

20th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 23 March 2023

This is my twentieth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 10 February – 9 March 2023

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

Executive Summary

Free School Meals

On 20 February, I announced an historic £130m emergency, one-off funding plan to help families with the spiralling cost of living by ensuring that every primary schoolchild in London will receive free school meals in the next academic year (2023/24).

In London, more than 2.3 million Londoners live below the poverty line and 33 per cent of adults have skipped meals to save money so that their children can eat. I have repeatedly called for the Government to provide free school meals to help already stretched families.

With the spiralling cost of living, I could not hold off in acting to protect those most vulnerable families in London. This emergency funding will support children and families across the capital in dealing with the extreme financial pressure they are currently facing. I hope that the example set in London next academic year will prove to national government the benefit of this scheme beyond any doubt. I firmly believe that a civilised society ensures its children are nourished, not neglected.

I will continue to call on the Government to take action to provide universal free school meals for all primary schoolchildren in the long term and we will continue our engagement with partners, boroughs and the Government to fight against food insecurity.

1st Anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine

On 23 February, in the run up to the 1st anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, I welcomed a delegation from Kyiv to City Hall. Led by Deputy Mayor Volodymyr Bondarenko and Deputy Mayor Vladyslav Andronov, the delegation also met with Deputy Mayor for Transport Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience Fiona Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Chief of Staff Richard Watts and my Mayoral Director for Political and Public Affairs Felicity Appleby. I reiterated my steadfast commitment and solidarity to Kyiv and Ukraine and confirmed that my team will continue to work closely with Mayor Klitschko's team to offer London's full support to Kyiv at this difficult time.

On 24 February, I attended an interfaith service at the Ukrainian Catholic Church to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and reaffirm that London will always stand united with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy.

New Refugee Housing Programme

On 24 February, I announced funding for up to 600 new homes in London for Ukrainians and Afghans who have fled conflict and are homeless, at risk of homelessness or living in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

The announcement came as the capital joined others around the world in marking the first anniversary of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine, with City Hall, Trafalgar Square, the London Eye and other London landmarks lit up to join an international moment of solidarity with Ukrainians in London and abroad.

London has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those fleeing conflict, with 16,000 Ukrainian refugees currently living in London under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and hundreds of Afghans accommodated in Home Office bridging accommodation sites in the capital.

However, many of the bridging accommodation sites are due to close in the coming months and the initial six-month accommodation commitment by hosts through the Homes for Ukraine scheme will, in the vast majority of cases, be ending soon or have already ended. This will put further pressure on already stretched council accommodation programmes.

To ease this pressure, I have allocated £126m from the Government's £500m Local Authority Housing Fund to enable boroughs and housing associations to deliver up to 600 affordable homes for Ukrainians and Afghans fleeing conflict. In London the programme will be known as the Refugee Housing Programme (RHP) and will run until 31 March 2024.

Action on poor housing standards in the capital

On 3 March, I announced that I had frozen funding to three social housing providers in London in a crackdown on poor performing landlords in the capital.

Following a review by my Housing and Land team, Christian Action Enfield, Industrial Dwellings Society and Swan will receive no funding for additional Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) projects and City Hall has restricted their formal 'Investment Partner' (IP) status until further notice.

I have led the way on taking tough action to raise standards in social housing to ensure that all Londoners have good quality homes and an acceptable level of service provided by their landlord. In September, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley, wrote to investment partners to set out the actions City Hall will take if the Regulator of Social Housing issues either a non-compliant grade or a Regulatory Notice against a housing provider. Both notices indicate that a provider has breached a consumer or economic regulatory standard.

This action was subsequently echoed nationally, with the Levelling Up Secretary, Michael Gove, introducing similar measures in the rest of the country following the tragic death of toddler, Awaab Ishak. Awaab died in December 2020 from a respiratory condition caused by mould at his home in Rochdale.

The second anniversary of the murder of Sarah Everard

My thoughts were with the family, loved ones and all those affected by the death of Sarah Everard on the 3 March, as we marked the second anniversary of her brutal murder at the hands of a serving police officer. Sarah was a brilliant and talented woman who had her whole life ahead of her. Her murder shocked the nation and brought into sharp focus a culture in the police which had fallen far below the high standards expected by decent police officers and the public.

I have made clear that I'm determined to ensure that something like this is never allowed to happen again and am supporting the new Commissioner in his commitment to identify and rid the Met of those individuals within the force who are not fit to serve the people of our city. I am also holding the Commissioner to account to bring about the urgent step-change in culture, systems, standards and performance that's so desperately needed to rebuild public confidence and trust in the police and help to build a safer London for everyone.

International Women's Day 2023 at City Hall

On 6 March, I hosted my first ever Women's Policy Summit at City to celebrate International Women's Day 2023, where I called on all public organisations to ensure the physical health and safety of their women employees are made key priorities and considered alongside more high-profile concerns such as access to flexible working and underrepresentation at senior levels. Ahead of International Women's Day, I called on the Government to begin a 'wholesale' review of workplace policies, across Government bodies, to ensure they are inclusive of and supportive to women at every stage of their careers.

Tackling violence against women and girls

Recent incidents across the UK have highlighted the growing epidemic of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and the need for more to be done now to help those most at risk.

On 9 February, I announced a new £4million investment that will help women and girls of all backgrounds to access the help and support they need. This is made up of a new £1million cost of living fund to immediately support vital VAWG services, in response to organisations tackling VAWG in London and across the country reporting that the cost of living crisis is disproportionately impacting women and girls, preventing them from being able to safely leave abusive relationships and situations. Plus, a further £3million to continue support for local grassroots and community organisations in the capital over the next two years. This funding will help minority Black organisations, those with disabilities, neuro-diverse, LGBT+, older people and women who have no direct access to public funds or for whom mainstream provision is not always appropriate or safely accessible.

On the same day, I joined the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, and other City Hall staff in taking part in the L'Oréal Paris Stand Up Against Street Harassment bystander training course to help tackle street harassment, delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

The 60-minute free training is available both in-person or virtually, and is open for everybody including all businesses. I encourage everyone, particularly men, to take up the training and learn how you can be an active bystander and safely intervene if you see a woman being harassed in a public place.

Research by L'Oréal Paris and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust reveals 80 per cent of women in the UK have reported experiencing harassment in public spaces and nine out of 10 people surveyed in the UK have experienced some form of unwanted behaviour – such as staring, intimidatingly sitting or standing right by someone, and verbal abuse – on public transport in the past five years.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, with my Women's Night Safety Charter which is funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), is also delivering bystander training to businesses across the capital throughout February and March to help ensure that London is a city where all women feel confident and safe at night.

Inner London ULEZ Expansion 1 Year Report published

On 10 February, I published a report outlining the impacts of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) one year after its expansion to inner London. The report reveals the transformational impact of the expanded ULEZ showing significant positive impacts, including a 46 per cent reduction in NO₂ in central London and a 21 per cent reduction in inner London compared to what would have been expected without the ULEZ and its expansion. Each day, 74,000 fewer polluting vehicles are seen driving in the zone, a cut of 60 per cent since expansion in October 2021. Thanks to the ULEZ expansion to inner London, over four million people now breathe cleaner air, including children in 1,362 schools.

The evidence from this landmark report is clear – the ULEZ works. This is beyond dispute. It has already reduced toxic air pollution by almost half in central London and by over a fifth in inner London, transforming the quality of air for four million Londoners. But there's still more to do. Toxic air is a matter of life and death, with around 4,000 deaths in London attributed to air pollution in 2019. It's also stunting the growth of children's lungs and causing people to develop life-changing illnesses, such as cancer, lung disease, dementia and asthma. With the majority of deaths attributable to air pollution in outer London, it's vital that we expand the ULEZ London-wide. The report is available here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/environment-and-climate-change-publications/inner-london-ultra-low-emission-zone-expansion-one-year-report>.

Breathe for Ella – Reception at London's South Bank

On 15 February, I joined doctors, scientists, artists, community groups and air pollution campaigners alongside the family of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah at London's South Bank. We commemorated the 10-year anniversary of Ella's death from a fatal asthma attack, the first person in the world to have air pollution listed as a cause on her death certificate and spoke to the progress made and still to be achieved in tackling toxic air. The event was marked by speeches, performances, and the launch of a night-time projection of Dryden Goodwin's Breathe artwork - depicting Ella's mother 'fighting for breath'. It was expected to have a passing audience of over 20,000 Londoners over the three evenings it was on display. You can find out more here: <https://invisible dust.com/projects/breathe-for-ella/>.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake

In February we saw the devastating earthquakes that hit Turkey, claiming thousands of lives across Turkey and Syria and causing widespread destruction across the region. Many Londoners from Turkish, Kurdish and Syrian communities were impacted, with some losing loved ones in the countries affected.

On 14 February, I met with London's Turkish and Kurdish communities at The Turkish Cypriot Community Association and Alevi Cultural Centre to hear about how they're helping with the disaster relief following the devastating earthquakes. I was honoured to join His Majesty King Charles in Trafalgar Square to sign the book of condolences for the Syrians who lost their lives in the catastrophic earthquakes. My thoughts are with all those impacted and I want to thank Londoners for the widespread community action which is taking place across our city to support those impacted by this tragedy.

London Hope Hack

On 16 February, I attended the London Hope Hack, organised by my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and its Young People's Action Group. The VRU staged the biggest ever hack event, with nearly 300 young people invited to the London Stadium in Stratford. Young people came together and were given a platform to discuss and tackle key societal issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, education, mental health and racism.

They outlined the changes young Londoners would like to see to make our city a safer and fairer place to live and grow up in. All participants were between 14 and 25 and access programmes funded by the VRU to tackle violence and deliver positive opportunities. I asked them to put forward their ideas and solutions to some of London's biggest challenges in a special 'Voice of Young Londoners' report that I will use to help inform my response to the big challenges facing the capital.

I also announced that the VRU is welcoming applications for its next cohort of young people to join its agenda-setting Young People's Action Group.

People's Question Time – Ealing

On 2 March, I was joined by members of the London Assembly for my 14th People's Question Time (PQT), at Ealing Town Hall, in the London borough of Ealing. The event was chaired by Dr Onkar Sahota, Chair of the London Assembly and Assembly Member for Ealing and Hillingdon. This was the 46th People's Question Time delivered by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

This important public consultation event is now delivered as hybrid, enabling much wider participation through both in-person and online attendance. This PQT saw over 800 attendees - 300 people in-person at Ealing Town Hall and over 500 joining us online.

I answered questions alongside members of the London Assembly on topics affecting Londoners, including; housing, transport, policing and safety, London's economic recovery, air quality and the environment.

Policing, Crime and Security

The sentencing of Sarah Everard's murderer, Wayne Couzens, for indecent exposure crimes in the months before she was killed

On 6 March, Sarah Everard's murderer, Wayne Couzens, was sentenced to 19 months in prison for three indecent exposure crimes carried out while he was a serving Metropolitan Police officer in the months before he kidnapped, raped and murdered Sarah.

Following the sentencing, I gave the statement below:

"The awful truth appears to be that this man was following a path of escalating sexual violence. He could and should have been stopped before his fatal attack on Sarah Everard.

"This case underlines the vital need to treat every case of violence against women and girls in a timely and professional manner and I'm determined to support and hold the police to account to ensure that nothing like this is ever allowed to happen again.

"There is clearly an issue with the way in which indecent exposure is currently dealt with throughout the criminal justice system - from policing, to courts, to sentencing. This needs to be urgently reviewed to better safeguard the public - particularly women and girls - from perpetrators who we know can go on to commit further offences.

"I am determined to do everything I can to support the new Commissioner to raise standards, improve the care victims receive, and identify and rid the Met of those individuals who are not fit to serve the people of our city, in order to build a safer London for everyone."

A further £8.5m to tackle violence across the capital and raise standards in the Met

On 15 February, I announced proposals to invest a further £8.5million as part of my commitment to tackle violence in the capital and help raise standards in the Met Police. The new funding will help tackle drug supply lines, expand the work of my Violence Reduction Unit and provide further training to leaders and line managers in the Met in an approach to tackling violence that is rooted in prevention and early intervention. I announced the new funding plan as I published my final draft budget for the GLA Group for 2023-24, which takes into account that council tax and business rate returns from local authorities are higher than were forecast in my draft Budget proposals in January.

The funding includes:

- £2.25m to further support work to tackle drug-related crime and harms, divert more drug users into treatment and rehabilitation, and safeguard young Londoners vulnerable to exploitation by drugs gangs.
- £1.5m for London's Violence Reduction Unit to further support young people, grassroots organisations and communities to create innovative initiatives and ideas to tackle violence in their neighbourhoods.
- £1.5m for London's Violence Reduction Unit to extend the IRIS programme offer in seven boroughs. The programme offers training for doctors and healthcare professionals to boost their abilities in identifying the signs of domestic violence and offering earlier help to victims.
- £3.3m to further support the new Commissioner's drive for higher standards in the Met. I am now proposing to invest a total of £15m in measures to raise standards and reform

the culture of the Met, including a new Leadership Academy which will provide enhanced training for Met leaders and line managers, strengthening their capability to ensure the high standards expected by policing and the public are achieved.

This new funding is in addition to the £14.4million funding package for policing I announced as part of my draft budget last month.

Transport

New data shows significant improvements in road safety in London since introduction of 20mph speed limits

New data released by Transport for London (TfL) has revealed a significant reduction in the number of collisions since the implementation of 20mph speed limits on key roads in London. Lowering speed limits is a key part of my Vision Zero goal to eliminate death and serious injury from the capital's roads by 2041 and to enable more walking and cycling in the capital.

In March 2020, TfL introduced a 20mph speed limit on all of its roads within the central London Congestion Charging zone as part of its Vision Zero commitment. Currently over half of London's roads have a 20mph speed limit, of which almost 110km is on TfL's network. TfL is now working to lower speeds on 220km of its roads by 2024 in inner and outer London and plans to introduce a new 20mph speed limit on over 28km of roads in Camden, Islington, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Haringey in March.

I'm delighted to see that the introduction of 20mph speed limits is having such a positive impact on the number of collisions on London's roads; this forms an important part of the Vision Zero plan. I look forward to the continued expansion of this programme on TfL roads to see more streets made safer for Londoners.

Sadly, more than 4,000 people are killed and seriously injured on London's roads every year. Lowering speeds is one of the most important things we can do to reduce road danger and make it easier and safer for people to walk, cycle and use public transport, creating a safer, greener London for everyone.

Congestion Charge marks 20 years of keeping London moving sustainably

17 February marked 20 years of the Congestion Charge enabling economic and sustainable growth in the capital. My Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, welcomed the "quiet revolution" brought about by the Congestion Charge, which reduced traffic driving into the zone, lessened economically damaging congestion and helped more people travel sustainably.

On its introduction, the charge saw traffic entering the zone dropping by 18 per cent during weekday charging hours, reduced congestion by 30 per cent and boosted bus travel in central London by 33 per cent

In addition to these immediate impacts, the Congestion Charge has helped reduce the trend of worsening congestion that other cities have seen. Analysis shows there would have been three million additional journeys by car across London in 2019 without the changes TfL has introduced to encourage more sustainable travel patterns over the last couple of decades, of which the Congestion Charge was a critical first step.

Its introduction in 2003 has transformed the ways that Londoners get around the capital. 20 years later and I'm proud that London is still proving itself to be the trailblazer. The world-leading Ultra Low Emission Zone will be expanded London-wide in August, bringing cleaner air to five million more people and helping to build a better, greener, fairer London for everyone.

TfL sets out plans to further improve lorry safety in London

TfL is asking people to have their say on proposals to improve lorry safety in London, by making changes to London's pioneering Direct Vision Standard (DVS) and HGV safety permit scheme. The proposed changes are designed to improve the safety standards of HGVs operating in the capital, further reducing the risks to vulnerable road users such as people walking and cycling.

TfL's HGV safety permit scheme, first introduced in 2019, requires all operators of HGVs weighing more than 12 tonnes to apply for a free permit to operate in London. Data shows that fatal collisions involving HGVs and vulnerable road users where vision was a contributory factor have halved since 2018, down from 12 to six, falling from eight in 2020 to six in 2021, the first year of DVS enforcement. The overall number of serious collisions involving HGVs has also reduced over the same period from 39 to 17.

TfL is now asking people to have their say on recommendations to enhance the current Safe System, taking into account new and emerging technology or safety equipment that was not previously available. Moving to a new Progressive Safe System is vital to my continued efforts to meet the Vision Zero goal of eliminating all deaths and serious injuries from London's transport network by 2041. TfL estimates that these new safety requirements will be applied to around 165,000 vehicles, which is 90 per cent of the existing fleet operating in London.

TfL confirms revised completion date for major project to transform Old Street

TfL has confirmed a revised completion date for the transformation of Old Street, a major project that is modernising the station entrances and overhauling the outdated 1960s roundabout to create a much safer, more welcoming environment for everyone.

Earlier this month, my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, visited the project site with TfL and colleagues from the London Borough of Islington. The work has seen the northwest arm of the roundabout closed permanently to all traffic and will create a major new public space for everyone who lives in, works in and visits the area, with better walking and cycling access to Old Street station.

Once complete, the former Old Street roundabout will have permanent, fully segregated cycle lanes and cycle-only traffic signals around the re-designed junction, alongside new pedestrian crossings to make it much easier to navigate the area on foot. Work on the new cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings is expected to be complete this summer.

TfL is also carrying out upgrade work to Old Street station, which will see the creation of two new passenger entrances and new lifts to an upgraded retail concourse. The transformation is an extremely complex project in a busy location on the Inner Ring Road, above an Underground and Network Rail station.

New accessible ticket hall at Bank Underground station opens, as its major £700m upgrade completes

On 27 February with my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, I visited the new ticket hall at Bank Underground station to mark the completion of its major £700m upgrade. The new entrance on Cannon Street gives customers easy access – via six new escalators – to the

Northern line and DLR. It also includes two new lifts which provide step-free access to the Northern line for the first time, and improved access to the DLR.

Bank station now has 40 per cent greater capacity with the opening of the new ticket hall on Cannon Street being the final milestone in this hugely complex construction project which started in 2016.

At the peak of construction, around 550 people worked on the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade project each day, and 38 apprenticeships were completed during the lifetime of the project. More than 1,000 metres of new tunnels were dug, including the new southbound Northern line running tunnel and the pedestrian tunnel which houses the two new moving walkways between the Northern and Central lines. The work was often intricate, with great care being taken to avoid disrupting any of the 31 listed buildings which surround the site.

These extensive works have transformed Bank station into a world-class station, fit to serve a financial district of international renown. Londoners can now benefit from a station with 40 per cent increased capacity, a brand-new entrance on Cannon Street and two new lifts which will deliver step-free access to the Northern Line for the first time.

New real-time information signs and technology to make it easier to catch the bus in London

Starting on 1 March, TfL began installing a wave of new bus Countdown boards across the capital. More than 300 additional signs will be in place by the end of the year, boosting the overall number of boards by 12 per cent. The signs are a simple and reliable way of helping Londoners get from A to B by bus. Knowing exactly when the next bus is coming helps to make public transport an easier and more attractive option, particularly in outer London where there can be fewer alternatives.

The new information points will be installed in outer London boroughs such as Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Hillingdon and Barking & Dagenham as part of my wider package, including a million extra bus kilometres, to improve services in outer London. These increased and improved bus services will help people switch from using their cars ahead of the ULEZ expansion in August this year.

TfL is also trialling a number of new innovative screens on the route 63 between King's Cross and Honor Oak. This reflects the growing demand for a wider range of real-time information that can give customers greater control over their journeys. New digital colour displays within bus shelters will give customers the same live bus arrival information that is offered on Countdown signs, alongside a variety of other live mapping and travel information including any disruptions and diversions.

Morgan Sindall Infrastructure appointed to deliver Beckton Depot improvements as part of new DLR train programme

Plans to enlarge the DLR's Beckton Depot to provide a new maintenance building and expanded stabling capability have been given the green light to proceed. TfL has confirmed that Morgan Sindall Infrastructure will be the main delivery partner for these major works.

The expansion of the depot and the additional sidings forms part of the larger DLR train programme that will see 54 new, five-car DLR trains start to enter service from 2024. These new, state-of-the-art trains, which I saw first-hand on a visit with the TfL Commissioner earlier

this month, feature walk-through design, latest audio and visual real-time travel information, air conditioning and mobile device charging points. Thirty-three of the new trains will replace some of oldest rolling stock, which are more than 30 years old and coming to the end of their design life, while 21 additional trains will boost capacity across the DLR network.

These major works will deliver a new maintenance building, including a new train-lifting road, craneage, under train access and pits to enable the final assembly of the new B23 trains and longer-term maintenance facilities as more of the new fleet is introduced. A new test track facility will also be constructed to allow testing of the new Thales signalling system that will be introduced for both the new B23 trains and the existing B2007 fleet that is being retained.

Soak up spring at Kew Gardens with new exclusive Transport for London offer

Ahead of springtime in the capital, a new ticket offer with TfL is giving visitors to Kew Gardens access to discounted tickets when travelling to the UNESCO World Heritage site using TfL services.

TfL customers can now get 30 per cent off standard adult and concession tickets during peak season at Kew Gardens. Visitors can save up to £7.20 on the standard adult ticket price or additional savings of £6.45 on concession tickets, giving more value for money when using public transport to travel.

The offer is valid seven days a week, from 3 March to 30 June, excluding the Easter weekend, and can be claimed in person at the entrance to Kew Gardens, or online using the code 'KEWTFL30' at checkout. All visitors need to do is show proof of travel via the TfL Oyster and contactless app.

London Underground and Kew's iconic Temperate House are also marking their joint 160th anniversary with a commemorative artwork featuring the majestic Grade I-listed structure, which will be unveiled on the TfL network later this year. The Temperate House is the world's largest surviving Victorian glasshouse and is home to 1,500 species of rare and threatened plants from around the world.

Environment

Meeting with Western Riverside Waste Authority and constituent boroughs on food waste collection

On 14 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Councillors from Wandsworth, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham and staff members from Western Riverside Waste Authority. They discussed steps to improve the implementation of separate food waste collections across the boroughs in line with the London Environment Strategy.

Barclays Aspire

On 15 February, my Deputy Mayor discussed London's Net Zero target with Barclays senior staff and their role in achieving this. They discussed personal motivations for tackling climate change and the role of business in delivering this.

Trees for Cities

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the new CEO of Trees for Cities, Kate Sheldon, to discuss our current programmes, future areas of focus for London and opportunities for collaboration. Kate takes on the role from David Elliott who is leaving the charity after seven years.

Call with Fuel Poverty campaigners

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with Fuel Poverty Campaigning organisations (National Energy Action, Scope, Age UK and Fair By Design) to discuss the work in London on this issue including my Fuel Poverty Partnership and Cost of Living Hub and how to collectively support fuel poor Londoners through promoting social tariffs, including my proposal for a Lifeline tariff.

Unlocking net zero

On the 28 February, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended a high-level Parliamentary roundtable that kicked off the Net Zero APPG's 2023 Unlocking Net Zero programme. It was looking at how to unlock and scale-up green growth in our cities through green financing and my Deputy Mayor highlighted the work we have done and are doing to support the acceleration of green growth in London through my Green Finance Programme.

Sustainable Homes & Buildings Coalition Breakfast at the Brunswick Group

On 1 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the Sustainable Homes & Buildings Coalition Breakfast. This is a business-led cross-sector coalition including Natwest, British Gas, Citizen's Advice, Shelter, National Energy Action, E3G and others. The Deputy Mayor laid out my priorities for retrofitting homes in London.

Biodiversity Net Gain Conference

On 2 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a keynote speech at a Biodiversity Net Gain Conference organised by Natural England, the Local Government Association, and the Berkeley Group. The requirement of the Environment Act 2021 for planning permissions in England to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain will come into force in November 2023. The Deputy Mayor's speech focussed on how my London Plan has pioneered this policy, the need for biodiversity net gain to complement other tools, including those geared more towards an urban setting, and the need for Local Planning Authorities to be better resourced for this duty.

Meeting with Gareth Powell the new Managing Director for Stansted Airport

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Gareth Powell the new Managing Director for Stansted Airport. The meeting discussed the approach Stansted are taking to improve their sustainability.

BusinessLDN's central London BIDs forum

On 7 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with central London business improvement districts through the Business LDN Central London Business

Improvement Districts (BIDs) Forum. My Deputy Mayor discussed how BIDs can work with the GLA on accelerating the transition to net zero and supporting my net zero by 2030 carbon target for London. She also discussed how BIDs can also support the work on air quality in London including the economic rationale, the expansion of the ULEZ to outer London later this year and my scrappage scheme.

Healthy Air Campaign

On 7 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with organisations from the Healthy Air Campaign. She provided an update on the ongoing work to deliver the London-wide expansion of the ULEZ and answered questions about the expected impacts of the policy and how Transport for London and the GLA are raising awareness of the upcoming expansion and the support available for Londoners.

London Community Partnership for Healthy Cities on Air Pollution Summit

On 8 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave the keynote speech at the London Community Partnership for Healthy Cities on Air Pollution Summit. Addressing community organisations, the Deputy Mayor spoke about how my policies such as the London-wide expansion of the ULEZ are tackling air pollution and improving the health of Londoners and the role of communities in helping to achieve this.

Meeting with Uber

On 8 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Uber's General Manager, UK, Andrew Brem, to discuss the progress the organisation has made in shifting their fleet to zero emission vehicles and opportunities to do more including on public electric vehicle (EV) charge points. This is essential to support the aims of my EV Infrastructure Strategy published in 2021.

Meeting with London & Partners

On 8 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with London & Partners (L&P) Laura Citron (CEO), Pru Ashby (Head of Sustainability) and Yasmin Malik (Stakeholder Relations Manager). My Deputy Mayor discussed how L&P can work with the GLA on accelerating the transition to net zero, the Green New Deal, my net zero by 2030 target for London and how L&P can support climate action with business.

3Ci Advisory Board meeting

On 9 March, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the Advisory Board meeting of the UK3Ci. The Board meeting updated members on the current and planned activities for the programme, the Strategic Plan, Marketing events including regional roadshows and governance and resourcing. The 3Ci is working across a number of Core Cities and with London Councils to identify and build momentum around a portfolio of zero carbon projects.

Fire and Resilience

Station Visit to Walthamstow

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, visited Walthamstow Fire Station for a tour of the station's sustainable features and to meet fire fighters.

London Engagement Resilience Framework

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a meeting with *the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities* to discuss the UK Government Resilience Framework.

London Resilience Forum

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired the London Resilience Forum.

Commissioner and Deputy Mayor - meeting with MPs

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a meeting with the London Fire Commissioner and the London Group of Labour MPs to discuss the culture review.

LFB 20 Year Long Service Award Ceremony

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, and I attended a ceremony to recognise the 20 year long service of the London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 7 March, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss London's resilience arrangements.

Growth, Skills and Regeneration

Jobs and Skills Business Partnership

My Jobs and Skills Business Partnership, chaired by Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal met on 1 March. The Partnership received a presentation on Adult Education Budget regional data which included analysis by Sub Regional- Partnership area in London based on the most recent data release (covering the full 2021-22 academic year).

The Business Partnership received an update on London's Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Business LDN, the lead partner in London's LSIP, outlined the key takeaways from the Phase 1 and 2 findings and members provided feedback on the draft recommendations.

Members also received a presentation on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in London, specifically an outline of my ESOL objectives, the challenges for ESOL, what the

current ESOL provision looked like and an outline of the work the GLA had done so far. Members provided feedback on what they would like to see from the GLA in improving ESOL support to London's businesses.

Adult Education Budget Mayoral Board

I chaired the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board meeting on 8 March. The Board considered a report setting out the financial management of the AEB, which included details of the AEB funding letter received from the Department for Education on 9 February 2023. The letter confirms the sum of £320,303,241 for the main annual grant provision for the 2023-24 academic year and a further sum of £22,627,014 for the Free Courses for Jobs grant. The report also proposed how this funding would be spent and provided an update on spend to date for the 2022-23 academic year. The Board also endorsed final AEB grant allocations for the 2023-24 academic year.

The Board also received an update on the AEB programme, including a summary of upcoming research proposals, an update on the London Learner Survey, and a summary of performance to date, including how London is out-performing national colleagues.

Launch of Camden STEAM strategy

I was pleased to give a keynote speech at the launch of the London Borough of Camden's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) strategy at Google's headquarters on 3 February. This innovative approach will integrate the skills needed for developing a thriving technology, science, and creative economy. Young people will be able to access career and work experience opportunities in these industries and encouraged to connect their learning to addressing STEAM challenges.

This is in line with my Skills Academies which bring together key sectors, including digital and creatives, and my London Careers Programme which is building high quality careers education across and connections between young people and businesses. In both programmes, I am prioritising groups of Londoners who are underrepresented in key sectors, such as STEAM industries. This is in line with my commitments for all Londoners to be able to access high quality and relevant careers support and to meeting the needs of businesses and helping Londoners into good jobs.

Mayors Report on National Careers Guidance Show

I sponsored the National Career Guidance Show in London on 8 March. This event brought together Career Educators across London schools and colleges to network, learn and share. This event supports my commitment to developing quality employer led careers education for all young Londoners to build prosperous futures

Launch of Architecture + Urbanism Framework

On 22 February, I launched my new Architecture + Urbanism Framework to support my mission to build a better London for everyone. The Framework provides a diverse, pre-approved panel of built environment consultants, making it quicker and easier for organisations like councils and housing associations to commission high quality architectural, place making and urban planning design services for a range of projects.

There are several key areas of focus for the new Framework ranging from small sites housing and mixed-use development, to high streets and social infrastructure. There is also specialist expertise available in a dedicated 'Sustainable Cities' category to support public sector authorities to develop zero carbon strategies and tackle the climate emergency.

How we design London and who is involved in that process is vital to creating a more equal, safe city for Londoners. With the aim of establishing a panel of consultants that were more representative of London's diverse population, the procurement process implemented a range of progressive measures to address the under-representation of women and people from minority groups. More than half (57 per cent) of places on the Framework have been awarded to 'diverse-led' enterprises, meaning at least half of their executive leadership identifies as female, Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, disabled and/or as members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Infrastructure Coordination Service

On 23 February, the Infrastructure Coordination Service (ICS) was approved for a further five years of funding from London Lane Rental Surplus Income. This was the last critical step to moving the ICS from an experimental pilot to becoming a long-term function of the GLA and reflects the successes made since its inception in June 2019.

This decision reflects the unanimous endorsement for our plans to continue the ICS, made in October 2022 by the London Infrastructure Group (LIG), which I convene to bring together senior executives across infrastructure providers, regulators, government and wider industry to agree a common vision for long term infrastructure planning and jointly tackle issues in the infrastructure sector.

The ICS is designed to reduce disruption on London's road network, while improving air quality, supporting creation of 'healthy streets,' enabling decarbonisation, and unlocking affordable housing delivery. It does so by improving coordination within the sector, working with boroughs, developers, utilities, telecoms, and other infrastructure providers.

Housing

Grenfell: System Failure

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development attended a production of 'Grenfell: System Failure', which replays and distils some of the key moments from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The production is a powerful reminder of the testimony uncovered by the Inquiry and the need for justice for bereaved, relatives and survivors. I remain committed to amplifying their voices and campaigning for change so that a fire like Grenfell can never happen again.

International Relations

Meeting with International colleagues

On 3 March, I met with the US Ambassador, Jane Hartley and the President of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker to discuss cultural and social connections which exist between London and the US.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Business Engagement

On 23 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal met with a delegation from Beijing, led by Vice Mayor Jin Wei of Beijing at Canary Wharf Group to discuss respective priorities and highlight London policies and programmes in boosting tech and innovation in the City. The meeting also promoted London's status as a global destination for tourism, investment and education.

On 28 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business visited the life sciences cluster in Whitechapel. He visited the inspiring Centre for the Cell and the Innovation Centre at Queen Mary University of London. He heard how Barts Health NHS Trust and QMUL are working together to enhance the area's life sciences offering, improve health outcomes and boost local employment opportunities.

On 28 February, my Deputy Mayor for Business spoke at the British Library's launch of the 'Kickstart Your Business' programme. This new programme builds on the achievements of an earlier EU funded programme 'Start Ups in London Libraries'. It will scale-up availability of high street-based business support in London and grassroots business support in libraries across London.

London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) Board

On 6 March, I chaired the final meeting of the LEAP Board, which is being wound up now that the European and domestic funding streams for which it is responsible are ending.

I thanked Board members for their exemplary work and oversight of our £1 billion + skills, enterprise employment and regeneration programmes; and we took the opportunity to review and celebrate its legacy. Details of those programmes can be found at <https://lep.london/>.

ChallengeLDN

In September 2022, my Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell MBE, launched an open innovation call with Barnet council for solutions to help identify and support people at risk from being plunged into poverty. On 22 February, GLA announced the eight enterprising organisations who have been selected to progress to the prototyping phase. They will receive seed funding, workshops and coaching to help them prototype and test their proposed solutions with GLA and Barnet Council. Details can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/city-hall-blog/eight-innovators-who-want-fight-against-poverty?ac-167055=167044>.

Community and Social Policy

East European Resource Centre visit

On 22 February, my Deputy Mayor for Communities & Social Justice Debbie Weekes-Bernard visited the East European Resource Centre and heard from representatives from the Here for Good Law project and the Work Rights Centre on their experiences and challenges

Hong Kong Community Fund

This month I launched the Hong Kong Community Fund which will support non-established, newly established and small grassroots groups and organisations to deliver projects and activities that support the integration of Hong Kong British National Overseas (BN(O)s) visa holders in London.

Children and Young Londoners

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for London – Cost of Living Crisis

On 6 March, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney AM, joined my Peer Outreach Workers (POW) Team, plus young people from London Youth for a youth-led session in the House of Commons focussing on the cost of living crisis.

Youth voice is vitally important to our work at City Hall and Joanne gave an overview of the extensive work taking place to support young Londoners across a multitude of complex issues. During the round-table discussion, Joanne, MPs and other policymakers heard directly from young people on their cost of living concerns. Their views will be collated into a report which will be shared with key partners.

Enfield Secondary Heads Association

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney AM, joined Headteachers in Enfield on 8 March to discuss issues they are having with youth violence, crime and school safety.

She spoke with attendees about the initiatives City Hall is running to help schools with these issues, and what wider support we offer schools. The discussion also looked at the role that other partners play in maintaining safety for young people and the school community.

Building Future London

On 18 January, we hosted an event to celebrate the successful first phase of my Building Future London primary school outreach programme. The programme was designed to showcase potential infrastructure and construction careers to primary aged children from backgrounds currently under-represented in the sector and raise the aspirations for young diverse Londoners, welcome their talent and build the future talent pipeline for green jobs and skills.

The event brought together pupils, volunteers, teachers and employers. Nearly 3,500 pupils across 30 schools in London were reached through the programme, by far exceeding our initial target of 1,800 pupils. This was only possible with the help of 75 volunteers, from employers in the London Infrastructure Group (LIG), Workforce Integration Network (WIN) and wider sector. We are now looking to build on the initial success of the programme by developing an expanded second stage.

Culture

Night Time Economy Summit

On 10 February, the Night Czar spoke at the Night Time Industries Association annual summit alongside the Night Czars of Bristol, Manchester and New York. She called for urgent government support for the capital's high streets after 6pm by cutting VAT for hospitality businesses, extending the 50 per cent business rates relief for retail, culture and hospitality and greater support for SMEs with energy costs to help fuel London's recovery. She outlined how the Mayor is working to end harassment and violence against women and girls at night, build pro-night-time policies into London government through the world-leading Night Test, and invest in the future of London's high streets at night through his Night Time Enterprise Zones.

London Fashion Week

On 21 February, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended London Fashion Week. The fashion sector has been particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic and cost of living crisis due to its sensitivity to consumers' ability to spend. London Fashion Week provides thousands of small businesses with vital opportunities to reach buyers and overseas markets. London Fashion Week had over 400 free experiences for Londoners across the city.

V&A Store David Bowie Archive

On 22 February, I was delighted to see that V&A East announced that the archive of music, fashion, film icon David Bowie will be housed in the V&A East Storehouse, on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The archive will be accessible to visitors and is part of our new world-class cultural, educational and innovation district Eastbank. The biggest investment in culture for 150 years - which will encourage a whole new generation of Londoners to pursue their creative ambitions - inspiring the next Bowies of the future.

Commission for Diversity for the Realm – Untold Stories Round Two Funding

On 23 February, I announced £498K funding to 28 community-led projects in 17 London boroughs through Round Two of Untold Stories, part of my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. This takes the total number of projects funded to 70 across 24 London boroughs. New statues, artworks and walking tours will be developed to support communities to share their stories in London's public realm. Projects include a new statue for Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah in Lewisham; a memorial for murdered teenager, Rolan Adams, in Thamesmead; and a trail describing the history of Jewish and interfaith communities in Willesden and Brondesbury Park.

Night Surgeries and Night Time Policy Forum

On 2 and 7 March, the Night Czar held two Night Surgeries. One to help boroughs develop better night time data and evidence to inform their Night Time Strategies. The other bringing together planners, public health experts and developers to ask how we build homes that enable good sleep around the clock - promoting better health and wellbeing for night workers and those who live in vibrant night time locations.

On 23 February, she held a Night Time Policy Forum to share the latest data, research and case studies from around the globe, and help boroughs and BIDs to share knowledge and expertise.

Women's Night Safety Summit

On 9 March, the Night Czar hosted the latest Women's Night Safety Summit at ExCel. Co-op supermarkets were announced as the latest signatory to the Women's Night Safety Charter, signing up over 160 stores. This takes the total number of signatories to over 1,200. A new training video was launched to help signatories implement their pledges. A programme of speeches and workshops helped delegates to ensure that London is a safe and welcoming city for everyone at night.

Civil Society and Sport

Team London Ambassadors celebration event

On 23 February, I held a celebration event for my Team London Ambassadors, who volunteered for the Visitor Welcome Programme in Summer 2022. The event was attended by my Executive Director (Communities & Skills) Tunde Olayinka, who thanked volunteers for their role in welcoming domestic and international visitors to the city. This was a brilliant evening which highlighted the impact volunteering can have on Londoner's feelings of happiness and belonging. It was also the perfect way to kick-off the return of the programme this summer.

Mayor's Community Weekend

Applications for grants as part of my Mayor's Community Weekend closed on 1 March 2023, with over 200 applications received from organisations keen to participate in activities such as community barbeques, litter picking, street parties, and sporting activities across London. With thanks to The National Lottery Community Funding providing £250,000 in funding, successful applicants will receive up to £1,500. Events and activities will take place from Friday 23 June to Sunday 25 June 2023, to celebrate London's resilience and diversity and to encourage people to engage with their local communities, bring different groups of Londoners together, strengthen connections and make new ones.

Go! London Fund

On 7 March, my Civil Society and Sports team launched the GO! London Fund, inviting voluntary and community sector organisations to apply for two types of grants;

- Foundation Grants of up to £40,000
- Evolution Grants of up to £150,000

GO! London is a unique collaboration and the biggest community sport fund in London. Our key partners, London Marathon Charitable Trust, and Sport England, with support from London Sport and London Marathon Events, have come together to support sport and physical activity initiatives for children and young people in London. Currently at £19.5m, the fund aims to transform lives of undeserved young Londoners, aged 4-24, through sport and physical activity. The purpose of the fund is to reduce barriers to physical activity and to tackle the social economic inequalities undeserved young Londoners face to ensure they can fulfil their potential.

The fund will run for at least five years from March 2023 and provide several funding opportunities each year.

Health

Community Champions

On the 22 February my Health Advisor Dr Tom Coffey joined partners across London to launch a new compendium sharing the lessons learnt from the Community Champions programme over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Details are at <https://www.adph.org.uk/networks/london/2023/02/07/publication-of-lessons-learned-from-covid-19-community-champions-programmes/>.

Alongside leaders from the NHS, public health and London boroughs we were able to recognise the incredible work of Champions and to thank all those who continue to support the approach. Champions were vital in keeping their communities safe and their work as trusted advocates for the vaccine saved lives. We heard directly from a number of inspiring Champions about their experiences, and we launched the next phase of the programme, which will focus on how we further develop the network to address local health inequalities.

LAS London Lifesavers DM Training

On 24 February, four of my Deputy Mayors together with senior TfL and GLA colleagues completed London Lifesaver training, and details can be found at <https://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/getting-involved/become-a-london-lifesaver/>. The training, delivered by London Ambulance Service, teaches members of the public what to do when someone is in cardiac arrest and gives people the confidence to act quickly and save lives. I also completed this training in October, and I am delighted that more of my team and colleagues now have these emergency, lifesaving skills.

London Legacy Development Corporation

LLDC boundary review

Towards the end of last summer, I agreed a set of recommendations for the ongoing oversight and operation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. LLDC'S Town Planning powers will return to the four Growth Boroughs (Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest) on 1 December 2024, and LLDC will maintain its status as a Mayoral Development Corporation and a functional body of the GLA beyond 1 April 2025 but with reduced functions, a reconstituted Board and governance structure, and a reduced area (subject to consultation).

In line with my legal requirement to consult on any changes to a Mayoral development area, LLDC is undertaking a consultation on a proposed reduction of the LLDC boundary to the core area in which it owns and/or manages or operates land. The consultation was launched on 7 March 2023 on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park website for a period of two months. Details of the website are at <https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/-/media/reduced-area-consultation-2023.ashx>. The deadline for those wanting to share their views is on 9 May 2023. Following this date, the responses will be analysed and I will consider the recommendation put to me. Any changes to the Mayoral development area will be subject to the necessary Parliamentary procedures.

Fixed Estate Charge review

On 23 February, a review of the Fixed Estate Charge (FEC), which was undertaken by the Deputy Mayor of Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe, was [published](#). The FEC was developed to contribute towards the cost of maintaining Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park's parklands and its facilities as an Estate for the enjoyment of all those living, working in or visiting the Park. The charge applies to commercial and residential occupiers on the Park, as outlined by the LLDC boundary.

LLDC has welcomed the review and accepted all the recommendations made.

East Bank

There was further exciting news for LLDC and the East Bank project at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park when it was announced that David Bowie's archive will be made public for the first time at the V&A East Storehouse. Over 80,000 letters, lyrics, photos, stage designs, music awards and costumes will be on show in 2025 – a year after the Storehouse opens at Here East. The Park will also welcome the opening of the V&A East Museum in 2025. Both V&A venues are part of the East Bank cultural quarter, and this latest announcement demonstrates the huge potential the project has to deliver for London.

London Stadium

As reported in the media, a feasibility study is to be conducted into the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof of London Stadium. I support this work because it is vitally important that we continue to explore all the options and benefits green technology can bring to London.

West Ham enjoyed an unbeaten streak at home in the Premier League in February, drawing 1-1 against Chelsea on 11 February before beating Nottingham Forest 4-0 on 25 February.

Planning

Planning Decisions (Stage II referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, under powers delegated to him by the Mayor, sent a letter in response to the following statutory stage 2 referrals. The Deputy Mayor informed the relevant Local Planning Authority that he was content for them to determine the case itself.

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Current Recommendation and Decision: Recommended Decision
2022/0138	Gascoigne East Phase 3B	Barking and Dagenham	10/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2020/6134	Poultry Market and General Market and the Annexe Buildings	City of London	13/03/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0177	Land South of Park Avenue	Ealing	20/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0656	St Ann's New Neighbourhood	Haringey	20/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2021/0301	Land South of WIM	Hounslow	20/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0458	Hawks Road Clinic	Kingston upon Thames	20/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2020/6248	Development Site At 1 To 3 Boundary Close And Former Hyleford School Site	Redbridge	13/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve
2022/0566	Ham Close regeneration	Richmond upon Thames	20/02/2023	Allow LPA to approve

Planning Decisions (Stage I referrals)

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

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Current Recommendation and Decision: Recommended Decision
2023/0011	JVC Business Park	Brent	20/02/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan

2023/0023	239 Horn Lane	Ealing	20/02/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2023/0028	Land to the west of Kidbrooke Park Road	Greenwich	10/02/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2022/0924	Squirrels Trading Estate	Hillingdon	13/02/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan
2017/4398/S1	1-83 High Street	Hounslow	13/02/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan
2023/0025	44 Clapham Common South Side London SW4 9BU	Lambeth	20/02/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan
2023/0076	Development Site At Capland Street	Westminster	15/02/2023	No Strategic Issues

Update on Design Future London

1. Minecraft

As part of my role as the Chair of C40 and manifesto commitment to delivering careers for young Londoners, Minecraft Education was launched, which has seen over 18,288 licence requests by teachers across London.

The aim is to enable students to explore some of the planning and environmental issues in Croydon and show how they would like to see these issues addressed and to encourage more diverse entrants into careers in the built environment sector. Submissions for this challenge are due in April.

2. Makers and Mentors – Curriculum Support

Partnering with Mount Anvil, the Makers and Mentors platform has launched a curriculum support space to facilitate connections between schools and professionals in the built environment.

This is building on the success of the mentoring platform, Makers and Mentors, which connects career mentors with mentees, creating opportunities for relationships and progression in the industry.

Launch of Live Test Version of PlanApps

In response to the recommendations from the Planning and Regeneration Committee, on the 15 February I launched a live test version of a new website where Londoners can view, monitor, comment and track planning applications referred to the Mayor. The aim of this is to enhance how Londoners engage with this process, making the referral process more transparent and reduce barriers to engagement.

Once the Planning team leading on this are confident that the system is robust and works for users, a formal go live date will be announced.

Local Plans

On 20 February, my officers responded on my behalf to a Regulation 18 Newham Local Plan that encompasses the total area of the borough, including the LLDC portion of Newham. I provided comments on the housing target, affordable housing and climate emergency policies.

On 28 February, my officers responded on my behalf to a Regulation 18 Kingston Local Plan. I provided comments on housing (including affordable housing), heritage, tall buildings, green infrastructure, site allocations and transport policies.

On 3rd March, my officers responded on my behalf to a Regulation 18 Euston Area Plan that covers the Euston Opportunity Area in LB Camden. I provided comments on the draft vision for the area, affordable housing, tall buildings, design, environment and green infrastructure, development, and transport policies.

National Planning Policy Framework

On 2 March, the Deputy Mayors for Planning and Regeneration and for Housing responded on my behalf to the Government's consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. They set out concerns that the proposed changes will undermine my Good Growth objectives set out in the London Plan 2021.

Key Engagements

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

- I held my regular Planning Meeting on 13 February
- I joined His Majesty the King to visit and meet with members of the Syrian community helping provide support to those affected by the earthquake on 14 February
- I visited and met with members of the Turkish community helping provide support to those affected by the earthquake on 14 February
- I met with Thomas Heatherwick on 15 February
- I spoke at the 10th Anniversary commemoration of the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah on 15 February
- I took part in the London Hope Hack on 16 February
- I met with GLA Unison at City Hall as part of “Unions Week” on 16 February
- I chaired a meeting of the C40 Cities Steering Group on 16 February
- I visited Fircroft Primary School to announce funding for Free School Meals on 20 February
- I attended the Assembly Budget and Performance Committee on 21 February
- I joined His Majesty the King on a visit to the Felix Project on 22 February
- I attended the Assembly Final Budget Plenary on 23 February
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 23 February
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 23 February
- I attended a Church Service on 24 February to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine
- I visited Bank Station to see the final phase of improvements open on 27 February
- I met with the Chair of London Councils on 28 February
- I attended People’s Question Time on 2 March
- I met with the Head of the Ford Foundation and the US Ambassador on 3 March
- I launched the STEAM initiative with Google and Camden Council on 3 March
- I spoke at the inaugural Women’s Policy Summit on 6 March
- I attended the London Fire Brigade Long Service Awards on 6 March
- I joined the London Councils Congress Executive on 7 March
- I met with Baroness Louise Casey on 8 March
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 8 March
- I chaired the GLA Adult Education Board on 8 March
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 8 March
- I met with the CEO of Fortnum & Mason on 9 March
- I presented the GLA Loyal Address from Privileged Bodies to His Majesty the King on 9 March
- I joined a call with City Mayors and the new COP President on 9 March