobs and growth, contributing to London's green recovery.

Carbon Trust Corporate Sustainability Summit

On 14 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in the Carbon Trust's Corporate Sustainability Summit. The virtual summit is the Carbon Trust's flagship event and had 700 participants. Shirley was a panellist in a session about "The corporate role in a green recovery", alongside Judith Gough CMG, British Ambassador to Sweden, and Raimondo Orsini, Italian Sustainable Development Foundation. She spoke about the role businesses can play in building back better in cities and how they need to work together to collectively tackle problems they cannot solve alone.

London First London Infrastructure Summit – Net Zero

On 20 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, took part in a session at London First's London Infrastructure Summit focussed on London's transition to a zero carbon city by 2030. The session looked at London First's new Net Zero Manifesto, which highlights asks from the business community on how we can drive forward climate action in London from City Hall. Shirley spoke about our plans for a green recovery and how we can work together with business to be a zero carbon city.

European week of Regions: Green Transition

On 20 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in the 18th annual European Week of Regions and Cities conference, hosted by the Committee of the Regions & European Commission. During the four-day conference, cities and regions showcased their capacity to create growth and jobs and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance. It brought together regions and cities from across Europe, including political representatives, officials, experts and academics to promote policy learning and exchange good practice. Shirley participated in the panel event 'Innovative Projects Leading to Climate Neutrality' and presented on the heightened importance of tackling air pollution and reducing carbon emissions as we recover from the pandemic, London's achievements in these areas and the commitment that the environment is at the centre of London's recovery.

Belvedere Incinerator meeting

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Abena Oppong-Asare, Member of Parliament for Erith and Thamesmead and Jon Cruddas, Member of Parliament for Dagenham and Rainham. The meeting was arranged to discuss the decision to withdraw my judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to make the development consent order for the Cory incinerator in Bexley. The meeting focussed on how I will continue to work to ensure the environmental impacts of the incinerator are reduced as much as possible to protect the local environment and the health of local residents, building on the significant concessions that I won early in the planning examination process.

Toolkit for local authorities: Smart Energy System keynote speech

On 23 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in the UK Local Authorities Delivering Smart Local Energy Systems event organised by Energy Systems Catapult. The online event convened local authorities and representatives from the energy and climate sectors to explore how innovative smart local energy system projects can help local authorities deliver their climate emergency targets and drive the green recovery. Shirley provided a keynote address outlining City Hall's commitment to achieving net zero and supporting a green recovery, and why building low carbon energy capacity at the local level is critical to the success of my energy and climate ambitions.

London Rivers Week webinar

On 26 October, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in a webinar for London Rivers Week entitled 'River Restoration with 2020 vision'. The session discussed 20 years of river restoration in London and considering key themes such as climate resilience, sustainable development, social justice and the future of river restoration in the capital.

Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

On 2 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Chief Executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), Mike Hawes. The meeting was arranged to discuss the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone and key industry topics such as ULEV infrastructure, the role of plug-in hybrid vehicles and the need for scrappage schemes to reduce emissions from transport.

Meeting with Dougie Sutherland, Cory Riverside Energy

On 4 November, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with the CEO of Cory Riverside Energy, Dougie Sutherland. The meeting was arranged to discuss the decision to withdraw my judicial review of Secretary of State's decision to make the development consent order for the Cory incinerator in Bexley.

At the meeting, Shirley reiterated my position that we do not need any more waste incinerator capacity but that there is a need to work with Cory, local communities and stakeholders to reduce the environmental impacts of the facility as far as possible. This will include ensuring the concessions I secured in the planning examination process are complied with, including that the waste going to the incinerator is truly residual (non-recyclable) waste; that an annual waste composition analysis is submitted to the planning authority; that there is maximum use of the river for transport to reduce road vehicle numbers and the associated pollutants; and that the incinerator has the ability to capture waste heat to enable a future heat network that will allow the facility to produce energy more efficiently and reduce carbon emissions.

Education and Youth

Third cohort of the Mayor's London Scientist

On 7 October, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, attended an introductory event for the third cohort of teachers on my Mayor's London Scientist Teacher Programme. The programme supports schools in London with high numbers of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) teachers with fully funded support and professional development, as well as STEM enrichment opportunities and awards for pupils.

This programme is offered alongside my Mayor's London Scientist voucher scheme, which provides 100 per cent funding for priority schools in London to complete the CREST Awards (the national STEM award for schools) with their pupils. This year, 57 schools have signed up to the Teacher Programme, up from 46 last year. This mirrors the increased demand for support with practical STEM teaching this year, as many schools struggle to offer it due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

London Early Years Stakeholder group

On 12 October, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, welcomed guests to a virtual meeting of our London Early Years Stakeholder Group. This group comprises several key partners, including London Councils, Coram Family and Childcare Trust, Early Education and the National Day Nurseries Association.

We know that early years providers have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, so this was an important opportunity to come together and consider how the GLA can support the sector's sustainability in London. In her opening remarks, Joanne reiterated that the early years sector is essential to London's economic success and will have a vital role to play as and when more parents are able to return to their workplaces. Its role is also essential to promoting social cohesion and closing the inequality gap for disadvantaged children. This has become even more important over recent months.

My Deputy Mayor introduced colleagues from the Early Years Alliance and CEEDA, who we have commissioned to conduct research into the specific business support needs of London's early years sector and how they can be met. We plan to share a research report with the wider sector later this year. Joanne also shared details of my recent response to H.M. Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review, in which I urged the government to support the sector by:

- providing more tailored business support to help early years providers manage their finances as they cope with fluctuating demand for places and occupancy levels almost half of what they were pre-COVID;
- reviewing the early years funding formula;
- putting in place an Early Years DSG Minimum Funding Guarantee for the full 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years, based on January 2020 Census data; and,
- providing long-term supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools.

Fifth year of Getting Ahead London

On 14 October, the fifth year of my Getting Ahead London programme was launched - helping talented middle and senior leaders progress their careers and run our London schools. Over the next year, 75 middle and senior leaders will be coached, trained and supported to secure their next promotion.

Effective quality school leadership has never been more important. This year's programme has been adapted to support middle and senior school management to overcome the extra challenges teachers and students are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the first four years of Getting Ahead London (which initially focused on senior leaders), 41 per cent of participants were promoted following their participation in the programme. Of these promotions, 60 per cent were to a headship.

National Care Leavers Week

During National Care Leavers Week (26 October to 1 November), my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, shared a video on social media, encouraging people to engage with the Care Leaver Covenant and sign up to attend their Empathy Summit event. The Summit aims to challenge the education and business communities to be more empathetic to care leavers and ensure that the most vulnerable young people are presented with opportunities to lead healthy and successful lives. Joanne called on the private, public and voluntary sectors to pull together to improve outcomes for care leavers. This message is perhaps more important than ever this year, when so many young care leavers have faced increased challenges through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schools for Success 2020-21

In October, following invitations from my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, our Schools for Success cohort 2020/21 received certificates to recognise their exceptional work in sharing good practice and helping to improve education for all Londoners.

Schools shared information on the actions they took to achieve their success and these stories can be viewed on the Schools for Success profile pages here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/schools-success/schools-success-profiles>

Schools have also been invited to participate in a series of webinars to profile how they are tackling educational inequalities and mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on pupil attainment.

National Youth Work Week

On 2 November, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney spoke at an online event delivered by my Young Londoners Fund in National Youth Work Week, *Igniting Potential – Youth activities change lives*. This was a youth-led conversation about the transformative power of youth activities. We discussed issues facing young people in the capital today, including why some young people don't access or engage with youth services in London and how we can help change this.

This inspirational event was run for, and by, young Londoners, with young social leaders, singers, poets and many more leading the debate. A broader audience of nearly 100 young people, youth workers and youth sector stakeholders participated online.

The discussions will inform my officers' work on shaping a New Deal for Young People as part of London's recovery from COVID-19, under which by 2024, we aim for all young people in need to have access to a personal mentor and for all young Londoners to have access to quality local youth activities.

Communities and Social Policy

London Church Leaders meeting

On Tuesday 20 October, I attended the London Church Leaders meeting convened by Bishop of London Sarah Mullally and Cardinal Nichols. I spoke at the meeting about working together over winter.

London Funder's conference

On 22 October, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke at the London Funder's conference. The session focused on how we can embrace the new normal, look ahead to beyond the crisis and what opportunities and challenges our city and communities may encounter in the future. She was joined on the panel by Miatta Fahnbulleh, Ben Rogers and Cassie Robinson.

Black Majority Church leaders meeting

I convened my regular Black Majority Church leaders meeting on Thursday 29 October, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement,

Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden. I invited Public Health England (PHE) to update the group and take questions. Sophie gave an update on the community policing action plan and my Community Engagement team updated the group on the work of the London Recovery Board.

Grants programme for outreach and engagement with European Londoners

This month I launched a small grants programme to support outreach and engagement with European Londoners to support them to maintain their rights and fully participate in society post-Brexit. Up to six civil society and community organisations will be granted up to £10,000 for this important work.

Online briefing sessions for supporting vulnerable Londoners

This winter it is essential that we work together with community, voluntary, and faith groups who support vulnerable Londoners to tackle the growing cases of COVID-19. On 3 November, working with Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director of Public Health England, my team pulled together the first of a regular series of online briefing sessions for these groups.

No Recourse to Public Funds

On 8 November, the GLA Social Integration and Government Relations teams provided a briefing for a backbench parliamentary debate on no recourse to public funds. This briefing laid out the concerns that I have repeatedly expressed during the pandemic about the impact of COVID-19 on Londoners who are unable to access welfare support – including children, rough sleepers, survivors of domestic violence and those in low-paid work facing loss of work or reduced pay without a safety net to fall back on.

Health

World Mental Health Day

Throughout the pandemic, I have continued to champion the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing. I have been open about my own struggles, reminding Londoners that none of us are superhuman, and shouldn't be afraid or ashamed to say that we are finding things tough.

For World Mental Health Day on 10 October, I took the opportunity to share a [video message](#) with Londoners. I reflected on the heavy toll the pandemic is having on our mental health and the importance of seeking help when we need it.

I am proud that this message opened London's virtual World Mental Health Day festival; a young Londoner-led event co-developed by my Peer Outreach Team and Thrive LDN. Hundreds of Londoners were able to come together in a virtual, safe space to discuss the challenges they face, share experiences and learn about tools and resources to promote good mental health and wellbeing.

A collection of discussions, spoken word, poetry, and live music, all pre-recorded and performed at London's Young Vic theatre, is now available online for Londoners to access freely to help

tackle the stigma and encourage conversations around mental health:
<https://thrivedn.co.uk/wmhd2020/>

London Health Board

On 20 October, I chaired the quarterly meeting of the London Health Board. The board was updated on the latest COVID-19 response and planned next steps. The progress and next steps of the Health Equity Group was presented by Professor Kevin Fenton and Will Tuckley and Sir David Sloman introduced the new NHS board members. Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville presented the latest progress from the Thrive LDN programme and GLA Assistant Director of Health, Education and Youth Jazz Bhogal updated on progress at City Hall and the development of the mental health Recovery mission. The board also received updates on the London Child Obesity Taskforce and on the plans for implementation of the London Health and Care Vision. Homelessness and health was proposed as a focus area for the next meeting.

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Team London volunteers assist with the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon

On Friday 2 and Saturday 3 October, Team London volunteers were on the streets of London around St James's Park supporting the event organisers of the London Marathon. In total, 27 volunteers attended shifts to assist with the event build for the closed-circuit course around the park.

The volunteers ensured members of the public were stood at a safe distance from the building site and assisted with directional diversions away from the park and surrounding area. The volunteers delivered an essential role as part of this year's London marathon, providing members of the public with information about the event.

Mayor of London Volunteering Awards 2020

On 8 October, I launched the Mayor of London Volunteering Awards 2020. During the midst of this global pandemic, it is more important than ever to acknowledge the contribution Londoners have made to their communities and celebrate the incredible ways in which people have come together. The awards will recognise voluntary activities that supported the immediate COVID-19 crisis response and that ensured services which needed to be delivered differently reached the most vulnerable Londoners. This year there will also be awards for organisations who worked collaboratively with others in order to extend their reach into the grass roots of our communities. For the first time, we will also be awarding a small amount of funding to the organisations of the winning volunteers. Winners will be announced on www.london.gov.uk on International Volunteering Day, 5 December 2020.

Open Doors London

On 20 October, I launched the Open Doors project - a sport-based intervention and associated mentoring programme, re-engaging young people at risk of being placed in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) or Alternative Provision (APs).

Participants will be offered a programme of multisport activities and associated mentoring and support services during school holidays, contributing to positive school engagement and helping to improve attendance.

Employability Week

During the half term, 26-30 October, I delivered an Employability Week for young Londoners aged 16-18. Over the course of the week, my team held workshops with colleagues across the Greater London Authority to inform and inspire young people from the HeadStart programme about our work at City Hall and the many varied careers available. Over 80 young people registered to take part over the course of the week. This week helps to raise awareness of the annual HeadStart GLA Internship programme where I will host up to 14 young people for a virtual internship in early 2021. It is more important than ever that our young Londoners are offered opportunities to build their employability skills due to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on young people and their employment prospects.

Stronger Communities Fund

In October, I awarded grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 to 43 community sport organisations under the last round of my Stronger Communities Fund.

This final round will support projects that use sport and physical activity to address increased levels of loneliness and social isolation due to prolonged lockdown and social distancing measures associated with COVID-19. Projects funded are working with Londoners most affected by the pandemic and those experiencing social isolation as a result of it.

Culture and Events

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm

Arts Council England, Black Cultural Archives, Historic England and Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) have been confirmed as the first organisations to join the new partners board, to support the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. The Partners Board is being established to provide further knowledge and advice for the Commission on a range of areas including art, heritage, the voluntary and community sectors, diversity and the public realm.

East Bank

On 6 October, Foundation for Future London launched two funds as part of the flagship Westfield East Bank Creative Futures Fund, a £10 million investment from Westfield Stratford City. These medium and large grants schemes will support organisations, businesses, schools and community groups in Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest to tackle inequalities. Over 260 submissions have already been made to the smaller grants scheme which opened in September. I look forward to seeing the impact of this investment for young people in East London as part of my vision for East Bank, the world's largest cultural and education districts at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

London Film Festival

On 7 October, My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the online premiere of “Mangrove” by the British Director Steve McQueen to mark the opening of The London Film Festival 2020. During the festival, I delivered a video message stressing the economic importance of London’s film industry. Despite COVID-19, my investment in Film London is still expected to generate £135 million in spend this financial year, due to Film London’s role critical role in delivering the Government-backed COVID-19 film production guidance which means that almost 90 per cent of film production is safely back up and running.

World Cities Culture Forum Global Webinar

On 8 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired a global webinar with cities from the World Cities Culture Forum. Edinburgh and Helsinki shared examples of how they adapted their summer festivals and innovations around hybrid event models. These webinars are part of an ongoing series of international conversations about the impact of the pandemic on culture and creative industries around the world, and the learning is shared with cultural partners in London.

Borough Culture Officers Roundtable

On 20 October, my Culture and Creative Industries team led a borough culture officers meeting which focused on the benefits and considerations of online creative content for artists and organisations. The meeting included presentations from The Space, Marquee TV and London Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, there were updates from Arts Council England and the Evolve programme (a London Borough of Culture legacy initiative). The meeting was attended by 40 individuals with 17 London boroughs represented.

Brent London Borough of Culture

On 26 October, my current London Borough of Culture, Brent 2020, launched a new campaign that aims to give young people a voice in the design and management of public space in their communities. ‘Seen and Heard’ is inspired by extensive research with urban design researchers at London School of Economics and the regeneration team at Quintain. It is led by the young people driving Brent’s year of culture, the Blueprint Collective, and calls on Londoners to sign their petition asking that public space should be safe, creative, programmable and inviting to young people.

Healthy London Partnership Awards

On 27 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture, Justine Simons OBE, announced six arts-based mental health social prescribing pilots taking place in Merton and Southwark (Clod Ensemble, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Mental Fight Club, Outside Edge, SafeGround and Studio Upstairs). This is a new partnership between my Culture and Creative Industries Unit, Arts Council England and Healthy London Partnership, who will support shared learning and development for these pilot projects.

Global Mayors: Cultural Leadership through Crisis

On 29 October, I took part in a digital panel with the Mayors of Stockholm and Warsaw as part of the World Cities Culture Forum’s Global Conversation. I advocated for the role of culture in recovery and shared London’s work supporting the culture sector. The session was attended by over 100 guests and livestreamed to an audience of over 200 people across the world. The day

included two other panels on culture and recovery. Deputy Mayors and speakers from Amsterdam, Barcelona, Chengdu, Lisbon, Melbourne, New York, Sao Paulo and Seoul took part and the day was chaired by Justine Simons OBE, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries.

Dagenham East Film Announcement

On 3 November, I participated in a special virtual event to announce the operator of the Made in Dagenham film and TV studios. The \$400m investment by Hackman Capital will include a £1 million endowment to maximise local jobs, placements, apprenticeships, community outreach and supply chain opportunities. London's culture and creative industries have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, but our successful film and TV industries can play a key role in our economic recovery. We are again seeing major productions filmed in our capital – from The Batman and the next Fantastic Beasts film to Top Gear and EastEnders.

As part of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor, these spectacular new studios in Dagenham East will be a huge boost for the borough, creating an estimated 1,200 jobs, and contributing £35 million per year to the local economy.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Stratford Waterfront and Bridgewater Triangle

On 14 October, some 150 interested parties attend the virtual launch of the Stratford Waterfront and Bridgewater Triangle joint venture opportunity. The London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) is seeking a development partner to help deliver 1,200 new homes on these two sites.

Budget and Performance Committee

On 14 October, Chief Executive, Lyn Garner, and Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Gerry Murphy, took part in a London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee scrutiny session, alongside David Gallie, GLA Executive Director of Resources. The session focused on LLDC's revised 2020/21 budget, including updates on London Stadium, East Bank and how the LLDC has supported local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hackney Bridge

On 16 October, Hackney Bridge celebrated its opening with a socially distanced housewarming event for its founding members, inviting local businesses and residents to find out more about the project which is now open to the public.

With local enterprise at its core, over 40 per cent of founding Members at Hackney Bridge live within 1 mile of the site, with 84 per cent living in one of the neighbouring Growth Boroughs (Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Newham).

Capri virtual museum

The Capri virtual museum was launched on 21 October to give members of the public a chance to learn about the Connected and Autonomous POD pilot scheme and showcase the project's successes and achievements. The project is the first in the UK to trial pods in pedestrianised areas as well as private roads, with two of the four trials held on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Housing

My Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, visited the Olympic Park on 28 October, visiting both Chobham Manor and East Wick and Sweetwater developments.

The fourth and final phase of Chobham Manor launched on 17 October, with the neighbourhood due to complete in 2022/23 with 880 homes on the Park.

The first residents have also started moving in at East Wick – part of the East Wick and Sweetwater development which will offer more than 1,800 homes once the two neighbourhoods are complete. The local community have been enjoying the newly opened Clarnico Club, a multi-purpose social hub run by SEND; a social enterprise that provides barista training and employment opportunities for young adults with special educational needs or disabilities. SEND has been organising internships for young people from Hackney, Newham and City Colleges.

East Bank

Work continues on the landmark East Bank project at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. On 2 November, the BBC, the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and Class of Your Own announced a Design Challenge for schools in east London.

Running from November 2020 to May 2021, the project will enhance STEM learning through online resources and events, while contributing to students' careers programmes.

Green Flag Award and The London Conference

This month Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was awarded a Green Flag Award for a seventh consecutive year. This is testament to the dedication and hard work of the staff and Park volunteers who work hard to maintain the parklands to the highest standards. Executive Director of Park and Venues, Mark Camley, spoke at The London Conference on 4 November, discussing the important role of parks and open spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also highlighting East Bank's role in London's economic recovery.

MSG Sphere and Westfield Avenue Consultations

Following the receipt of further information from the applicant, LLDC as planning authority has opened a new round of consultation on the MSG Sphere applications. New comments are being invited until Friday 13 November.

A consultation was also launched for Westfield Avenue and the surrounding streets, seeking views to shape and deliver improvements. One of the aims of this flagship project is to make these streets safer and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport, in line with my Healthy Streets agenda. The initial results of the consultation will be reviewed on 8 November.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Local Plan

On 13 October, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC) Board reviewed proposed changes to its draft Local Plan. The Local Plan will underpin the Corporation's regeneration ambitions, which have an added impetus now that construction of High Speed 2 is underway. OPDC is engaging landowners and the community, hosting online events in November, and will submit the Local Plan modifications to the Planning Inspector in early 2021 so the Plan can be adopted the following autumn.

The Plan will provide a clear and ambitious planning framework for OPDC to deliver its London Plan housing and employment targets. It will also reinforce my commitment to seeing a high quality, mixed use and vibrant urban district in and around the Old Oak Common interchange as well as an industrial intensification area in Old Oak North.

Portal Way, planning approval

On 21 October, Ealing Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission for an application at The Portal in North Acton, which was delegated to Ealing by OPDC for its determination. The proposal is for 350 homes and commercial or amenity space on the ground floor.

The scheme had previously received resolution to grant permission at Ealing's planning committee in 2017. Following discussions with the GLA, the affordable housing offer currently proposed is improved over the 2017 offer, now at 35 per cent affordable, 30 per cent of which is London Affordable Rent.

Budget and Performance Committee

On 14 October, Chief Executive David Lunts, Chair Liz Peace CBE and Director of Finance Fiona Marsh, took part in a London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee scrutiny session, alongside David Gallie, GLA Executive Director of Resources. The session focused on OPDC's revised 2020/21 budget, OPDC's previous and new approach to development, its Local Plan and how it supported the local community and businesses during COVID-19.

Planning

Government changes to the planning system

On the 1 October, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government responding to the government's proposed changes to the current planning system. In particular, I raised concerns about the proposed methodology for determining housing need, proposals to raise the threshold at which affordable housing is provided as part of development from 10 homes to 40 – 50 homes, and the lack of evidence to demonstrate the proposals would increase housing supply.

On the 29 October, I wrote also wrote to the Secretary of State responding to the government's *Planning for the Future* consultation on changes to the planning system. I raised concerns about the lack of provision for the unique circumstances of London, exclusion

of communities and democratic oversight, poorer outcomes for affordable housing, infrastructure delivery and design quality and the impact on local planning authorities, alongside a range of concerns about the specific proposals in the document.

London Plan Guidance consultation

On the 13 October 2020, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, launched a consultation on five London Plan Guidance documents to support the Intend to Publish London Plan. People were invited to provide views and feedback and attend various virtual engagement events during November and December.

The consultations will run until 15 January 2021 and the documents are as follows:

- Public London Charter – Principles for the management and maintenance of public space.
- Circular Economy Statements – Guidance for the reuse, remanufacture and redistribution of materials.
- Good Quality Homes for All Londoners – A suite of documents to secure high-quality homes including optimising site capacity, securing high quality small site development and preparing design codes, housing design standards and best practice examples.
- Whole Lifecycle Carbon Assessment – A framework to assess the impact of a building over its lifetime.
- Be Seen Energy Assessment Guidance – Guidance for collecting information about post occupancy energy consumption.

Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) engagement

On the 13 October 2020, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, launched the public engagement stage on a draft vision and principles for this OAPF. This will run until 27 November 2020 and invites feedback and participation in virtual engagement events during November 2020. This stage builds on initial engagement undertaken in 2019 and will be followed by further formal public consultation on a draft OAPF anticipated in 2021.

Development plan document consultation

London Borough of Croydon, the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, the London Borough of Merton and the London Borough of Sutton

On the 22nd of October, I issued a letter of general conformity on the Publication Stage of the draft South London Waste Plan setting out where further amendments to the plan need to be made to improve alignment with the London Plan.

London Borough of Southwark

On the 26th of October, I issued a letter of general conformity on the Proposed changes to the submitted New Southwark Plan setting out where further amendments to the plan need to be made to improve alignment with the London Plan.

Planning Decisions (Stage 3 call-ins)

Kensington Forum Hotel, Kensington & Chelsea

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, held a Public Representation Hearing on 22 October to consider the planning application for Kensington Forum Hotel. Following the hearing, The Deputy Mayor resolved to grant planning permission for the scheme subject to a s106 legal agreement.

5 Kingdom Street, Westminster

I held a Public Representation Hearing on 29 October to consider the planning application for 5 Kingdom Street. Following the hearing, I resolved to grant permission for the scheme subject to a s106 legal agreement.

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

1 Morland Gardens, LB Brent

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

Brentford Lock West, 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.

Land bounded by Seven Sisters Road, LB Hackney

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

Capital House, LB Southwark

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

Harrison Gibson Building, 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.

Landmark Court, LB Southwark

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

Grand Union Village Primary School, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

25-30 Bakers Road, LB Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

573-585 High Road, LB Redbridge

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

Imperial I (Plot A) (formerly Land at Imperial Street), London Legacy Development Corporation

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

250 Gunnersbury Avenue, LB Hounslow

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

West End Car Park, LB Newham

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills wrote to the London Borough of Hillingdon stating that he is content to allow the Council to determine the application itself.

1-4 Francis Grove, LB Merton

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

840 Old Kent Road, LB Southwark

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

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

- Railway Sidings, Land Rear of Brent Terrace (South), LB Barnet
- 114 - 116 Queensway, Lambeth, City of Westminster
- Chase Farm Hospital, LB Enfield
- Land bound by Waterloo Road to the east, LB Havering
- Land to the west of Kidbrooke Park Road, Kidbrooke, RB Greenwich
- 50-56 Fore Street, LB Enfield
- 196-200 The Broadway, LB Merton
- Former Site of Taberner House, LB Croydon
- 679 High Road, LB Barnet
- TfL Landholdings At Bollo Lane, LB Ealing
- University Playing Fields Brunel University, Kingston Lane Hillingdon, LB Hillingdon
- Acorn House, LB Camden
- 2 Trafalgar Way, LB Tower Hamlets
- Belgrove House, LB Camden
- Gascoigne Estate West Phase 2, LB Barking and Dagenham
- Former RTS Motors Site, LB Havering
- Padnall Lake, LB Barking and Dagenham

Key Engagements

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

- I hosted a conference call with John Holland-Kaye, CEO Heathrow Airport Ltd, on 2 October to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Heathrow's business and the role it can play in London's recovery
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 2 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call with the London First Business Advisory Group on 5 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with the M9 Mayors on 5 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I hosted a conference call with the Leaders of the London Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Camden and Westminster on 5 October to discuss the Central Activities Zone (CAZ)
- I had my regular meeting with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 6 October
- I joined a roundtable hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with the M9 Mayors on 6 October to discuss the Planning for the Future White Paper and to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I addressed the "Rebuilding with Refugees: How businesses can take action" online event hosted by Tent Partnership for Refugees, on 6 October
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 6 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired the Mayor's Business Advisory Board meeting on 7 October
- I attended the GLA Oversight Committee on 7 October to discuss the proposed relocation of City Hall
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 7 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a call with the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on 7 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I visited the Croydon Custody Centre on 7 October
- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 8 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 9 October
- I hosted a roundtable with young people affected by loss of free travel on 12 October
- I hosted a conference call with George Fertitta, Bloomberg Associates, on 12 October for an update on the work of Bloomberg Associates
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 12 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended the launch of the WIN Inclusive Employers toolkit on 13 October
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 13 October
- I chaired the VRU Partnership Reference Group on 14 October
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 14 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London

- I joined a call with the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on 14 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 15 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 15 October
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 15 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 16 October
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 19 October ahead of the Transport for London Board meeting
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 19 October
- I addressed the London Church Leaders Breakfast on 20 October
- I chaired the London Health Board on 20 October
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board meeting on 20 October
- I chaired the Transport for London Board meeting on 21 October
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 21 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I attended the Assembly Budget & Performance Committee on 22 October to answer questions on the GLA Group budget
- I hosted my regular conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 22 October
- I joined a meeting hosted by Mirca Morera, Chair of the Save Latin Village campaign, and representatives of the Seven Sisters Market Traders Association on 23 October to discuss the future of Seven Sisters Market
- I hosted a conference call with Andy Byford, the Transport Commissioner, on 23 October to discuss TfL funding
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 26 October
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 26 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a roundtable with London College Principals on 26 October to hear their experience of the autumn term return to school
- I visited the 5 Kingdom Street development site in Westminster on 27 October
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 27 October
- I hosted an In-Conversation event with Bernardine Evaristo OBE, and Reni Eddo-Lodge on 27 October as part of Black History Month
- I visited the London Fire Brigade's Old Kent Road station on 28 October, the first anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry phase one report, to meet with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, in order to see a demonstration of the new equipment the Brigade has introduced
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 28 October to discuss TfL funding
- I hosted my regular meeting with representatives of the Black Majority Churches on 29 October
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 29 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired the 5 Kingdom Street Representation Hearing on 29 October

- I attended the World Cities Culture Forum on 29 October and joined the Mayor of Stockholm, the Mayor of Warsaw and the Mayor of Buenos Aires in an online panel discussion
- I hosted a conference call with LEAP Business Members on 30 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 31 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call hosted by the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with the M9 Mayors on 31 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I addressed the Centre for London Conference on 2 November
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 2 November
- I hosted a roundtable with Vice-Chancellors from London Universities on 2 November to hear their experience of the autumn term return to school
- I joined the Dagenham East Film studios online event on 3 November to announce the development of The Easterbrook Studio site
- I visited Barking with Cllr Darren Rodwell, Leader of the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, on 3 November to see the progress being made on the regeneration of the Gascoigne East estate
- I joined a call with the UK Head of Counter Terror Policing Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu on 3 November to discuss the UK national threat level
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 4 November to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Sir Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust, on 4 November to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government's response, including the upcoming lockdown and progress on the vaccine and also to hear about the Wellcome Trust's vast international experience and how we can learn from the interventions taken in other cities and countries around the world
- I hosted my regular conference call with Sir Stephen House, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 5 November

ENDS