

45th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time – 15th October 2020

This is my forty-fifth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 4th September – 1st October 2020.

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

Executive Summary

Remembering Sergeant Matt Ratana

The nation was shocked and appalled by the murder of Metropolitan Police Service Sergeant Matt Ratana in the early hours of Friday 25 September. His death is a sobering reminder of the dangers police officers face in the line of duty. My heart goes out to the family and friends of this brave officer, who paid the ultimate price for helping to keep Londoners safe. My thoughts are also with the Metropolitan Police family at this time of grief. Sergeant Ratana and all the brave police officers who have lost their lives on duty will always be remembered.

COVID-19 Update

We are at a perilous moment in the fight against this virus. Over the last month, I have been deeply concerned by the spread of the virus and the lack of testing in London. The number of tests undertaken on Londoners per week fell 43 per cent between the end of August and mid-September, while the prevalence of COVID-19 in Londoners seems similar to that in the North West and North East. There has been a spike in 111 calls and GP consultations and the number of patients with COVID-19 in London's hospitals is increasing.

London is at high risk of being hit hard in a second wave, for reasons including the density of the city, the high proportion of ethnic minority residents and higher levels of poverty and overcrowded housing. I have held regular meetings with London health and borough leaders throughout the last month to examine the latest data, and consider whether further London-specific measures are required in addition to the new national measures to control the virus announced by the Government.

Further action is urgently required to prevent the spread of the virus in London, including the reallocation of testing capacity to give us a better understanding of the actual COVID incidence in the city. The Chair of London Councils and I wrote to the Prime Minister on 24 September to set out our shared views, requesting an urgent response.

There have also been some real concerns over the last week that the current 10pm closing time for pubs, bars and restaurants may be a counter-productive measure in stopping the spread of the virus. Given the scenes we've seen across the UK of people gathering and drinking on the streets once licensed premises close, I have called on the Government to carry out an immediate review of the effectiveness of this measure, including assessing any unintended consequences of increased social mixing in other settings after 10pm.

It is also absolutely essential that our clubs, theatres and other venues get access to extra emergency financial aid as long as the restrictions remain in place. With many venues still unable to open, Londoners' livelihoods are dependent on it.

We must never lose sight of the devastating impact the pandemic is having in London. A report I commissioned into the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 has now laid bare the extent of the challenges we are facing, with Black people 1.9 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than White people, and working mothers 47 per cent more likely than working fathers to have lost or resigned from their jobs during the outbreak.

In London we must continue to do all we can to help reverse the upward trend of infection, but we need the Government to play its part in ensuring there is adequate testing available. Londoners have made monumental sacrifices during the pandemic and urgent additional measures must be examined if we are to work together to protect both lives and livelihoods across the capital.

London Recovery Missions

While we work to limit the immediate impact of the virus in London, we must also plan for London's recovery from the pandemic, so we can build back better.

Throughout the month, GLA teams worked closely with London Councils, Borough officers and external groups in civil society and the private sector to engage the public and stakeholders on the development of the missions that form the heart of the London Recovery Programme.

Feedback from Londoners was vital in shaping the missions, which aim to restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact on London's communities and build back the capital's economy and society. Nine missions were agreed by the London Recovery Board on 15 September:

- **A Green New Deal** - Tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and improve air quality by doubling the size of London's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all.
- **A Robust Safety Net** - By 2025, every Londoner is able to access the support they need to prevent financial hardship.
- **High Streets for All** - Deliver enhanced public spaces and exciting new uses for underused high street buildings in every Borough by 2025, working with London's diverse communities.
- **A New Deal for Young People** - By 2024 all young people in need are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities.
- **Helping Londoners into Good Work** - Support Londoners into good jobs with a focus on sectors key to London's recovery.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing** - By 2025 London will have a quarter of a million wellbeing ambassadors, supporting Londoners where they live, work and play.
- **Digital Access for All** - Every Londoner to have access to good connectivity, basic digital skills and the device or support they need to be online by 2025.
- **Healthy Food, Healthy Weight** - By 2025 every Londoner lives in a healthy food neighbourhood.
- **Building Strong Communities** - A mission to ensure all Londoners have access to volunteering opportunities, the support they need and local networks (agreed in principle, with precise focus and wording to be agreed by the Board)

Work now continues with stakeholders across London to put these missions into action.

Support for hundreds of young Londoners to exit County Lines

On 30 September I launched a further £750,000 investment from City Hall in 2020/21 to help protect young Londoners at increased risk of being exploited by County Line gangs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

My £3 Million Rescue and Response programme is working to better understand, target and respond to County Lines. It is led by a coalition of London boroughs – Brent, Lewisham, Islington and Tower Hamlets – that help coordinate support across London for young people up to the age of 25.

The latest figures from the second year of the programme identified 3,290 young people in London who are being exploited to supply drugs through County Lines networks across 41 counties.

New figures show more than half of young Londoners engaging with the programme have either reduced, or successfully been supported away from, County Lines activity. My additional investment of £750,000 will add to the success of this vital programme.

Mayor's culture support fund awards grants to London LGBTQ+ venues

On 29 September I announced emergency funding for some of the LGBTQ+ venues hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic has been catastrophic for LGBTQ+ venues. They were forced to close their doors to stop the spread of COVID-19, but are still incurring ongoing costs with no money coming in.

Eleven of the hardest hit venues across seven London boroughs have received grants from the Mayor's Culture at Risk Business Support Fund of between £5,000 and £23,000 to help in the short-term with rent, staffing and supplier costs. Further City Hall funding is set to be given out to venues in the coming months.

Launch of heavy vehicle scrappage scheme to tackle toxic air

On 28 September I launched a new scrappage scheme targeting some of the most polluting vehicles, in advance of the tighter Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards, which will come into force on 1 March 2021.

Heavy vehicles are some of the biggest polluters and the new heavy vehicle scrappage scheme offers grant to small businesses and charities to scrap a heavy vehicle and replace it with a compliant vehicle, or to retrofit diesel vehicles up to the cleanest Euro VI standards.

More than 100 organisations have already pre-registered interest in the scheme, which will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Other businesses or charities are encouraged to apply early for a greater chance to benefit from the grants as funding is limited.

The scheme follows the successful programme for small businesses and charities to scrap older, more polluting vans and minibuses. The van scrappage scheme ran for 18 months and has committed enough support to take 5,000 polluting vehicles off London's roads and helped small businesses and charities become Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) compliant.

Launch date for the tighter Low Emission Zone and Direct Vision Standards confirmed

Back in April, I announced that the launch of new tighter standards for the Low Emission Zone (LEZ), and new safety standards for heavy vehicles in London (DVS) would be delayed until at least 1 March 2021, with a review of this date in September 2020.

On 28 September, I confirmed that both schemes will launch on 1 March 2021. These schemes are vital to improving air quality and reducing road danger in London. While it was the right thing to do to delay them in response to challenges created by COVID-19, it is also important to keep the delay as short as practically possible to maximise the benefits to health for all Londoners. A summary of the impact assessment is contained within the Mayoral Decision paper.

London Business Hub Launch

On 24 September, I launched a new online business support platform to help London's Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) of all sectors survive and recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Launched alongside the hub were an exciting range of funding opportunities, programmes and digital resources that meet the needs of the whole of London's business community. New initiatives from the Hub include 'Recover & Grow', a new support programme which will equip 240 businesses with the leadership skills necessary to recover from the impact of COVID-19 and safeguard against future economic shocks. The Hub is also launching a property advice programme to help SMEs understand business rates and landlord negotiations as well as a peer-to-peer programme of facilitated action learning for a further 250 businesses.

World Car Free Day/School Streets Monitoring

On 22 September – World Car Free Day - I launched my new School Streets air quality monitoring programme, which is being co-funded by the FIA Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. School Streets transform the roads outside schools to restrict vehicles and prioritise walking and cycling at certain times of the day.

As part of my work to tackle London's toxic air, the project will measure the air quality benefits of the new School Streets. Thirty Breathe London air quality sensors will record nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels at eighteen primary schools across Brent, Enfield and Lambeth. Half of these schools have recently introduced a School Street so it will be possible to effectively measure their air quality improvements against those that do not currently have schemes in place. Surveys will also measure behaviour change as a result of the new School Streets, such as reduced car use and increased walking, cycling and scooting. The sensors will be in place for three months and results are expected early next year.

Culture at Risk Support Fund – Grassroots Music Venues

On 21 September, I announced the grassroots music venues which have been supported so far through my Culture at Risk Fund. These venues are vital to our world-class music scene, which has been devastated by COVID-19.

141 venues received dedicated one-to-one advice and support from experts at the Music Venues Trust, helping them with rent disputes, discussions with councils and legal advice. Fourteen of the hardest-hit venues across ten London boroughs also received grants totaling £178,000, with more to be given out in the coming months. We will continue to do all we can to help, including pushing Government to protect jobs and provide the clear guidance required so music venues can plan for their future in our capital.

Call on Government to give London a new long-term transport funding settlement to support economic recovery

It is clear that London's transport network has huge economic benefits for the rest of the UK – from the new factory set to be built in Yorkshire to fulfil the order for new Piccadilly line trains, to Crossrail and its supply chain.

Due to the pandemic, Transport for London's fares and other revenue fell by 90 per cent at the height of the crisis, and ridership is still nowhere near normal levels. Fares income does not cover the cost of running services while social distancing is in place and fewer people can safely use public transport.

With TfL much more reliant on fares income than almost any other transport authority, it's clear the old model for funding public transport in London is broken. That's why on 21 September, I called on the Government to urgently agree a new long-term funding settlement for TfL to support economic recovery and protect jobs across the country.

Extension of business rates holiday

Businesses across London continue to struggle as a result of the impact of COVID-19. That's why on 18 September, I joined forces with London Councils to urge the Government to help protect thousands of jobs in London and across the country by extending the business rates holiday to next year.

If the business rates holiday comes to an end, I worry many employers will have no choice but to make more people unemployed. Many large retail, leisure and hospitality businesses – accounting for thousands of Londoners' jobs – are taking important decisions for the next financial year right now, so certainty over the business rates holiday is needed urgently.

Devolving control over setting and retaining business rates will be an important part of securing London's long-term economic recovery, and would have a similar impact on other towns and cities across the country.

Call for a two-year London rent freeze and more support for private renters

On 16 September, I called on the Government to give me the powers to freeze rents in London for two years. This would be an emergency measure to ease the burden on renters as economic fallout from the pandemic continues. During this time private rents in London would be allowed to fall, but not rise.

This rent freeze should be part of a new package of support from the Government to help private renters weather the current economic crisis and effects of the pandemic, including:

- grants to allow renters to stay in their homes and clear arrears, until the Government can make changes to welfare that will support everyone to sustain their tenancies in the longer term;
- expanding access to welfare, including scrapping the Benefit Cap, uprating Local Housing Allowance to median market rents, making additional discretionary housing payments to cover shortfalls and extending eligibility to all renters, including those not currently entitled; and,
- scrapping section 21 “no fault” eviction as soon as possible and restricting access to section 8 evictions until the wider welfare measures are brought in (section 8 evictions give landlords legal powers to evict tenants under certain circumstances).

Central Activities Zone research announced

On 15 September, I announced my intention to commission a major new piece of research into the long-term impact of the pandemic and emerging trends on London’s Central Activities Zone (CAZ) and Northern Isle of Dogs (NIoD). The research will look into the future opportunities and challenges facing central London, which is currently struggling as a result of the crisis due to the huge rise in home working, the need to socially distance, the restrictions on cultural venues and events, and the collapse in international travel.

There is no doubt that the economic crisis caused by the COVID pandemic will be prolonged and far-reaching. The rises in COVID cases in recent days is seriously concerning and we will all have to abide by social distancing rules for a long time to come. I will be working with councils, business and civil society to reshape London as a city that can prosper while remaining open, safe and attractive for Londoners, visitors and investors.

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm

London is one of the most diverse cities in the world, but our public spaces simply do not reflect this. Many Londoners are concerned our statues, street names, memorials and building names fail to capture who we are and what we represent. By working with boroughs and partners from across the capital, the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm will ensure that everyone can take pride in our public landscape and I am delighted to be inviting applications to contribute to this important programme of change for London.

On 11 September, I launched an open call for members for my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Up to 15 independent members are being sought covering a range of experiences, including cultural and public history, visual art, community integration and planning. The Commission, which is co-chaired by my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, and my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, will review the public realm, further the discussion into what legacies should be celebrated, and make a series of recommendations aimed at establishing best practice and standards.

Wimbledon visit

As part of my #LondonTogether campaign, I partnered with the All England Lawn Tennis Club, hosts of the Wimbledon Championships, to create a unique event on the 4 and 5 September to thank some of London's key workers for their outstanding contribution throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Eighty key workers were nominated from across the London NHS, London Ambulance Service and Transport for London (TfL), and invited to play tennis on Wimbledon's famous courts, receive a tour of the grounds and receive free coaching.

It was an honour to have the opportunity to meet and personally thank them and to hear their stories of heroism. Like so many other key workers across London, throughout this pandemic they have worked extensive hours in mentally and physically challenging conditions, and their care for Londoners never faltered.

Policing, Crime and Security

Protecting vital cooperation between British and European police

On 25 September I wrote to the Prime Minister reiterating my grave concerns about the impact of a no deal Brexit on policing and safety in London and across the country.

The policing and security benefits of working within the European Union (EU) have been significant, undoubtedly making cross-border cooperation much more efficient for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), making Londoners safer as a result. National policing experts have warned that losing access to the European Arrest Warrant and to Europol, to name just two examples, will make it harder to keep track of terrorists and serious organised criminal networks. These arrangements gave UK police and EU member states the capability to identify criminals and missing persons who cross our borders, to detain and swiftly surrender suspects, to quickly identify previous history of overseas offending and the ability to share and use biometric data of suspects to help detect crimes and prosecute offenders.

I have urged the Prime Minister to ensure that policing and security is front and centre in negotiations, and that the Government does everything in its power to retain as much of our co-operative arrangements with the EU as possible. Without this, Londoners and the whole country will be less safe.

New programme 'MyEnds' launched to empower communities to tackle violence

In some parts of London, violence is very localised and often concentrated in areas as small as an estate or a cluster of streets. The communities in those areas are often at the forefront of efforts to tackle violence locally. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has launched a new £3.3 million programme 'MyEnds', which aims to support and empower local communities in developing new place-based violence reduction initiatives.

The programme ultimately aims to build and strengthen local networks and grassroots organisations over the next three years, recognising that those closest to the issues should have a central role in owning and leading the collective response.

Consortiums are asked to submit their applications by 23 October 2020.

Funds approved to support mentoring for young people

£2.38 million of funding has been approved for a new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) programme that will offer support and encouragement for vulnerable young people who attend Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), through additional mentoring and careers advice and after-school activities.

Young people who attend PRUs have typically been excluded from mainstream education, and the link between school exclusions and violence affecting young people is clear.

We know that the hours immediately after school is a high-risk period for young people, so the VRU is funding community-led after-school activities to keep young Londoners out of harm's way.

Additionally, over two years, we will provide mentoring and career advice across every London borough to raise the confidence and aspirations of young people and get them thinking positively about their futures.

As London continues to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, I recognise that in order for London to build back better, young people in London need a new deal, and that quality local activities and access to mentorship should form part of that deal.

Local authorities support violence reduction through local plans

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has now met with all 32 London Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across the capital to discuss progress on their local violence reduction action plans. These meetings were attended by the VRU, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) chief officers, and London Councils, as well as senior Community Safety Partnership representatives, including local authority Chief Executives and police Basic Command Unit (BCU) Commanders.

A range of key themes and innovative practices have emerged from the discussions. These meetings are part of a collaborative approach to working with local authorities which is now being built upon by sharing of knowledge and good practice amongst boroughs, through a series of learning hub sessions. The VRU will also be using the experience of boroughs across London to provide peer support to each other.

Transport

Brompton e-bike and GoPros among prizes for sharing #MyCarFreeTrip

On 4 September, I joined Transport for London (TfL) in launching this year's Car Free Day campaign as part of our plans to tackle London's toxic air crisis.

This year's campaign was focused online, celebrating Londoners' stories of walking and cycling from the launch on 4 September until Car Free Day on Tuesday 22 September.

Throughout September, TfL, and participating London boroughs were urging Londoners to walk and cycle and pledge to go car-free, helping to reduce harmful emissions from polluting vehicles and supporting London's green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Londoners returning to school and work are being encouraged to reimagine their trips by walking or cycling for all or part of the way, not only for the environmental benefits, but also for the health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity. Participants could show their support for active travel by sharing their journeys on social media.

TfL joined up with exciting partners to offer a chance to win a range of prizes, including a Brompton e-bike, GoPro prize packages, ten one-year Santander Cycles memberships and plenty of other themed gifts by sharing their content with the hashtag #MyCarFreeTrip, or emailing in.

Explore London with Streetspace-inspired orienteering challenges

On 16 September, Transport for London (TfL) announced it had partnered with British Orienteering to create a season of active travel-inspired urban orienteering challenges, giving Londoners the chance to explore the city in a whole new way throughout September and October.

The challenges complement TfL's Streetspace for London plan, which is helping to make space for walking, improve cycling conditions and enable people to maintain social distancing as London recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

From Dalston and Camden to Battersea and Clapham, the orienteering challenges will take people on a journey of discovery across the city utilising recently widened pathways and newly completed Streetspace schemes.

Participants can find their way around the city on a selection of carefully mapped routes. The challenge is to simply visit the twelve numbered points marked on the map with a circle and match them to their corresponding photo. Each participant who successfully finishes the challenge and submits their results will automatically be entered into a prize draw. Eight winners will be chosen at random to win a special limited-edition moquette picnic set from the London Transport Museum.

The challenges are part of my strategy to encourage more people to walk and take advantage of the additional space that has been created on London's streets thanks to TfL's Streetspace for London programme, which is transforming town centres and reducing traffic on residential streets.

TfL launches Central London Footways created by London Living Streets and Urban Good

On 17 September, Transport for London (TfL) and London Living Streets unveiled the new beautifully illustrated Central London Footways map, which has been distributed free to Londoners.

The printed map and design concept - developed by Urban Good - provides a wealth of new information about walking in the capital and will support Londoners and visitors to walk longer distances on everyday trips. The physical, free map is available at several central London locations, which can be found online here: www.footways.london

TfL has been expanding opportunities for those keen to incorporate more walking into their daily routines. The Streetspace for London Plan has already introduced more than 22,500 square metres of temporary extra pavement space, making it easy to maintain safe social distancing while walking through the capital.

Central London Footways will make sure Londoners and visitors make the most of these transformations by prompting people to choose walking as the most enjoyable way to get from A to B, with walking journeys often quicker than expected. Walking is also the cheapest way to travel and is great for physical and mental wellbeing, as well as London's environment.

The printed map is the culmination of an 18-month project led by David Harrison, Emma Griffin and other volunteers at London Living Streets, who have walked extensively across London with residents, businesses, cultural organisations, councillors and local campaigners to find opportunities for safe and attractive walking routes. The project is universally supported by central London boroughs and Business Improvement Districts.

New rental homes by Southall station given the green light

On 17 September, a new development by Southall station was given the green light by Ealing Council, helping to provide more quality rental housing in the local area.

The proposals, by Connected Living London (CLL), the formal partnership between Grainger plc and Transport for London (TfL) have been designed by award-winning architects, Assael Architecture. The scheme will deliver 460 new homes, including 40 per cent affordable housing, across five buildings.

The scheme encompasses a 1.16 acre site that was converted to railway sidings in the mid-20th century and is currently used for storage and associated Elizabeth line works. The homes will be a mixture of one, two and three bedroom properties, providing options for all types of households, with affordable homes offered at a discounted market rent. The development will also incorporate renewable forms of energy through solar panels and air source heat pumps to minimise impact on the local environment.

Located close by to Southall station, the development provides direct access to central London and is also served by TfL Rail services, which will become the Elizabeth line once it is open. It will provide more space for walking along Park Avenue and more greenery and street lighting. A new pedestrian crossing on Park Avenue will also be delivered as part of this scheme, making it safer for people to access Southall.

Fire and Resilience

COVID-19 Assembly Members 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.

City Hall Council Leaders Update

My Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, alongside my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, continued to attend regular virtual meetings with London Councils Leaders to update them on London's response to COVID-19 throughout the month.

Joint PHE and NHS conference call

On 7 September, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to receive an update on London's response to COVID-19.

Strategy Listening and Learning event

On 7 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual Strategy Listening and Learning event to receive an update of the work of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

London Transition Management Group

On 9 and 16 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended virtual meetings of the London Transition Management Group. The group oversees the London-wide operational management of the transition out of the emergency response phase of the pandemic. On the 23 September, the GLA's Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, Niran Mothada, represented the GLA on this Group.

GLA Oversight Committee meeting

On 9 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, alongside the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) Chair, John Barradell, and SCG Co-Chair, Eleanor Kelly, attended a virtual meeting of the GLA Oversight Committee to answer Assembly Members' questions regarding the Strategic Coordination Group's response to the first phase of COVID-19 pandemic.

London Strategic Coordination Group

From 10 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended regular meetings of London's Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), which is co-ordinating London's response to COVID-19 throughout the month. On 1 October, the GLA's Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, Niran Mothada, represented the GLA on this group.

London Fire Commissioner meeting

On 10 September, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, spoke with the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe, for an update on the work of London Fire Brigade.

London Fire Brigade Trade Unions

On 10 September, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with trade union representatives for the London Fire Brigade to discuss a range of issues affecting London Fire Brigade staff.

COVID-19 Session with the Cabinet Office

On 11 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting to brief Central Government on London COVID-19 arrangements, including outbreak planning.

London Summit

On 11 September, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual London Summit with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, to understand the Government's process in dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak in London.

London MPs call

On 11 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual meeting to update London MPs on London's response to COVID-19. On the 24 September, my Chief of Staff, David Bellamy, chaired a virtual meeting to update London MPs on London's response to COVID-19.

London Resilience Forum, Brexit Contingency Planning Group

On 14 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, chaired a virtual Brexit Contingency Planning Group meeting of the London Resilience Forum.

London Strategic Outbreak Steering Group

On 15 and 17 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a London Strategic Outbreak Steering Group to discuss London's response to COVID-19.

Workshop: Wave 2 planning in London

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual workshop with civil servants and senior representatives of local government and London's response agencies to discuss the risks associated with any potential second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in London.

PHE Lessons learned

On 16 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with Public Health England (PHE) to discuss the lessons learned during the pandemic.

Meeting with Regional Director of PHE London

On 17 September, I alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual meeting with the Regional Director of Public Health England (PHE) London to receive an update on COVID-19 in London.

London Covid-19 Leaders Committee

On 18 September, I, alongside my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Dr Fiona Twycross, attended a virtual London Councils COVID-19 Leaders Committee.

London Transition Board

On 23 September, I co-chaired the London Transition Board with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Board oversees London's strategic transition out of the emergency response phase of the pandemic, bringing together senior representatives from national, regional and local government, business, health, communities, arts and culture and education.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

AELP Business Recovery Conference

On 9 September, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, addressed the Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP) Business Recovery Conference. The Deputy Mayor thanked AELP's members for their hard work supporting learners and adapting the support and training they provide during this challenging period. The Deputy Mayor also set out the steps City Hall has taken to support the capital's learning providers and asked AELP members to engage in the London Recovery Board's work.

European Day of Languages #LoveESOL event

On 25 September, my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, attended a virtual celebration of the European Day of Languages, organised by English for Action. The event brought together over 150 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners from across London to share their stories and ideas for improving ESOL provision in London.

This was the fourth #LoveESOL event City Hall has supported, with previous events held in person at City Hall. These events are an opportunity for us to hear directly from learners about their experiences. This year, learners and tutors from a range of ESOL providers turned out on the day, including English For Action, CARAS, Workers Educational Association, Tower Hamlets Idea Store, New City College, Hackney Learning Trust, City Gateway and ELATT.

Walala Parade - Public Art for Leyton

London's latest public artwork mural has been unveiled on Leyton High Street. The Walala Parade project was funded through my Crowdfund London programme, with support from the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP). This collaboration between local arts collective Wood Street Walls and local businesses in Leyton installed a distinctive public artwork mural on Leyton High Street, designed by renowned artist Camille Walala. The design was developed and voted for through a public engagement programme with local residents and businesses.

Housing

Affordable Homes Programme negotiations

Negotiations are underway with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the next Affordable Homes Programme (AHP). The next programme is due to launch in April 2021 and securing an adequate settlement for London will enable me to build more genuinely affordable homes in London, particularly council homes and homes at social rent levels. The Secretary of State has offered London £4 billion from 2021 to 2026, which falls short of what London needs. Negotiations are ongoing to agree what the Greater London Authority (GLA) could deliver through the AHP, and I have been clear that the pressing need in London is for more homes at social rent.

Rough Sleeping

On 7 September, I urged the Government to commit to providing the funding needed for emergency accommodation and support for rough sleepers during a second wave of COVID-19, to take urgent measures around the private rented sector and welfare to prevent further homelessness and rough sleeping, and to do far more to help non-UK nationals whose options to escape homelessness are hopelessly limited. In a joint letter with the Chair of London Councils, Cllr Peter John OBE, to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, we stressed the need ensure that the vital work undertaken so far by the Greater London Authority (GLA), boroughs and charities to protect homeless people in London during the pandemic does not go to waste.

On 17 September, London was allocated £43.16 million of the £105 million Government Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding, of which £19 million was allocated to the GLA. This funding is for interim accommodation and support for rough sleepers helped during the pandemic. While welcome, it falls far short of what is needed in the capital, and I will continue to lobby for more funding for London.

BME London housing associations

On 18 September, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, met with BME London, which represents 14 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) housing associations. They discussed joint working to support and promote diversity amongst senior leaders in housing associations, and how partnerships between the Greater London Authority (GLA) and BME housing associations can be strengthened, particularly in the new Affordable Homes Programme.

The cladding crisis and EWS1 forms

On 21 September, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on behalf of London's leaseholders to outline my grave concerns with the External Wall Review (EWS) process. In my letter, I made the case that it is simply unacceptable that thousands of residents are trapped in potentially unsafe buildings, unable to re-mortgage at competitive rates, sell, or move on with their lives whilst awaiting an EWS1 form confirming their block complies with government guidance. I outlined five key areas in need of action from the Government to help resolve this crisis, stressing that the objectives of ensuring buildings are safe and unlocking the market must *both* be pursued. Taking action now is critical to ensure the safety of residents and to stop the devastating effects the EWS1 crisis is having.

'Creating communities: beyond the pandemic' conference

On 23 September, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, spoke at a conference session on the topic of 'planning for the future in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic'. My Deputy Mayor set out our concerns about the Government's proposed planning changes which could reduce the number of new affordable homes in London and lead to more unsuitable housing, and outlined the findings of our COVID-19 Housing Delivery Taskforce which made a number of recommendations about the action Government needs to take in the wake of the pandemic.

Meeting of the London Housing Panel with new chair, Professor Loretta Lees

On 1 October, my Deputy Mayor, Tom Copley attended a meeting of the London Housing Panel, which is my initiative to bring together voluntary and community organisations to advise my team in developing housing policies. The panel was established jointly with Trust for London. At the meeting, my Deputy Mayor welcomed the new Chair, Professor Loretta Lees, and made clear our commitment to put Londoners at the heart of our plans for housing.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

New support for small business

On 24 September, I launched a new support hub for struggling small businesses, and applications also opened for a new £1 million fund to help London's firms survive the dual impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit.

The London Business Hub will provide a range of free support and funding opportunities to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) of all sectors.

It includes an online portal (www.businesshub.london) to help London's businesses to start, sustain and grow, and a programme to equip around 240 businesses in the capital with the leadership skills necessary to safeguard against future economic shocks. SMEs will get advice on business rates and landlord negotiations, and also how to navigate government support schemes and recover reduced revenue streams.

Applications for £1m of new funding also opened to help SMEs build resilience for the uncertainty ahead. Funding of up to £30,000 will be rewarded to projects that develop innovative solutions to the environmental and economic challenges facing the London's

economy. This could include new ways of using data and technology to identify and address vulnerabilities in supply chains, local food or energy production.

Reaching out to businesses

Both I and my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, have continued to engage with businesses across London to understand their challenges and how we could best support them through the pandemic and economic recovery.

On 22 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business spoke to 200 members of the Institute of Directors City of London about the immediate and long-term economic impacts of the pandemic, as well as what we are doing to support small businesses during this time.

On 23 September, I participated in an conversation with the Chairman of Coutts Bank, Lord Waldegrave, with an audience of over 500 Coutts Bank clients, on the socio-economic issues brought to the fore by the pandemic, the impact on transport, the arts and other sectors, and the opportunities for a resilient recovery.

On 24 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business participated in a London Jewish Forum leadership roundtable with representatives of all 24 synagogues in the boroughs of Harrow, Brent, Hillingdon & Ealing to address the challenges of the recovery and the work City Hall is doing to support businesses in local communities.

Promoting London at Home and Abroad

Over the course of the last month both my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, and I have attended a range of activities to promote London at home and abroad.

On 10 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business participated in 'Let's Talk London: Collaborating for Impact' and spoke to over 100 companies on London's offer for impact led businesses.

On 14 September, I launched London and Partners' (L&P) new Open Innovation Fellowship. The fellowship programme will maximise London's reputation as a global innovation city and help develop innovation leaders who are committed to inclusivity and creating good growth for London.

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business welcomed over 100 businesses from the events, hospitality and tourism sectors to L&P's virtual 'Let's Talk London: The Future of Tourism and Events' session. The session discussed sector trends and support available for businesses in these sectors during the pandemic, and was followed by a meeting of 61 companies at the autumn cohort of the Business Growth Programme (BGP) - L&P's largest ever cohort. Since 2017 more than 800 founders have completed the BGP programme and over 1000 have been supported.

Environment

London Building Stock Model

On 3 September, I launched the London Building Stock Model to help target where energy efficiency improvements are most needed in the capital. This spatial and interactive model, developed by University College London (UCL), provides information on all domestic and non-domestic buildings across London, including 1.5 million houses, 1.9 million flats and around 250,000 non-domestic premises. The tool will help boroughs, housing associations and others to target London's least energy efficient buildings for retrofit works, helping to tackle fuel poverty and drive down carbon emissions.

The model can be found on our website here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/energy-buildings/london-building-stock-model>

London Solar Opportunity Map

On 3 September, I launched the London Solar Opportunity Map as part of my Solar Action Plan and wider plans to make London a zero carbon city. The map demonstrates the potential for solar power on all roofs and areas of open land in London. It will help businesses, landowners and others to understand how much energy could potentially be generated from their property and therefore where there are opportunities to install solar panels.

The map can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/energy-buildings/london-solar-opportunity-map>

COP26 UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council

On 11 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the COP26 UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council on my behalf. At the meeting, my Deputy Mayor highlighted how cities are integral to delivering UK climate ambitions, the great work we are doing in London to tackle carbon emissions, and how London is working with other international cities in the C40 network to deliver on this agenda.

CBI conference series: Achieving net zero

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in a panel discussion for the CBI's "Achieving a net zero future" conference. My Deputy Mayor spoke about the challenge London is facing to retrofit its buildings to drive down carbon emissions, as well as how to ensure we have a just transition to a cleaner economy and a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mask-force – a discussion on littering and management of PPE

On 16 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, hosted a roundtable discussion on how we can tackle the emerging problems arising from the mismanagement of disposable PPE, and masks in particular. Attended by boroughs, environmental charities and other London stakeholders, participants discussed how the littering of masks can be discouraged, how to encourage proper disposal and how we can promote the adoption of reusable alternatives.

Catalysing Green Finance in London

On 18 September, I commissioned the Green Finance Institute to explore opportunities to maximise the flow of private capital into London's environmental priorities and set out how this could be delivered. This includes the capital investment required to decarbonise London's buildings and heat networks, for example, and will explore how to mobilise the £61 billion needed from private and public sources to make London zero carbon, as identified by my 1.5C Climate Action Plan. This exciting collaboration will also further assess the London Sustainable Development Commission's suggestion of the creation of a new body, a proposed 'London Future Finance Facility (LFFF)', to deliver investment on the scale needed to realise my ambitions, including net zero London by 2030.

Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) roundtable on Net Zero London

On 21 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, delivered the opening speech at the 'Net Zero London: Challenges and Opportunities' roundtable hosted by IPPR and the City of London. The roundtable also saw contributions from the Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Matthew Pennycook MP, and the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Corporation, Catherine McGuinness. Discussions focussed on how we can secure a green recovery from COVID-19, the role of London's businesses in tackling the climate emergency and how we can ensure a just transition for London. My Deputy Mayor shared the work underway on my Green New Deal, a core vehicle by which I intend to deliver a green recovery for London that involves businesses and Londoners, delivering ambitious climate action and tackling inequality.

C40 Divest/Invest Declaration

On 21 September, together with Mayor De Blasio of New York and C40 Cities, I launched the C40 Divest/Invest declaration 'Divesting from Fossil Fuels, Investing in a Sustainable Future', which sees 10 further global mayors join London and New York to commit to divestment action, learning from the steps we have taken in London. This commitment covers at least \$295 billion (c.£235 billion) of assets held by cities and their pension funds, representing a substantial move away from fossil fuels. Cities signing on to the new declaration commit to build momentum for fossil-free and sustainable investment by:

- taking all possible steps to divest city assets from fossil fuel companies and increasing financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy;
- calling on pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase green investments; and,
- advocating for fossil-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.

Signatories include Berlin, Bristol, Cape Town, Durban, London, Los Angeles, Milan, New Orleans, New York City, Oslo, Pittsburgh, and Vancouver.

Green Alliance Event on public attitudes towards and engagement with recycling

On 22 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, addressed an online event organised by the Green Alliance to consider people's attitudes towards

recycling. The event saw the launch of recycling and waste management company Viridor's fifth annual 'Recycling Index', a survey of attitudes to recycling from across the UK, this year produced by YouGov. My Deputy Mayor discussed the role of local government in reducing waste and increasing recycling, including funding and other barriers and opportunities to increasing and improving public participation and confidence in the system, which the Government should address in the forthcoming Environment Bill and Comprehensive Spending Review.

UK100 Resilient Recovery Roundtable

On 23 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the UK100 Resilient Recovery Roundtable on my behalf. The meeting focussed on identifying joint asks from UK local leaders for the UK Government to ensure a green recovery and ambitious climate action, and to enable local leaders to accelerate action as part of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. Discussions also focussed on agreeing joint asks that will be used to lobby the UK Government ahead of COP26. My Deputy Mayor shared the scale of ambition I would like to see in London on tackling the climate emergency and areas where we would like to see Government action, including greater powers and resources on retrofit and green finance, to inform the discussion and agreed asks.

Broadway Initiative event on the Environment Bill

On 23 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, spoke at an online event organised by the Broadway Initiative, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and the Aldersgate Group on developing targets in the Environment Bill. My Deputy Mayor highlighted the importance of place and local government in developing these targets and the importance of legally-binding national targets in improving London's air quality, in particular the WHO target for PM2.5 by 2030.

Nature for Life Hub

On 24 September, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, participated in the Nature for Life online conference organised by the United Nations Development Programme to discuss the importance of nature-based solutions in achieving sustainable development and improving public health. My Deputy Mayor spoke about London's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it had further highlighted existing environmental inequalities. The Deputy Mayor explained that the aim of my policies and programmes such as the Urban Greening Factor and Healthy Streets, and our work on London's recovery through the Green New Deal Mission, is to ensure that a greener city is part of everyone's everyday experience, to improve health and wellbeing and tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Education and Youth

Roundtable with headteachers and principals

I know that there are huge concerns over the immediate, medium and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people.

On 21 September, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, held a roundtable with 11 headteachers and principals of London schools, sixth form and Further Education (FE) colleges to hear their experience of the autumn term full return to school. They were joined by representatives from the National Association of Head Teachers, London Councils and Public Health England (PHE).

A strong message was that the lack of testing availability is causing real operational challenges for our schools and teachers and keeping too many children and staff away from the classroom. Earlier this month, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, stating that it is vital that some testing capacity is ringfenced specifically for nurseries, schools, colleges and young people aged 18 and under.

Other key issues raised included the mental health needs and support for pupils, teachers and school leaders; the provision required from Government of IT equipment and connectivity for the families lacking access; concerns over exams and assessments; and the impact of the suspension of the free under-18 travel scheme.

My team will continue work with the education sector, London Councils (through the Education Strategy Group of the London Transition Board), and the Government on taking forward these concerns, evidence and insights on their best practice.

It is vital that all is done within the wider needs of measures to control the pandemic to counter really troubling national research reports that lockdown has undone a decade's worth of progress to narrow the attainment gap.

Schools for Success 2020-21

In September, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, wrote to 150 London schools inviting them to join my Schools for Success programme for 2020-21.

Schools for Success recognises exceptional schools across London and provides an opportunity for others to learn from the brilliant progress they have made, especially with students who previously had not performed as well as their peers. This year's cohort of schools, plus those recognised by the programme in 2019-20, 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.

Meeting of the Young Londoners Fund Advisory Group

On 22 September, my Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare, Joanne McCartney, attended the Advisory Group for my Young Londoners Fund, which provides positive activities for vulnerable 10-21-year-olds. The meeting was attended by funders, youth groups, young people and other youth sector stakeholders, and was an opportunity to share the excellent progress made by the Fund so far - to date, over 50,000 young people have been supported. It was also

a chance to reflect on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the youth sector and hear directly from young people about how the pandemic has affected them. Feedback from the group will inform my officers' work on shaping a New Deal for Young People as part of London's recovery from COVID-19.

UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals

I was delighted to see that Siena Castellon, one of my Peer Outreach Workers, was selected on 18 September out of over 7,000 international candidates to be one of 17 UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Siena is excited about taking her disability-inclusion advocacy to a global level and using the UN platform to raise awareness of neurodiversity and the importance of recognising, supporting and harnessing the overlooked strengths and talents of people who think differently and perceive the world differently.

Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a flagship initiative of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, which recognises the efforts of young people who are driving action and galvanizing others in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Business support for London's early years sector

London's early years sector has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and many childcare providers will need help to navigate the weeks and months ahead. To support the sector through this challenging time, I'm pleased to say that the London Business Hub has partnered with Early Years Alliance to offer sector-specific business support to Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers in the capital.

Until December 2020, these providers can access a range of free resources - from factsheets, to live webinars and workshops run by Early Years Alliance. At any time, they can also book a one-to-one appointment with a London Business Hub Adviser. The three webinars run so far have been well attended, with great feedback from providers.

London's early years sector is essential to the capital's economic success. High-quality early education gives children the best learning and development platform for future educational achievement, enables parents to work, promotes social cohesion and fairness, and ensures the poorest children don't miss out.

Communities and Social Policy

London Resilience Forum Faith Sector Panel

On 14 September, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, co-chaired the London Resilience Forum Faith Sector Panel alongside Father Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London. Debbie presented to faith leaders the initial feedback from the public and community consultation on the London Recovery Board's missions. The meeting provided an opportunity for faith leaders to discuss and feedback on the missions. Father Luke Miller attended the London Recovery Board on Tuesday 15 September to represent the Panel members.

80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain

On Sunday, 20 September my Statutory Deputy Mayor, Joanne McCartney, attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication marking the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in Westminster Abbey.

Arab and Middle Eastern communities in London roundtable

On 22 September, my Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, held a round table meeting with key organisations from the Arab and Middle Eastern communities in London to hear more about the work they are doing to help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This round table is one of many that my Community Engagement team have held to discuss the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities.

Centre for Cities' podcast 'City Talks' feature

My Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Engagement, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard featured on the September episode of Centre for Cities' podcast 'City Talks', alongside Centre for Cities' Chief Executive, Andrew Carter. My Deputy Mayor discussed with Andrew the importance of involving Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in the work of the GLA and the response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

GLA report 'Experiences of food insecurity amongst older Londoners before and during COVID-19' launch

On 1 October, I marked the International Day of Older Persons by co-hosting an older people's food summit with Sustain. The summit launched the Greater London Authority (GLA) report 'Experiences of food insecurity amongst older Londoners before and during COVID-19'.

Health

Meeting with London Ambulance Service

On 24 September, I was pleased to meet with the Chair, Heather Lawrence OBE, and Chief Executive, Garrett Emmerson, of the London Ambulance Service. We discussed the Service's ongoing response to the pandemic, and I was able to thank them for all the continuing hard work and dedication shown by their staff. We also reflected on what organisations like the London Ambulance Service can do to support the Black Lives Matter movement, and the importance of supporting anti-racist action in the workplace. I welcome how seriously the Service is taking the issues and it is important that all public bodies in London work together to share learning and collaborate. We also discussed how the workforce can be supported in the face of incidents of shocking and unacceptable abuse and violence.

Meetings with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman

I have continued to meet regularly with the Regional Directors of Public Health England (PHE) and NHS London to discuss important aspects of the COVID-19 response and recovery in London. In these meetings I have been provided with the most recent public health data and intelligence on the pandemic in London and an assessment of current NHS capacity to support Londoners with COVID-19 and other health needs. Areas for discussion have included: the development of the London Outbreak Control Plan; issues with capacity for COVID-19 testing in London; communications to Londoners on COVID-19; and changes to NHS services in response to COVID-19. I will continue to meet regularly with Professor Kevin Fenton and Sir David Sloman in the coming weeks.

Applying my six tests to the North Central London Adult Elective Orthopaedic Services Review proposals

On 23 September, I wrote to North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group with my final consideration of their Adult Elective Orthopaedic Services Review proposals against my six tests.

These NHS proposals set out an opportunity to redesign and improve adult elective orthopaedic services in North Central London. The aim is for the new clinical model to lead to better and more efficient care, improved patient experience, and ultimately improved outcomes.

Overall, I am broadly content with the proposals, however my letter includes several key points that I have asked the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to consider as they continue to develop and implement their plans.

I have published my letters, and the supporting analysis online which can be found here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/champion-and-challenge/mayors-six-tests#acc-i-61654>

Team London, Sports and Volunteering

Sport Unites Insight Fortnight

Between 1 and 15 September, I hosted an Insight Fortnight aligned to the five social outcome areas in my Sport Unites programme: inactivity, mental health, social isolation/mixing, serious youth violence, and building the capacity of London's community sport workforce. A total of 66 community sport sector organisations from across the capital attended over the two weeks to share best practice, network and learn from each other. Information shared at the sessions will contribute to the future scoping and direction of the community sport investment across London.

COVID-19 volunteering insights

On 17 September, Team London held an online discussion with strategic partners, research organisations and civil society groups to discuss the findings from our research on the experience of mutual aid groups in London. They heard from partners who have been coordinating volunteering at a local level and organisations that have undertaken research into volunteering and mutual aid through the first months of lockdown. The content from these discussions, as well as insights from research, will continue to inform the development of our work and to support volunteering and mutual aid in collaboration with partners over the coming months.

London Enterprise Adviser Network

In September, I launched the expansion of the London Enterprise Adviser Network (LEAN). The LEAN will increase its reach to include all mainstream secondary schools, alternative provision institutions and further education colleges, growing the network from 450 schools and colleges to 583 schools and colleges by August 2021. I have also appointed Talentino to expand the LEAN into London's special schools for the first time. This will help London's schools and colleges connect with the world of work so that young Londoners have access to the information and skills they need to make informed decisions about their futures.

London Together grants awarded

In September, I awarded the final round of London Together grants in partnership with Comic Relief. Nine grants totalling £793,111 were awarded to projects that use sport as a tool to strengthen relationships between and within communities and/or reduce social isolation. Grants of between £25,000 and £150,000 were awarded to projects lasting up to 18 months.

London Together is a three-year, £3 million partnership that, to date, has invested in 18 projects that are using sport to achieve specific social integration outcomes.

Recovery Grants for Youth Social Action

This month, I launched a new grants programme for schools to help students run their own community projects in support of London's recovery. This will empower students to take leading roles on the issues that matter most to them by awarding up to £750 of grant funding for their community projects. These projects will focus on issues intensified during the pandemic, including mental health and wellbeing, food poverty and inequality, anti-racism and inclusion, isolation and social connections, and environment and sustainability.

Culture and Events

World Cities Culture Forum

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, chaired two global webinars with cities from the World Cities Culture Forum. On 10 September, Milan and London shared how their cities have adapted the public realm in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

On 23 September, Montreal's Noise and Night Time Commissioner discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on night time economy, along with examples from Vienna, Nanjing, Amsterdam and London. 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.

London Design Festival

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the London Design Medals Awards 2020 as part of the London Design Festival. London Design Festival moved many events to a physical-digital format this year, while continuing to support local design talent and small businesses through its annual Design Districts programme – which included 400 events across the capital. This year's medal winners were Paola Antonelli, Dame Ellen MacArthur, Ken Garland, and Yinka Ilori.

Creative Enterprise Zones

On 16 September, representatives of London's first Creative Enterprise Zones met for their fourth Knowledge Exchange Forum, at which ideas and best practice emerging from each zone are shared. Discussion focussed on how Zones have supported local COVID-19 recovery, and what more can be done to amplify their impact.

Hackney Wick Fish Island Zone has commenced delivery of four new projects funded by 'Wick Together' – a micro-commissioning project that is providing work for twenty creative freelancers who have lost contracts due to the crisis. Hackney Arts, Yomodo, True You Today and The People Speak were announced as Round 1 delivery partners, following a competitive process. Collectively, the projects will employ twenty creative freelancers and engage and upskill over sixty local community participants.

London Borough of Culture - Brent Biennial

On 17 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended the launch of the first ever Brent Biennial, part of Brent 2020, my current London Borough of Culture. This free public art project features twenty-three new artworks in public spaces, libraries and streets across the borough. All are free to view and can also be viewed online. It runs until 13 December and will be supported by a series of virtual talks and events.

London Fashion Week

On 18 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended London Fashion Week. Working in accordance with social distancing restrictions, this season's event included fifty digital presentations, twenty-one physical-digital show events, and seven live events. British Fashion Council launched its first Diversity and Inclusion Steering

Committee to tackle underrepresentation in the fashion sector. This follows the appointment of four new Non-Executive Directors by the British Fashion Council to address lack of diversity in the industry.

Culture at Risk – Business Rates and Creative Production Space

On 18 September, I visited the world-class Air Edel Recording Studios in Marylebone, as part of my call to Government to reform the outdated business rates system and to extend rates relief for another year. Opened in 1937, Air Edel is an icon of London’s musical history and part of the supply chain of an industry which is worth £5.2 billion to the economy. Like other businesses in the creative industries supply chain, it has fallen through the cracks of what the Government considers urgent financial need. Since 1 April, my Culture at Risk Office has supported over 630 cases, including Air Edel Recording Studios, to help secure their future.

EFG London Jazz Festival Digital Launch

On 24 September, I spoke at the digital programme launch of the EFG London Jazz Festival, which will take place from 13 to 22 November. I underlined the importance of supporting the arts and creative industries during a difficult year and how the sector is adapting to changing circumstances to deliver events safely. The team behind this world-renowned festival has worked hard to deliver a programme that is both digital and live and will showcase some of the best musical talent our city has to offer, including acclaimed clarinettist, saxophonist and composer Shabaka Hutchings, and Cassie Kinoshi's SEED Ensemble. Event partners include BBC Radio 3, Arts Council England and PRS Foundation.

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board Virtual Meeting

On 30 September, my Cultural Leadership Board, chaired by Ben Evans CBE, met virtually for the second time since the pandemic began. My Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, and Night Czar, Amy Lamé, updated the Board on the work by the Culture and Creative Industries Unit since July. The Board discussed London’s value to recovery of the industry nationwide, best practice from other global cities and the impact of the pandemic on London’s night time economy. The insights captured will be used to further develop policy and interventions that support Culture and the Creative industries, which are set to lose one in six jobs as direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

International

Meeting with the Mayor of Los Angeles

On 14 September, I spoke with the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, about our joint role in tackling the climate emergency, promoting greener cities through the C40 and to mobilise cities ahead of COP26.

International Recovery Summit

On 15 September, I co-chaired the international Recovery Summit, a virtual world-wide conference bringing together a dynamic group of progressive leaders and stakeholders to build a bold, progressive policy agenda that addresses the economic and social impact of the COVID-

19 pandemic. I also led a discussion on 'Building Inclusive Societies', focussing on race, gender and economic inequalities. I was joined on the panel by the Mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, and the LSE Director, Dame Minouche Shafik.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Global Disability Innovation Hub

The Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) – based at Here East on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – celebrated its fourth birthday on 3 September, with the launch of #DisabilityInnovationDay. Over the last four years, the GDI Hub has led pioneering work on assistive technology through its AT2030 programme, and enabled a unique MSc course in Disability, Design and Innovation delivered by leading global experts across UCL, Loughborough University London and London College of Fashion.

London Data Commission Report

On 7 September, the London Data Commission launched its first major report – Data for London – as part of London Tech Week. The report features Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as one of four pilot Digital Neighbourhood projects, using the power of data to understand the impact of new mobility services – including autonomous vehicles – and how they can benefit local neighbourhoods.

New Chief Commercial Officer

The London Legacy Development Corporation announced the appointment of new Chief Commercial Officer Nathan Homer on 10 September, tasked with helping to realise the full commercial potential of the Park and venues – including London Stadium.

Biodiversity Action Plan

The LLDC published its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) on 12 September. Published every five years, the BAP builds on conservation work on the Park, highlights the rare plants and animals which can be found on the Park, and sets the direction for long-term habitat management and biodiversity.

Monier Road Bridge

The new Monier Road Bridge was installed on 12 September, linking the Park to Fish Island and fulfilling another commitment to improve connections between existing communities with new and emerging neighbourhoods on the Park, such as East Wick and Sweetwater. Lifted in to place via one of the biggest cranes in Europe, the bridge is expected to open in early 2021 for pedestrians and cyclists, with buses to follow later, subject to TfL route confirmation.

The Hothouse at International Quarter London

The Hothouse installation opened at International Quarter London on 12 September, as one of the Landmark Projects for London Design Festival 2020. The glasshouse provides a controlled habitat for cultivating plants that would not ordinarily grow in the UK and seeks to educate and

inspire by highlighting the reality of climate change, while also paying tribute to Stratford's rich greenhouse tradition.

Hackney Bridge tenants

Cultural and work space Hackney Bridge has welcomed its first founding Members, which includes Onyx (an inclusive hair and nail salon founded by born and bred Hackney residents Celica and Leonie), RioKan (a family-run clothing brand established in Hackney Wick) and Made From Scratch (Hackney-based designers of unique playable landscapes for children and adults alike). A mural has been created on the north face of Hackney Bridge, overlooking the pedestrian bridge. Designed and painted by local Hackney Wick artist Busk, this artwork is part of the wider 2020 London Mural Festival.

V&A and Smithsonian Institution

On 18 September it was announced that the curatorial partnership between the V&A and Smithsonian Institution at V&A East – as part of East Bank – would not be continued, due to evolving strategic priorities and in the context of the effects of COVID-19.

Both organisations have decided to re-focus their work together to expand on a successful and ambitious leadership initiative for young people in both east London and Washington D.C. which seeks to improve access to careers in the creative industries.

Smart Mobility Lab: London (SMLL) Launch

Following a two-year build, Smart Mobility Living Lab: London (SMLL) officially launched on 30 September. SMLL sees the creation of two scalable testing environments based around roads in the Park and in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, representing what will be the UK's most advanced testing environment for connected autonomous mobility.

Pudding Mill Consultation

Consultation on the Pudding Mill neighbourhood opened on 22 September, inviting views on the new masterplan for the development, which will deliver approximately 1,500 new homes, public open space and workspace for around 2,000 people across the Pudding Mill Lane and Bridgewater sites. The online consultation will run until 20 October.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation

Old Oak Common Station

Construction of HS2's Old Oak Station formally got underway on 4 September. With 1,400 new jobs to support the building of the station, there will be an immediate boost for the local area. This also marks an important milestone for my plans to regenerate Old Oak and Park Royal, with 25,000 new homes and tens of thousands of new jobs. I am making the case to Government, including through my Comprehensive Spending Review submission, that we work closely together to realise the potential of public sector land within the OPDC area to support the delivery of new, affordable homes for Londoners – supported by the Single Housing Infrastructure Funding. Meanwhile, OPDC is working closely with HS2 to listen to and support local people during the construction phase.

OPDC Planning

Following completion of the Section 106 legal agreement, outline planning permission was granted on 7 September for up to 60,000 sqm of industrial floorspace and a café on the site of a former metal refinery at Bashley Road, Park Royal. It will create up to 1,276 jobs.

On 10 September, public consultation began on an updated Statement of Community Involvement, setting out how safe and effective community involvement in the planning process will be conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of a series of canal improvement projects, delivered through £1.2 million Good Growth Funding, on 21 September OPDC submitted a planning application to improve towpath access and increase public green space at Old Oak, delivered with Ealing Council and Canal & River Trust, following public consultation held over the summer.

Recruitment started on 22 September for five new members of OPDC's Community Review Group. The group is the first of its kind in the UK, and will help ensure new developments serve the needs of the community, feeding into decisions made by the Planning Committee and Board. OPDC is looking for people who live, work or study in the area to apply.

Planning

Planning and Development Control 4th September 2020 to 1 October 2020

Planning Decisions (call ins)

I resolved to approve plans for the redevelopment of the Homebase site at Manor Road, Richmond on 1 October. The development will make an important contribution to housing and affordable housing supply with 453 new homes in the borough. Richmond Council refused permission for the scheme in July 2019. I considered the application and decided to take it over to subject it to further scrutiny. I considered that the development would have a significant impact on the implementation of the London Plan policies on housing and affordable housing and granted permission as the local planning authority.

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

Tolworth Tower, LB Kingston Upon Thames

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

Selhurst Park Stadium, LB of Croydon

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

Southgate Office Village, LB Enfield

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

300 Harrow Road, City of Westminster

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

Islay Wharf, LB Tower Hamlets

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

The Highway Trading Centre and Highway Business Park, LB Tower Hamlets

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

Central Park, LB Barking and Dagenham

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

Land at College Road, Croydon, LB Croydon

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

Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, LB Newham

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

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

- 241 Green Street, LB Enfield.
- Development Site Bound By Brook Street, Davies Street And South Molton Lane (excluding 58 Davies Street) And 10, 15-25, 27 And 42 South Molton Street, City of Westminster.
- Edith Summerskill House, Clem Attlee Court, Lillie Road, LB Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Greenwich University, Mansion Site, RB Greenwich.
- 3 Turnberry Quay Site, LB Tower Hamlets.
- Land Adjoining 139 North Cray Road Sidcup, LB Bexley.
- Land at Nine Elms bounded by Nine Elms Lane to the north, LB Wandsworth.
- Gurnell Leisure Centre, LB Ealing.
- GSK, Stockley Park, LB Hillingdon.
- Stockley Country Park and Recreation Ground, LB Hillingdon.
- Ebury Bridge Estate, City of Westminster.
- Urban Living - 70 Hanger Lane, LB Ealing.

Key Engagements

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

- I visited The All England Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon on 4 September and joined a small group of London key workers to thank them for their hard work and dedication to keeping us all safe during the pandemic
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 7 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 7 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London and Crossrail on 8 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with Transport for London on 8 September
- I hosted a conference call with Rokhsana Fiaz, the Mayor of Newham, on 8 September to discuss the trial of the NHS Test and Trace app in Newham
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board meeting on 9 September
- I joined a conference call with the Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP on 9 September to discuss the *Alliance for Full Employment*
- I hosted my regular conference call with Sir Stephen House QPM, the Deputy Police Commissioner, on 9 September
- I attended the Assembly Transport Plenary on 10 September to answer questions about Transport for London Finances
- I had my regular meeting with Ken Marsh, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation, on 10 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with the Fire Brigade Unions on 10 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner, on 10 September
- I attended the London COVID-19 Summit hosted by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on 11 September to review the current COVID-19 situation in London
- I hosted a conference call with Siobhain McDonagh MP on 14 September to discuss the proposals for the future of Epsom and St Helier Hospital
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 14 September
- I joined a conference call with Mayor Eric Garcetti, the Mayor of Los Angeles and C40 Chair, on 14 September to discuss our joint role in tackling the climate emergency
- I chaired the London Recovery Board Meeting on 15 September
- I joined a virtual discussion on 'Building Inclusive Societies' on 15 September as part of The Recovery Summit
- I chaired the LEAP Board meeting on 16 September
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 17 September
- I hosted a conference call with Professor Kevin Fenton, my Statutory Health Advisor and the London Regional Director for Public Health, on 17 September to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a conference call with Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu QPM on 17 September to discuss policing and security
- I hosted my regular weekly conference call with Transport for London on 17 September
- I attended my monthly Speak to Sadiq radio phone-in with LBC on 18 September

- I visit the Air-Edel Studios on 18 September, a world-class recording studio which has been unable to access Government support and is in serious financial difficulties due to the pandemic
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 18 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined the Goals House panel on tackling racial injustice on 20 September
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 21 September
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 22 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted a roundtable with headteachers and principals of primary and secondary schools and 6th form and FE colleges on 21 September to hear their experience of the autumn term return to school
- I joined a conference call with the Prime Minister on 22 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 22 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I met with the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, on 23 September to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on transport in London
- I joined Lord Waldegrave, Chairman of Coutts Bank, on 23 September in an “In Conversation” session hosted by Coutts Bank
- I chaired the London Transition Board meeting on 23 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 24 September to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London
- I hosted my regular conference call with the London Ambulance Service on 24 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, on 24 September
- I joined Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary, at New Scotland Yard on 25 September to observe a minute’s silence in memory of Sergeant Matiu Ratana
- I joined Dame Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary, at The National Police Memorial on 27 September, National Police Memorial Day, to observe a minute's silence and lay a wreath to remember those Police Officers who had lost their lives while on duty
- I visited the FairOak Pharmacy in Tooting on 28 September to have my regular flu jab
- I chaired my regular planning decisions meeting on 28 September
- I joined a conference call with Anneliese Dodds MP, the Shadow Chancellor, on 28 September to discuss the economic impact of COVID-19 on the capital
- I hosted a conference call with Pete Kavanagh, Regional Secretary Unite, on 28 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London and the need to protect bus workers
- I visited the Manor Road Homebase development site in Richmond on 29 September
- I joined a conference call of the London Leaders COVID-19 Committee on 29 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I chaired the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board meeting on 30 September
- I hosted my regular conference call with NHS London & Public Health England on 30 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London
- I joined a conference call of the Metro Mayors (M9) on 30 September to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19
- I chaired the Manor Road Homebase Representation Hearing on 1 October

- I joined a conference call with London Council Group Leaders on 1 October to discuss the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on London

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