

23rd Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 20 July 2023

This is my twenty third report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 9 June – 6 July 2023.

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

Executive Summary

Pride Celebrations

On 1 July, I joined many thousands of Londoners including my Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, and Night Tsar, Amy Lane, to proudly march in solidarity with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and intersex communities at London's annual Pride celebration – one of the longest running Pride events in the country. This year, we marched particularly to show support for the capital's trans and non-binary communities and their allies, ensuring that the march maintains its core purpose of challenging inequalities and injustices still existing throughout our society.

In a sea of colour and creativity, we showed the world that our capital is a beacon of inclusivity and diversity. A place where everyone is free to be whoever they want to be and love whoever they want to love.

London is a better place because of the contribution of our LGBTQI+ communities and I am determined to show the world that London is a beacon for LGBTQI+ rights.

In the lead up to Pride, on 28 June, I was delighted to host our annual Pride Reception at City Hall to say thank you to the organisers of Pride events and to over 200 people from the LGBTQI+ community. At the reception, I announced five new rainbow plaques to be installed across London to celebrate significant people, places and moments in LGBTQI+ history. These plaques are a symbol of the enormous contribution that our LGBTQI+ communities make to all our lives and I hope to see many more installed in the future as we build a fairer, more equal city for everyone. The new plaques will be placed at sites in Greenwich, Peckham, Westminster, Ladbroke Grove and Haringey after my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm and Wandsworth Oasis awarded funding to London LGBT+ Forums' Network and Studio Voltaire.

I am also very pleased to be supporting UK Black Pride on 20 August.

LGBTQ+ community stories told on the TfL network through shining personalities, colourful wraps and creative posters to mark Pride 2023

LGBTQ+ personalities including Drag Race's Bimini, stylist Gok Wan, DJ and writer Nick Grimshaw and dancer Queen MoJo joined with TfL to celebrate Pride across the capital's transport network.

The stars were telling their stories as part of a poster campaign, alongside further LGBTQ+ community stories and vehicle wraps ahead of London's Pride celebrations on Saturday 1 July.

The posters were created to amplify voices within the community to inspire passengers to share their own stories under TfL's #EveryStoryMatters theme.

TfL has carried out a number of schemes to promote inclusivity including the introduction of diversity traffic signals, a range of rainbow-wrapped vehicles on the transport network, community-inspired posters as well as regularly featuring inclusive roundel designs bearing colours of Pride flags on the network during Pride. My Deputy Mayor for Transport joined TfL to unveil the transport wraps, with events at New Cross Gate and Paddington.

Our LGBTQ+ communities make an enormous contribution to life in our capital and this year's campaign across the transport network is a wonderful way to celebrate that.

Remembering victims of Violence Against Women and Girls

On 11 June, I joined bereaved families and sector partners to commemorate the lives of women and girls taken by male violence. The service titled 'It's Time' was conceived by Mina Smallman, a retired priest and was the first female archdeacon of colour in the Church of England. Mina Smallman's two daughters, Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman were murdered in London in June 2020. The service marked three years on from their death.

I was honoured to be invited to speak at the service alongside the MPS Family Liaison Officer for the Smallman family, The Bishop of Dover, The Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, The Bishop of London, The Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, The Dean of St Paul's, The Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Dawn Butler MP and Jess Phillips MP.

The service was an opportunity to not only remember the lives lost but recommit to ending this national epidemic of violence against women by men.

On 25 June, I visited Ilford to join family members and friends of Zara Aleena on a silent march to remember her life and condemn male violence against women and girls. On the 26th June, the first anniversary of her murder, I made the following remarks:

"Zara was a remarkable young woman who through the inspiring life she led demonstrated a strong sense of justice. And, as a society, we now owe it to her to deliver it.

"Justice demands action and far-reaching, systemic change. As a society we have a duty and responsibility to fix the failings that put women in danger so that nothing like Zara's murder can ever happen again.

"The best possible tribute we could ever pay to Zara is to shape a future free from male violence. A future where women can live safely and confidently – not with fear, but with hope, ambition and the freedom to flourish. As Mayor, I will not rest until that future is secured and will continue to do everything in my power to build a safer London for everyone."

London Climate Action Week Live

On 27 June, I introduced His Royal Highness the King to London Climate Action Week and started a climate clock on his behalf which counted down the time we have to act on climate change. The clock was broadcast throughout London.

Armed Forces Day 2023

On 19 June, I was honoured to join with members of the Armed Forces, the London Assembly and the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion to celebrate and pay homage to the work of our Armed Forces at City Hall's flag raising ceremony.

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community - currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets. From protecting our nation to providing humanitarian support and promoting peace – their responsibilities are wide-ranging, and we must never underestimate the sacrifices they make to keep our country safe. It's vital that we continue to reflect and honour their immense courage and commitment.

I was joined by the Chair of the London Assembly, Andrew Boff; Brigadier Jeremy Lamb MC delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of the military and Cadet Samira Hussain from 56 Squadron of the RAF read a poem. Commodore R J A Bellfield CBE ADC DL represented the Royal Navy and Air Commodore Gordon MBE MBA MA FCIPD FRAeS RAuxAf represented the RAF, whilst Lieutenant Colonel Johnston acted as the event host. The Band of the Coldstream Guards played the National Anthem and other popular pieces.

Refugee Week – People Move Exhibition

On 19 June, I was delighted to attend a reception to launch *People Move*, a week-long exhibition at City Hall as part of Refugee Week. The exhibition curated by Daily Mirror award-winning photographer Phil Coburn, was the culmination of the Daily Mirror's Instagram project #PeopleMove. The project asked people who have come to the UK seeking sanctuary to tell them about a special object they brought with them that connect them to home.

The People Move project is a touching and affecting portrayal of the lives and journeys of people who have been forced to leave their homes. For centuries London has provided sanctuary for those fleeing conflict, natural disasters, and persecution; and as a result, we are culturally, socially and economically richer. I was proud that City Hall was given the opportunity to host this exhibition in honour and celebration of these exceptional people, many of whom have endured unimaginable horrors. By deepening our compassion for people seeking refuge and asylum, we set an example for the rest of the world as we build a fairer London for all.

Guests at the launch included people featured in the exhibition, including Lord Dubs, a former child refugee.

State of London Debate (SOLD)

On 29 June, I held my 7th State of London Debate, at indigo at The O2 in Greenwich. A fully hybrid event, with over 2,000 registrations, which allowed attendees both in-person and online to participate in this very important and inclusive event.

I was joined on stage by my team of Deputy Mayors Sophie Linden for Policing and Crime, Seb Dance for Transport, Shirley Rodrigues for Environment and Energy and Tom Copley for Housing and Residential who were fully engaged in answering questions from our in-person audience live at the venue and our online audience via the live chat forum.

The event was hosted by LBC presenter James O'Brien, with LBC broadcasting live on LBC news. The lively debate covered questions and discussion on a range of topics affecting London, including Safety, Air Quality and the Environment, Transport, Housing and Growing London's Economy.

Clean Air Day

On 15 June, I visited Green Dragon School in Hounslow - currently one of three schools in London Borough of Hounslow receiving funding from my School Superzones programme - to congratulate pupil Obay, age 9, who submitted one of the winning entries in my Clean Air Day poster challenge. Obay's artwork, along with nine other winning designs, will feature on display boards across the city and social media channels. On the visit, which took place during a week of elevated Ozone pollution across London, I heard from pupils and teachers on what clean air means to them and about the efforts of the school community to help clean up London's air.

London Partnership Board

On 13 June, I Co-Chaired, alongside Cllr Georgia Gould, the first full meeting of the London Partnership Board at City Hall. The Board agreed its priorities for the coming year - planning to focus on the Cost of Living, Housing and Opportunities for Young People in the next few meetings. The Board also discussed progress towards the Building a Fairer City Action Plan, committing to take action collectively on actions around the London Living Wage and workforce diversity, and heard from the Levelling Up Advisory Council on its London workstream.

Policing, Crime and Security

500 new PCSOs for London

Earlier this year I pledged £29.3 million to fund 500 additional PCSOs to work in local neighbourhoods across London. This is a significant increase on London's current complement of 1,200 PCSOs. The MPS is working hard to recruit these new officers over the coming year and has begun its recruitment campaign in earnest. I was delighted to join with Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden and Met Police Commander Alison Heydari at the start of June to join Met's PCSOs on patrol in West Hampstead, to hear first-hand about the difference they are making in their communities and how rewarding they find their roles.

PCSOs are a vital element of the Commissioner's plans to build the strongest ever neighbourhood policing and improve the trust and confidence of Londoners in their police service. They are a visible presence on our streets, working within and alongside London's communities, helping to solve crime, remedy local problems and make people feel safer. I encourage Londoners from all backgrounds to apply and be part of the change we all want to see in our police, as we continue to work together to build a safe city for all.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.met.police.uk/car/careers/met/pcso/become-a-police-community-support-officer/>

New revelations in the Stephen Lawrence murder case

On 26 June, the BBC published deeply concerning new details about the investigation into the 1993 murder of Black teenager Stephen Lawrence by racist thugs in Eltham.

The deep-rooted institutional and racially-driven failings that caused the investigation into Stephen's murder to fail so badly have still not been resolved, and the impact of those failings continues to be seen and felt in our communities.

It is right that the Met have apologised for their major shortcomings in this case and are reviewing new evidence. I also welcome the IOPC's close scrutiny into the conduct of officers involved in the investigation at the time.

If further wrongdoing and misconduct is proven, the sanctions on those involved should be severe. Anyone found to have failed in their duty must be held to account.

Paying tribute to Met officers and staff who have died in the line of duty

On 29 June, it was my solemn privilege to attend the Met Police's annual Service of Remembrance at Hendon to pay my respects to the officers and staff who have given their lives in the line of duty, protecting Londoners.

The event is a moving reminder of the risks that the police face on our behalf, running towards danger to protect others – and also the sacrifices that police families make supporting their loved ones in the service.

We will always remember and honour them.

Transport

TfL invites people to have their say on proposals for the next new section of the Superloop, connecting North Finchley and Walthamstow

On 6 June TfL began inviting people to have their say on proposals for a new limited stop express bus service between North Finchley and Walthamstow, currently called the X34.

The proposed route will form part of the Superloop and will enable quicker journeys and more transport options for people moving between transport hubs and town centre locations in Finchley, New Southgate and Walthamstow, as well as serving sections of the North Circular Road (A406).

These new routes will be instrumental in providing Londoners with more public transport options and alternatives to private car use. The benefits they will bring through providing quick links to transport hubs, town centres and hospitals, will help us to build a better, greener London for everyone.

TfL and London Councils progress plans to further improve lorry safety in London

On 13 June TfL and London Councils announced they were progressing plans to improve road safety in London by making changes to London's pioneering Direct Vision Standard (DVS) based HGV safety permit scheme, following a recent decision made by London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.

Under previously agreed arrangements, from 28 October 2024, HGVs over 12 tonnes will be required to have a minimum three-star DVS rating or fit a system of updated safety features - the Progressive Safe System (PSS) - to the vehicle in order to operate in Greater London.

In order to give the freight industry sufficient time to buy, fit and test any new safety equipment, there will be a three month grace period from 28 October 2024 for operators to comply with the new PSS. This will be kept under review and in June 2024, London Councils Transport and Environment Committee will consider whether any further extension is needed.

TfL moves forwards with plans to make the Battersea Bridge area safer for people walking and cycling

TfL is moving forward with plans to reduce road danger for people walking and cycling on and near Battersea Bridge. Making roads and junctions safer for everyone is a key part of the Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury on the capital's transport network.

TfL has accelerated plans to improve safety on the bridge following a passionate local campaign after the tragic death of Jack Ryan on Battersea Bridge on 13 January 2021. The first phase of work on the north side of the bridge was completed in November 2021 and included a new pedestrian crossing, wider pavements and a new lower speed limit of 20mph.

Last year a TfL consultation showed that a majority of respondents expected the proposals would mean more people would choose to travel by cycling and more people would choose to walk. Enabling more people to use healthier and more sustainable forms of travel is vital to reducing congestion and air pollution.

Every death and serious injury on London's roads is unacceptable and we remain determined to make them safer for everyone. TfL is committed to the Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from the transport network, and these changes will play a vital role in reducing danger at these key junctions.

Order placed for additional 11 new state-of-the-art DLR trains

An option to purchase 11 additional state-of-the-art DLR trains, funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), has now been exercised by TfL. This will mean a total of 54 new trains will be introduced from 2024, promising customers more frequent, accessible and comfortable journeys.

The new DLR trains have been funded by the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund, which was originally agreed in 2019. They will be used to further increase capacity and help unlock 10,000 new homes across the network, particularly in the Royal Docks and on the Isle of Dogs.

The new trains are being designed and built by Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, S.A (CAF). TfL previously awarded a contract in 2019 to CAF for 43 trains following a comprehensive procurement process that focused on deliverability, technical expertise and value for money.

More than 90 million journeys made each year the DLR is the busiest light railway in the UK and these new DLR trains will provide Londoners with more frequent, accessible and comfortable journeys from 2024. Each train will feature 10 per cent more capacity and also provide better facilities for those with mobility impairments. The DLR is a vital transport option for east London and the Docklands area and these upgrades will support new jobs and homes in the area, helping to make London a greener, fairer and more prosperous city for all."

TfL sets out vision to further boost cycling by making it more diverse than ever

On 15 June, my Walking and Cycling Commissioner launched TfL's new plan which sets out its commitment to further boost cycling numbers across the capital and ensure that people cycling become more representative of London's diverse communities. The plan, launched on Clean Air Day, will play a vital role in TfL's continued efforts to make cycling a fundamental part of a greener, more progressive, modern city where everyone who wants to cycle can do so.

The past two decades have seen huge growth in cycling in the capital, with a 155 per cent increase in the number of daily cycle journeys since 2000. Meanwhile, TfL and London boroughs have more than tripled the size of the London-wide strategic cycle network, from 90 km in 2016 to more than 340km in 2023, meaning that more than one in five Londoners now live near the Cycleway network.

The plan outlines why it is essential to broaden the appeal of cycling to a more diverse range of Londoners to ensure cycling levels continue to increase at pace and that all Londoners benefit from the health and economic benefits of cycling. TfL's research shows that people from under-represented groups are open to taking up cycling. The plan outlines ambitious evidence-led measures to support these groups by addressing the barriers they face.

TfL and partners progress public transport proposals to unlock Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside

A plan to deliver new transport links, homes and regeneration in Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside has moved a step closer with TfL and its partners submitting a Strategic Outline Case to Government. The business case outlines how an extension of the DLR could have a transformative effect on the area.

Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside sit at the heart of the London's major growth areas and are a priority for regeneration and economic development. From a public transport perspective, TfL would deliver huge improvements as part of the Thamesmead & Beckton Riverside Public Transport Programme, which has been developed to unlock the huge opportunity that exists to boost transport provision in this area.

TfL is working with local partners the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG), London Borough of Newham (LBN) and the three major landowners to collaboratively develop plans for the area.

With significant growth pressures on London and the South East, transport and housing infrastructure must keep pace with demand. Forecasts suggest that London's population will have grown significantly by 2041, and that there will be at least an additional 800,000 jobs in the capital, which will create the need for more housing.

TfL publishes new data on London's e-scooter rental trial as it celebrates its second anniversary

TfL, London Councils and e-scooter operators Dott, Lime and TIER have released new data, covering June 2021 to Nov 2022, that shows the progress made during the first phase of the London rental e-scooter trial. The main objective of the trial is to gather data on this new vehicle type to help inform future legislation and regulations.

Rental e-scooters are zero emission at tailpipe and therefore considered a green and sustainable form of transport that could help reduce congestion and improve air quality in London. Data from the first 18 months of the trial shows that more than the equivalent of 249 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been saved by the e-scooter trips, with 32 per cent of users combining their journey with a mode of public transport.

I am determined to continue building a cleaner, greener and more prosperous London for everyone, and these rental e-scooters provide Londoners and visitors alike with a safe and sustainable travel option.

TfL is working to finalise contracts for the next phase of the trial, following an open procurement process.

TfL launches limited edition Oyster card to celebrate 20 years of the iconic smartcard

Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the introduction of the Oyster card on 30 June 2023, TfL launched a new limited edition Oyster card to celebrate two decades of the iconic smartcard making travel via public transport around London quicker and easier for everyone.

The cards will be available from ticket machines in all London Underground stations in Zone 1, as well as at all Visitor Centres and selected Oyster Ticket Stops in central London.

When introduced in 2003, Oyster was a trail blazer for urban travel, streamlining journeys for millions of Londoners who no longer had to queue to buy a ticket for each journey. It is admired across the world, inspiring and setting the standard for world-class public transport networks.

It's great to celebrate 20 years of the Oyster card, which demonstrated London's innovation at its best and has kept evolving ever since then, to meet the needs of a modern, thriving city.

Explore the Science Museum for less with a new Transport for London offer

For the first time, Transport for London has launched a new offer in partnership with the Science Museum to give its customers up to half price entry to the museum's paid experiences.

Available daily from 13 June until 20 August sci-fi fans can enjoy half price entry to Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination, an immersive and imaginative exhibition set on board an alien spaceship exploring sci-fi film, TV and books if they travel to the museum via TfL services.

With TfL, the price of an annual pass to Wonderlab: The Equinor Gallery, an interactive science experience, is now just £12.75 for adults, saving 25 per cent or £4.25 off its full price. The offer is available daily from 13 June until 20 October, including during school holidays and bank holidays, making it the perfect destination for children's learning activities.

Environment

London Surface Water Strategic Group Meeting

On 9 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended the third London Surface Water Strategic Group meeting. They discussed progress to date in securing resource for the group to help progress high priority actions and the work that is ongoing to procure consultants to deliver the first Surface water London Strategy for London. A draft annual monitoring report was also discussed.

Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance

On 9 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Lord Callanan, the Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. They discussed the delivery achieved to date and planned to the programme closure. They also reflected on lessons learned on data, scheme design and their impact on delivery of retrofit targets. My Deputy Mayor made the case for London to set the pace in achieving net zero – and for the devolved funding and delivery models to enable that. DESNZ were invited to support London's ambition for net zero by 2030 – in particular, long-term devolved funding for buildings decarbonation (energy efficiency and heat).

Meeting with Director of Community Energy London

On 9 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Syed Ahmed, director of Community Energy London to discuss the Mayor's ongoing support for community energy in London and what support community energy groups require.

Film London Clean Filming Launch

On 13 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy joined stakeholders from film and TV to launch the UK's first electric power supply for location filming which I helped co-fund through my Good Growth Fund. The unit base in Victoria Park will power all shoots on site, as well as events taking place in the park, cutting costs, carbon, noise, and air pollution associated with diesel generators. It is estimated that it will cut 700,000kg of carbon per year, as well as completely removing all the toxic air pollutants previously caused by generators at the site, which is located close to a children's playground.

London Climate Resilience Review

On 14 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Emma Howard Boyd, the new chair of the London Climate Resilience Review, which I commissioned to examine London's preparedness for the impacts of a changing climate. They discussed the methodology and scope of the review, timelines, and stakeholder engagement. The review will open for evidence on Thursday 29 June and will report back in December 2023.

Black Child Clean Air Conference

On 15 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy delivered a keynote speech at the first annual Black Child Clean Air Conference. The conference explored the impact of air pollution on pregnant black women, children, and mothers, and marked the launch of a report into the disproportionate effect of air pollution on this group; once again highlighting that this is still very much an issue of social justice.

Zemo 20th Anniversary event at City Hall

On 15 June, the Zemo Partnership held its 20th Anniversary Conference and Celebration event in City Hall which coincided with Clean Air Day. My Deputy Mayor for Transport welcomed the audience with a speech, highlighting the triple challenges of poor air quality, climate change, and traffic congestion, outlining the technology and behavioural solutions that will be needed to challenge them. Later that morning, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended a panel discussion with policy representatives from Scotland and Wales to discuss the importance of London's ULEZ, policy levers and the challenges faced such as 'culture wars', and lack of finance.

Place-Based Climate Action Network Conference

On 19 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy delivered a speech at the Place-Based Climate Action Network Conference alongside Lord Deben of the Climate Change Committee. The conference explored the state of local climate action across the UK and specifically the need to work outside of siloes. The Deputy Mayor outlined London's journey to a zero-carbon economy, the importance of a fair transition and how communities are being empowered to accelerate transformative, long-term change at the local level.

Meeting with Cllr Andreas Kirsch

On 22 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and Deputy Mayor for Transport met with Cllr Andreas Kirsch, Leader of Kingston Council to discuss the recently announced changes to the ULEZ scrappage scheme, provide a general update on progress toward the ULEZ launch in August and discuss public transport and active travel provision in Kingston.

London's Just Transition: London Sustainable Development Commission report launch

On 26 June, my Deputy Chief of Staff Richard Watts spoke at an event held by the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) to launch their report, 'London's Just Transition'. The panel discussion explored the LSDC's recommendations for how the Mayor and London's borough leaders can build on their existing work to create an equitable transition to net-zero. The event was part of London Climate Action Week and took place at the Royal Society of the Arts in central London. The report will be published on the LSDC website.

Freuds and Goals House networking reception

On 26 June, I attended a London Climate Action Week (LCAW) event hosted by Freuds and Goals House with Nick Mabey OBE, Chief Executive of E3G and LCAW founder. I delivered a speech outlining how London is leading globally in my climate and air pollution action, from my net zero 2030 plan to the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone. Following this introductory speech I hosted a networking reception for London's key environmental leaders.

Sustainable Business Summit

On 27 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy spoke ahead of the Bloomberg Sustainable Business VIP Dinner on the topic of London's path to a greener city and how the public and private sectors can work together to attain sustainability goals. My Deputy Mayor highlighted London's programmes for businesses, such as the Business Climate Challenge, which supports businesses retrofitting their offices to achieve greater energy efficiency. My Deputy Mayor also outlined how every sector in London needs to work together to tackle the climate crisis, and that sustainable business action is an essential part of this.

London Climate Action Week Live

On 27 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy provided the keynote speech at the LCAW 2023 opening event 'LCAW Live', hosted at London Guildhall h. In this keynote speech, my Deputy Mayor outlined London's world-leading progress around tackling the climate crisis, both mitigation and adaptation, and air pollution in our city. Speaking to representative from government, NGOs, arts, business and community groups, the clear message was around working together to achieve net zero, ensuring a fair and just transition, and securing finance for London's climate action.

COP28 Alignment roundtable

On 28 June my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended the LCAW COP28 alignment roundtable, hosted at the London Guildhall by Climate Action. In this meeting my Deputy Mayor outlined my objectives for COP28, and how cities are leading the way in international climate action – such as through my net zero 2030 target, and the world-leading Ultra-Low Emission Zone.

Climate Innovation Forum Panel

On 28 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy spoke at the LCAW event, the Climate Innovation Forum, alongside Susan Aitkin, Leader of Glasgow Council and Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol. This event focused on how to unlock the net zero ambition of cities and regions, and my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy outlined how London is leading the way in climate action globally – with cities often going further and faster than their national counterparts. The

session also discussed how cities can secure the funding needed to invest in net zero infrastructure in an era of decreasing public spending and tight municipal budgets.

Attending Regional Investor Summit

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy spoke to London Local Authorities, investors and the wider government and business communities on Green Finance, at 3Ci's London Regional Investor event at London Climate Action week. My Deputy Mayor set out the practical work we are doing within the GLA to achieve my ambitious Net Zero aims as part of the London Climate Finance Facility, and introduced attendees to the new Green Finance Fund, which aims to accelerate decarbonisation in London by lowering the cost of borrowing for key organisations within London.

Women Leaders working on Climate and Nature breakfast with HE Razan Al Mubarak, COP28 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy spoke at a roundtable meeting with HE Razan Al Mubarak, COP28 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Emma Howard Boyd CBE and Cath Bremner (Non Exec Met Office) on the topic of Women Leaders working on Climate and Nature. My Deputy Mayor focused her comments on ensuring inclusivity in climate action, giving examples of London's Green New Deal and Just Transition approach. My Deputy Mayor also discussed London's asks of the COP28 President from a city perspective, to ensure cities are front and centre of the discussions in the UAE in December.

Meeting with Cllr Tom Drummond

On 3 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and Deputy Mayor for Transport met with Cllr Tom Drummond, Leader of Sutton Conservative Group to discuss the recently announced changes to the ULEZ scrappage scheme, provide a general update on progress toward the ULEZ launch in August and discuss public transport and active travel provision in Sutton.

London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC)

On 5 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with LEVC's Managing Director Chris Allen to discuss their future to become a leading company in decarbonising transport. Already, 47 per cent of London's black taxis are zero emission capable, and this meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the future of taxis and zero emission road transport, the progress which the taxi trade has made to date and the importance of electric vehicle charge points to support London's taxi drivers.

Meeting with Cllr Alan Schneiderman

On 5 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy met with Cllr Alan Schneiderman to discuss London Borough of Barnet's Reduction and Recycling Plan for 2023-2025, The discussions included provision of separate food waste collection in the borough and action to support increase recycling in flats.

3Ci Advisory Board

On 6 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, attended the 3Ci advisory board meeting to support development of 3Ci financing programme as it develops its approach to area-based investment for net zero. She heard about its immediate work streams and discussed how we

are working with them to develop the regional project pipelines, including the London Regional Investor event at LCAW on Thursday 29th, and share approaches to mobilising private sector finance including our Green Finance Programme.

Fire and Resilience

Visit to LFB's Counselling and Trauma Service

On 13 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the team at LFB's Counselling and Trauma Service, to discuss the important work they undertake to help LFB staff take care of their mental health.

Grenfell Service

On 14 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the Grenfell service to mark the sixth anniversary of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower.

Hammersmith Fire Station Visit

On 20 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, joined Cllr Sakina Sheikh AM for a visit to Hammersmith Fire Station. They met with fire fighters and LFB's South West area team to discuss issues such as building safety.

National Grid Roundtable

On 21 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a roundtable organised by the National Preparedness Commission and the National Grid to discuss cross-sector collaboration for resilient communications.

LFB People Awards

On 23 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended LFB's People Awards to celebrate the achievements of LFB staff over the past year, including presenting an award for LFB's Outstanding Team.

Culture in the Fire and Rescue Service LGA Conference

On 27 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a conference organised by the Local Government Association about culture in the Fire and Rescue services.

Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

On 28 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee to discuss LFB campaigns on Lithium-ion batteries and disposable barbeques.

Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Fire and Resilience Board.

London Resilience Forum

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired the regular meeting of the London Resilience Forum.

LFB Highgate Memorial Service

On 30 June, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, gave a reading at the annual memorial service to remember London firefighters who have lost their lives in service.

LFB Pride 2023

On 1 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, spoke at LFB's Pride brunch at Soho Fire Station and joined the Pride parade with the LFB.

Meeting with London Fire Commissioner

On 3 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, and I, met with the London Fire Commissioner to discuss issues relating to LFB, including progress in responding to its independent culture review and preparedness for the summer.

Growth and Skills

London Learner Survey

The results of the GLA's London Learner Survey (LLS) 2021/22 were published on 20 June 2023. The LLS provides unprecedented insights on learners on courses funded by my Adult Education Budget (AEB), focusing on outcomes, which can be divided into economic and social outcomes like getting a new job, feeling more confident, or improved health and wellbeing.

The 2021/22 LLS shows positive results. The majority (96 per cent) of learners experienced positive social changes (equivalent to around 180,000 learners). Furthermore, over half (52 per cent) of learners (equivalent to around 100,000 learners) experienced positive economic changes five to eight months after completing their course. Learners who were in work saw an average increase of 10 per cent in their earnings following their course.

£135m investment to support Londoners gain skills

On 20 June, I announced plans for £135m of funding to help Londoners get the skills they need to get into good work and to live healthier, happier lives. This includes a £115m Jobs and Skills for Londoners fund which will help thousands of Londoners gain skills relevant to London's key sectors, and a £1.2m investment to fund community outreach activity, to reach Londoners who are less likely to engage in adult education. It also includes £19m for new skills bootcamps.

Launching Wave 4 of Skills Bootcamps for Londoners

This month, I launched the next wave of the Skills Bootcamps for Londoners, programme funded by the Department for Education. I will invest £19 million to continue supporting key sectors of the London economy, including green, digital, construction, creative, health and social care, and finance (professional services).

This year, I will deliver 86 skills bootcamps that will help over 5,000 Londoners (aged 19+) to develop sector specific skills that are in demand by employers, based on skills shortages. The courses are flexible and last up to 16 weeks and those who take part are guaranteed to be offered a job interview after they've completed the training.

My main goal is to engage more with employers so learners can have access to good quality jobs after the completion of their training course.

Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Fund

On 5 June, I launched the second round of my Skills for Londoners Community Outreach programme. It is funding for small community organisations, to increase participation in adult learning for those most in need of adult education. This is part of my mission to build a fairer and more prosperous city for everyone. Grants of up to £27,000 are available to community organisations who can collaborate with local communities and help signpost Londoners to adult education opportunities.

To support community organisations interested in applying, the GLA held in-person 'Ideas Camps' between 13-21 June in each of the four London sub-regions, to discuss project ideas and bid writing in more detail. Applications close on 7 July and organisations will be delivering activities with communities until April 2024.

Opening of LSBU

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard attended the formal opening of London South Bank Technical College (LSBTC), 26 June 2023. The Deputy Mayor gave a speech covering the Mayor's investment of £22m, part of the £200m Skills for Londoners capital funding programme, and the importance of investing in education to help Londoners access good jobs and lead happier, healthier lives.

Speeches were also given by The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education, who unveiled the commemorative plaque; Florence Eshalomi MP, and Professor David Phoenix, Vice Chancellor, LSBU.

LSBTU's new facilities will deliver science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) subjects to students aged 16+ and will tackle the barriers to education faced by underrepresented Londoners to ensure equality of opportunity. The college's engagement with local industry is set to enable good career opportunities for students at completion, addressing skills shortages and enabling economic growth.

Housing

Grenfell anniversary

June 14th marked six years since the tragic Grenfell Tower fire and devastating loss of 72 Londoners. I wrote to the Prime Minister about the importance of ensuring all the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations are implemented especially the need for Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans. I also called for the Government to ensure that sustained and long-term physical and mental health support is in place in the community to monitor and manage the ongoing health impacts of the fire.

Letter to the Chancellor and Housing Secretary on help for London's homeowners

On 21 June, I wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Housing Secretary ahead of a summit with mortgage lenders to make the case for additional support for mortgage-payers in London.

There is huge dismay and anxiety being felt by London's homeowners as a result of rising mortgage costs. Some Londoners are now at serious risk of losing their homes, with mortgage rates now routinely in excess of 6 per cent. Homeowners coming to the end of fixed-rate deals face exorbitant increases in their monthly outgoings, and it is sadly inevitable that many people will be unable to manage the jump in payments. Without support there is a risk of rising arrears and ultimately, a wave of repossessions.

Figures show that a Londoner with a £350,000 mortgage coming to the end of a 2.5 per cent fixed term deal can expect to see their monthly costs increase from £1,570 to £2,255 if re-mortgaging at 6 per cent. While I'm proud that we are building a record number of genuinely affordable homes in the capital to help address the housing crisis, the government now need to step up with emergency support for households.

I urged the Government to work with lenders to prioritise measures that will prevent Londoners from losing their homes, including flexibility in mortgage agreements to give people breathing space on repayments, and working with the lending sector to introduce a two year voluntary moratorium on repossessions to give householders much needed relief until rates come down and the crisis passes.

Housing 2023 conference

On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, Tom Copley spoke at the major national housing conference, Housing 2023. He spoke about London's huge success in building more genuinely affordable homes since I became Mayor, with more new council homes being built than at any time since the 1970s, and higher new affordable homebuilding than at any point since GLA records began, smashing our affordable homebuilding targets. However, we need national Government to back us to continue to build on this record of success by giving London the scale of affordable housing funding it needs.

International Relations

COP28 President Designate

On 27 June, I met with H.E. Dr Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 President Designate, where I highlighted London and C40's climate change priorities, and exchanged ways we can collaborate in the lead up to COP28

Canadian High Commissioner

On 6 July, I met the Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Ralph Goodale, at Canada House to share and discuss London-Canadian relations and priorities.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

London Tech Week

On 12 June, I was delighted to deliver a keynote speech at the opening session of London Tech Week (LTW). We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the event, and with over 30,000 delegates from over 50 countries this year's LTW was the largest since its inception. I highlighted the growth of London's tech sector to become the largest in Europe and promoted our unrivalled offer to tech businesses. I also announced a new Climate Resilience Review, which will consider the role that technology and data can play in improving the response to the climate emergency.

Annual Business Reception

On 20 June, I hosted my annual Business Reception at City Hall. With over 150 business leaders in attendance, I thanked attendees for their contribution to ensuring London remains a world-leading destination for business, tourism and investment.

I also reiterated my commitment to support businesses through the ongoing difficult economic situation and highlighted the work I'm doing to ensure London remains the best place globally to start, scale, host and grow a business.

Meet the Buyer event for SMEs

On 29 June, the London Anchor Institutions' Network (LAIN) which I convene hosted a major event to support London's diverse-owned SMEs to become suppliers to some of the biggest organisations in London. 'Meet the Buyers' brought together representatives from the NHS, GLA, TfL, Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade and University of London to promote live contract opportunities to SMEs, as well as providing training and support for small businesses on how to become supplier ready and successfully bid for procurement opportunities.

The event was part of an ongoing programme of work to support inclusive economic growth through London's anchor institutions buying a greater share of their goods and services from small and diverse-owned businesses.

Battersea Power Station meeting

On 14th June, I met with Tan Sri Jagan Sabapathy, Chairman of Battersea Power Station Holding Company, and Simon Murphy, CEO of Battersea Power Station Development Company, to discuss progress at Battersea Power Station and their future investment plans in London.

London Business Forum

On 20 June, I chaired my London Business Forum at City Hall with leading business representatives to discuss the impact of recent developments on London's businesses and economy. We discussed the success of London Tech Week, the expansion of support through the ULEZ scrappage scheme, the competitive strengths of London and how these can be better communicated to domestic and international audiences.

International promotion and business engagement

On 4 July, my Deputy Mayor Rajesh Agrawal travelled to India to promote London as a destination for foreign direct investment and trade to Indian businesses. Rajesh also joined the annual Urban 20 Summit which brings together representatives from cities within the G20 member states and which aims to influence the G20 on climate change, social integration and economic development.

Iconic Employers Business Breakfast

On 15 June, my Deputy Mayor Rajesh Agrawal provided the keynote opening speech and participated in a panel discussion at the Iconic Employers Business Breakfast. This was an event co-hosted by the Living Wage Foundation and the GLA at the Museum of London, as part of the Making London a Living Wage City (MLLWC) programme. I am a co-chair of the MLLWC Steering Group.

The event served to launch the iconic employers campaign, encouraging London's major employers to increase their participation in the Living Wage movement. The invitees were a combination of living wage accredited and non-accredited employers.

Data for London Advisory Board

On 15 June, my Chief Digital Officer chaired the third meeting of the Data for London Advisory Board meeting at City Hall, at which they discussed the forthcoming updates to UK national data protection legislation. Members were briefed on the work of the Data for London Programme.

London Data Week

On 3 July, my Chief Digital Officer provided a welcome address and chaired a panel on data innovation in London at the launch event of London Data Week, a city-wide festival organised by the London Office of Technology and Innovation and the Alan Turing Institute to learn, discuss, and explore how to use data to shape our city for the better. Over 120 people joined the event launch, and more than 20 events took place during the week.

Community and Social Policy

Launch of Report 'Rights and Risks: Migrant Labour Exploitation in London'

On 12 June, my Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard chaired the launch of a new report I commissioned on migrant labour exploitation in London. It reveals shocking levels of bullying, racially motivated harassment, and exploitation of migrant workers consistent with modern slavery across London.

In line with my long-standing commitment to ensuring migrant Londoners can access their rights, I have commissioned the Work Rights Centre to provide foundational employment rights advice training for 16 migrant and community organisations.

Report can be found here: <https://www.youngfoundation.org/our-work/publications/rights-and-risks-migrant-labour-exploitation-in-london/>

Food Roots programme

The next iteration of the Food Roots programme opened for grant applications on 6 June, and closed 23 June. The Food Roots programme helps food partnerships across London to develop and embed more sustainable and resilient ways of working to better support food insecure Londoners, especially those who are forced to rely on emergency food aid. 20-25 grants are being made available this in this round to support food partnerships across London for 12 months, and decisions will be announced soon.

The invitation to tender for the contracted elements of the programme will be published in the coming weeks.

Local Welcome Hong Kong Fund

Over £319,000 has been allocated to ten key Local Authorities in the capital for the second year of my Local Welcome Hong Kong Fund

This programme seeks to fund activities that support the integration of Hong Kong British National Overseas (BN(O)) visa holders in London, which includes creating translated local welcome packs and other key documents, organising events to celebrate and preserve Hong Kong culture and providing employment and wellbeing support to Hongkongers in London.

Extension of the Migrant Advice and Support Fund

I am also taking action with an extension of the Migrant Advice and Support Fund for a further year to bolster support services for migrants. This will deliver additional specialist services to ensure some of the most vulnerable migrant Londoners can access holistic support and specialised advice, including services for the Windrush Generation, LGBTQI+ migrants, Roma communities and people seeking asylum.

Windrush Day

As part of the Voices of Windrush Festival, my Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard joined the Jamaican High Commission at the Windrush Commemoration event, to lay flower wreaths at the Windrush Memorial and pay tribute to those Caribbean men and women who gave their lives fighting for the UK in in the World Wars, and in wars since. Dr Weekes-Bernard also spoke at the National Windrush Museum's International Conference to explore the legacy of the Windrush Generation.

Refugee Week

During Refugee Week my Deputy Mayor Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard visited people seeking asylum accommodated in a hotel in Barnet to listen to their experiences and the challenges they face. City Hall launched new guidance for local authorities and community sponsorship groups delivering refugee resettlement schemes in London, the report can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/migrants-and-refugees/helping-resettlement-refugees/refugee-resettlement-guidance>

A new video, funded by the GLA, was shared by the Archbishop of Canterbury, promoting communities involved in the Community Sponsorship of refugees in London.

Children and Young Londoners

Mentoring visit and announcement of £34m investment in mentoring

On 13 June, I announced my latest £10m investment in mentoring, through my New Deal for Young People (NDYP), at a visit to City Heights Academy in Lambeth, bringing my total investment in mentoring to £34m, the most ever invested by any UK city. Accompanied by Lib Peck, Chair of the NDYP and Director of the London Violence Reduction Unit, I met with the Headteacher, community mentors working in the school and 11 and 12-year-old pupils receiving mentoring to hear about the huge impact £24m investment from City Hall is already having. More than 50,000 young people have been provided with crucial mentoring support so far. The latest funding boost will provide more mentoring activities, benefitting thousands more young people throughout 2023 and provide support to those young Londoners vulnerable to exploitation or being drawn into violence. It will mean City Hall is on track to provide mentors for 100,000 young people by the end of next year.

Economy Committee

On 14 June, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, gave evidence to the Assembly Economy Committee investigation into the state of childcare for pre-school aged children in London, and the impact this has on both parents and childcare providers in the capital. Although I do not have statutory powers over early years, helping London's children get the best start in life will always be important to me. That's why I was pleased to share the impact of our work to support both London families and the early years sector. This included my Strong Early Years London business support programme which supported over 1340 early years providers with its online one-stop shop attracting over 1,780 unique page views. Nurseries and childminders can still access resources for free through the online one-stop-shop. As part of my London Early Years Campaign, I worked with Coram Family and Childcare to develop an employer toolkit, helping businesses across London to support their employees to understand childcare offers. I continue to promote this resource as part of my Good Work Standard.

School visit to celebrate Clean Air Day

On 15 June, I visited Green Dragon Primary School in Hounslow with Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, to mark [Clean Air Day](#) and I was delighted to announce the winning designs of a London-wide school poster challenge. One of the winners of the competition is a pupil at the school which is one of 53 School Superzones working with their boroughs to make the areas around schools healthier. With the help of a School Superzones grant, Green Dragon School is implementing a range of actions to improve the air quality around the school including installation of air quality monitoring sensors and improving access to green space.

Universal Free School Meals school visit

Earlier this year I announced an historic £130m emergency, one-off funding plan to help families with the spiralling cost of living by ensuring that primary school children in London will receive free school meals in the next academic year. I want to ensure we are engaging with schools across London to learn about how the cost of living crisis has been impacting families and how they are preparing for universal free school meal roll out in September. On 29 June, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, visited Barbly Primary School in Kensington, where she spoke to staff, parents and pupils about their financial struggles over the past year and how this intervention will support them.

Culture

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board Meeting

On 5 July, my Cultural Leadership Board met to discuss the emerging impact of AI (Artificial Intelligence) on the creative industries. Ambassadors were briefed on many of the current uses of AI across the performing and visual arts, music, museums, the screen industries (tv, film and games) and fashion. Ambassadors and policy officers from the Culture and Creative Industries Unit (CCI) discussed how the GLA might support the industry, and which potential stakeholders officers may need to engage with as the impacts of AI continue to develop.

BMW Classics with the London Symphony Orchestra

On 10 June, I was delighted to join Sir Simon Rattle on stage at Trafalgar Square to speak at this year's BMW Classics concert. 7,000 Londoners and visitors enjoyed a range of music performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. The players were joined on stage by 50 young musicians from East London and students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to give the world premiere performance of *Light Dancing* by Eloise Gynn. The partnership between the London Symphony Orchestra, BMW and the GLA is vital in ensuring London is a place where our world-class culture can be enjoyed by everyone. regardless of age or background.

Capital West London Growth Summit and Royal Town Planning Institute London Awards

On 20 June, the Night Czar took part in a panel discussion at the Capital West London Growth Summit at the Drum in Wembley. The event brought together over 200 senior representatives from public authorities, developers, investors, and key stakeholders to discuss the opportunities across West London from growth sectors and infrastructure, to decarbonisation, housing, and town centres at night.

On 29 June, the Night Czar gave a keynote speech at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) London Awards for Planning Excellence. The Awards Ceremony celebrates the successes and achievements of RTPI members within planning and recognises outstanding individuals and projects who entered the 2022 Awards for Planning Excellence. The RTPI has championed the need to carry out the Night Test on development plans across the capital to ensure the built environment meets the needs of residents, workers and businesses not just in the day but also at night.

Understanding and improving the health and wellbeing of night workers

On 21 June, the Night Czar spoke at a parliamentary reception to raise awareness of the impact of night working and improving the health and wellbeing of night workers. The event also highlighted Liminal Space's 'night club' project - an award-winning health and wellbeing initiative that brings together employers, policy makers, workers, and sleep scientists to improve the productivity and health of night workers.

On 22 June, the Night Czar spoke at a conference on Advancing Understanding of Night Work hosted by UCL, with the University of Melbourne, Liminal Space, and the Living Wage Foundation. The conference brought together stakeholders from academia, local government, and their partners, including grassroots campaigners and small businesses, to discuss key challenges and insights regarding night-work, night-workers' experiences and associated night-spaces.

National Events Safety Roundtable

On 26 June, the Night Czar chaired a National Events Safety Roundtable at City Hall. This event brought together industry leaders and regulators to look at the changing risks and challenges facing events organisers and public services across the UK. Many of these challenges have emerged since the pandemic, compounded by the cost of living and cost of doing business crises and require a multi-agency, partnership approach to understanding them and putting realistic, timely and achievable solutions in place.

Rainbow Plaques announced

On 28 June, I announced five new permanent Rainbow Plaques at my Pride Reception. The project has received £25,000 funding from Untold Stories, part of my Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Each plaque commemorates a different aspect of London's LGBTQIA+ heritage and the project is being delivered by London LGBT+ Forums Network and Studio Voltaire. The first plaque will be unveiled on 23 July and is dedicated to seminal 1996 film Beautiful Thing.

Roundtable on concerns of racial profiling of live music events

On 4 July, the Night Czar chaired a roundtable with the Musicians' Union, Met Police, Black Lives in Music, plus artists and promoters. This event was to better understand the concerns from artists, promoters, venues and audiences of racial profiling when planning live music and to explore how we can make London's live music scene a place that supports and nurtures all talent.

Civil Society and Sport

Young People and Communities Conference

On 16 June, I welcomed over 200 young Londoners and professional guests to City Hall for my first Young People and Communities Conference. The conference focused on how positive action taken by young people in their local communities helps to build a stronger city. Through facilitated discussions, the event gave space for young Londoners to share their perspectives directly with key changemakers from across our city on issues such as climate change, mental health and serious violence, and reaffirmed my support for young people in playing an active role in civil society.

My Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, spoke to attendees about how my youth social action programmes are creating positive change in our city, and highlighted the importance of supporting the next generation of Londoners. The event also spotlighted young people from across London who are taking positive action within their boroughs, and my team have collected insight and feedback from the event which will contribute to future youth social action work.

Young Ambassadors Letters to London

On 16 June I responded to nine letters as part of the Young Ambassadors Letters to London initiative. The young Londoners letters were displayed at the Young People and Communities Conference and delivered to young people in school assemblies. Ten young letter writers got the opportunity to read their letter out loud at the conference in front of an audience of over 200 people. Over 5,000 young people have written letters, their voices give me rich insight into the passions and concerns of young Londoners and the issues they want to see addressed in their local communities. Within my response I encouraged young Londoners to get involved in social action

initiatives and assured them that I will continue to work hard to make London the greatest city in the world.

Armed Forces Day flag raising

On 19 June, I invited 30 Tollgate School Young Ambassadors to attend the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony outside City Hall. The Young Ambassadors enjoyed the ceremony and shared with me their Greenway litter pick social action project.

Laureus Sport for Good Global Summit 2023 comes to London

On 20 June, I delivered an address (via video) welcoming the 2023 Laureus Global Summit to London. In my address, I welcomed the 300 guests in attendance as the host city Mayor. I presented London as the worldwide thought leader in community development and sport for change.

The Laureus Global Summit is a two-and-a-half-day high-profile international event that brings together over 200 leaders, athletes and sportspeople from across the world to promote the use of sport as a tool for social change. The Sixth edition of the summit was held for the first time in London. The summit focus was on gender equality and place-based approaches. Since 2018 I have invested £1.6m alongside Laureus to deliver 'Model City London' through my sport unites programme.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Volunteer Manager Forum

On 20 June, my Civil Society and Volunteering team convened 25 volunteer involving organisations to come together at City Hall for the first ever Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Volunteer Manager Forum. Representatives from organisations such as North London Hospice, Shelter, Our Parklife, and numerous London-based volunteer centres gathered to discuss good practice and challenges within EDI in volunteering, and ways to overcome barriers.

UK Combined Authorities Civil Society leads

On 21 June, my Civil Society Team convened a group of Civil Society leads from UK Combined Authorities. Representatives attended from North of Tyne Combined Authority, West Midlands Combined Authority and Bristol Council. The group discussed the role of regional authorities in engaging with and supporting civil society groups and shared innovative practice. The group intend to meet regularly to share good practice, discuss pertinent issues and share information.

Mayor's Community Weekend

Over the weekend of 23 – 25 June, nearly 200 community groups across London celebrated the city's first ever Mayor's Community Weekend. In partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund my Civil Society team delivered a fantastic weekend in which charities, volunteers and community groups organised an amazing array of events to celebrate our togetherness, diversity and resilience and to show that working together we are stronger.

Major League Baseball's London Series 2023

On 24 - 25 June, London Stadium hosted St. Louis Cardinals v Chicago Cubs, representing the second two Major League Baseball (MLB) fixtures ever to be staged in the UK. I was so proud that we welcomed almost 120,000 attendees across the two days, and broadcast across the UK and US.

The games truly showcased London on the global stage. I was thrilled to attend the second of these fixtures where I heard about MLB's five-year legacy programme project - working with schools and community groups across the capital to increase participation in baseball and softball. MLB successfully delivered the First Pitch Festival and Workout Day this year to engage and educate young people in the sport. For the first time ever, MLB took over Trafalgar Square to provide a free fan festival across the weekend with over 30,000 visitors. Trafalgar Square played host to an exciting programme of activities including batting and pitching cages. I'm really looking forward to building on the success of the MLB London Series 2023, with MLB announcing on 23 June that the New York Mets will face the Philadelphia Phillies in the London Series in June 2024.

Health

Faculty of Public Health Awards Ceremony

On 27 June, I was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the UK Faculty of Public Health, at an award ceremony held at the Royal College of Physicians.

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) is the highest professional standards body of all public health professionals in the UK. This level of membership is only offered to those who are recognised as having distinguished themselves through their significant contribution to the science, literature or practice of public health.

I was proud to be recognised among distinguished public health leaders for my own commitment to improving Londoners' health through bold policy actions and programmes which include, ULEZ, the School Superzones programme, and my policy restricting junk-food adverts on TfL.

Previous recipients of the award include Prof Sir Jonathan Van Tam (2022) and Professor Sir Chris Whitty (2020).

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Planning

On 12 June, OPDC approved an application under Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017 for works associated with the extension of the previously consented replacement Great Western Mainline Bridge and a new bridge for a potential future extension of the Chiltern Line and associated works.

On 15 June, OPDC's Board agreed to submit its Community Infrastructure Levy for examination and on 16th June following a board decision, OPDC adopted its Planning Obligations SPD.

Heat Network

On 5 July, OPDC's bid to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Green Heat Network Fund was approved, subject to meeting the necessary terms and conditions. The bid sought £36m of funding to develop and deliver an ambitious heat network for Old Oak and Park Royal and has the capacity to deliver resilient, low cost and zero-carbon heating for up to 12,000 – 15,000 homes by harnessing waste heat energy from industrial uses in Park Royal. The project is then scheduled to progress to detailed scheme development and procurement ahead of delivery in 2024/25.

Affordable Loan Fund

On 30 June, OPDC launched its new Loans for Small Businesses (The Loan Fund). Funded by OPDC and the Mayor of London through the Acton and Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone, the Loan Fund will make affordable loan funding available to small businesses and workspace providers in the OPDC area.

The Loan Fund will make £350,000 available as part of the pilot phase to support new and existing Park Royal-based food manufacturing and creative businesses to expand their businesses, as well as supporting affordable workspace providers to expand their premises.

Old Oak and Park Royal Food Festival

On 1 July, OPDC held the first Park Royal Food Festival in partnership with Segro, City Harvest London and Loom Projects. The one-day event brought together local food businesses to celebrate the vibrant food and culture of Park Royal.

The festival included gastronomic walking tours, tastings and free food sampling, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, storytelling and music.

Street Elite Graduation Ceremony

On 6 July, OPDC, in partnership with the Change Foundation and Berkeley Foundation, held a graduation ceremony for participants of the Street Elite programme at the Grand Union, a new St George development in Alperton.

The Street Elite Programme is a multi-award-winning training-for-work programme to support young people who've been impacted by crime, violence and inequality. The programme supports young people into secure education, employment or training opportunities and was funded by OPDC via its Employment & Skills Hub (the Forge) and the Berkeley Foundation. The programme is a 14-week course for 15 young men living on estates in Brent, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham. The graduation ceremony was attended by OPDC's CEO, David Lunts and the Leader of Brent Council, Cllr Mohammed Butt.

London Legacy Development Corporation

Events

The sporting summer schedule at London Stadium got underway over the weekend of 24 and 25 June as Major League Baseball (MLB) returned for the first time since 2019. A crowd of more than 100,000 over the two days watched Chicago Cubs draw with St Louis Cardinals in the two-game London Series – many visitors were from the USA, which generated significant spend in to London. The event was broadcast internationally with the BBC and BT Sport providing domestic coverage. MLB will return next year as part of a three-year deal that I was pleased to sign last year. New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies will play each other in the 2024 London Series.

Canadian singer The Weeknd performed at London Stadium over two nights on 6 and 7 July. It was also announced on 27 June that Foo Fighters would be returning to London Stadium on 20 and 22 June, 2024.

An array of other sporting events took place on the Park during the period: On 16 June, the Copper Box Arena hosted Fast5 Netball. The annual GB International Hockey FIH Pro League

concluded at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre on 21 June. Over 950 competitors, representing 41 nations competed in the IGLA LGBTQ+ Aquatics Championships at the London Aquatics Centre from 25 to 30 June.

Green Finance Fund

I announced on 29 June a new £500million fund to help organisations achieve net zero by 2030. The Green Finance Fund will support projects delivering benefits in either energy efficiency, clean transport or renewable energy and is open to organisations in the GLA Group, any of London's 32 local authorities, social housing providers, NHS bodies, universities and colleges. One of the first projects to benefit from the Fund is London Stadium where London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) has secured funding to install solar panel membranes on the roof of the stadium. This project is expected to generate approximately 10 per cent of the stadium's current electricity usage and is forecast to save 270 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per annum, the equivalent of making 70 homes carbon neutral.

Global Disability Innovation Hub

The Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub), which I launched at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in 2016, received £31million from the Government's UK Aid fund, which is part of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The GDI Hub, which was developed by LLDC and University College London (UCL), works around the world in helping to improve accessibility for disabled people.

3 Mills Studios

I visited 3 Mills Studios on 3 July after LLDC announced the completion of a £6million renovation and modernisation project to upgrade a series of historic buildings at the complex in east London. The project has created over 10,000 sq ft of new workspaces for production teams at 3 Mills and will help deliver a world-class cultural and creative production hub throughout the Thames Estuary Production Corridor.

SHIFT

SHIFT, the world's first inclusive innovation district, celebrated one year since it was launched at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park during the closing ceremony of London Tech Week. SHIFT brings together public, private, community and academic sectors to jointly explore creative solutions to everyday challenges in climate change, health and wellbeing and movement of people and things in cities.

In the first of its Shifting Gears event series on 7 June, SHIFT welcomed representatives from government, academia, business and community innovators from east London and beyond to discuss and share stories about action being to address climate change.

The Great Get Together and London Youth Games Foundation's Finals Festival

The Great Get Together returned for another year at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 1 July. LLDC's free community event on the Park was also supported by local and East Bank partners, including the V&A, Sadler's Well, the BBC, UCL and London College of Fashion who all added to the activities on offer.

The London Youth Games Foundation's Finals Festival was held over the same weekend as The Great Get Together. It was the first multi-sport event to make use of all the venues since the London 2012 Games. The event was free of charge to participants and spectators.

Planning and Regeneration

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and 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	Decision	Application Type
2021/1197	NR09 & NR10	Havering	26/06/2023	Allow LPA to refuse	Stage 2
2022/0095	Church Street Sites A, B and C	Westminster	12/06/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

I have asked officers to send letters giving comments on the following Stage 1 referrals:

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0306	Oxlow Bridge School	Barking and Dagenham	12/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0338	Glynns Skip Hire	Brent	26/06/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0410	St Pancras Hospital - Oriel site	Camden	21/06/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0411	156 West End Lane	Camden	21/06/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0391	Land South Of Park Avenue	Ealing	21/06/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0241	Island Site	Greenwich	12/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0320	Shepherds Bush Market	Hammersmith and Fulham	19/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0294	Seven Sisters Road Warehouse District Gateway	Haringey	19/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0297	Feltham Corporation Centre	Hounslow	19/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0305	380 Kensington High Street	Kensington and Chelsea	19/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0350	Kings College Hospital	Lambeth	12/06/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0331	East Village Plot N16	London Legacy Development Corporation	26/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0307	579-589 Kingston Road Raynes Park SW20 8DR	Merton	12/06/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0313	Crown Wharf	Newham	26/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0056	Chalk Gardens (currently B&Q Sutton)	Sutton	19/06/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

Local Plans

On 5 July, GLA officers responded on my behalf to LB Bromley's Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation. This was an early engagement consultation and as such I provided the borough with general guidance which should prove helpful in developing the draft Plan further.

LJ Works opening, Loughborough Junction

On 14 June, my Head of Regeneration attended the community opening of the LJ Works project, in Loughborough Junction. With £1.64m of funding provided by City Hall, LJ Works is a new-build enterprise hub on what was previously a triangle of wasteland between railway arches and the Loughborough Estate.

It has been designed to create opportunities for the diversity of entrepreneurs and creative talent in the area. The buildings surround an outdoor yard and gardens, which is managed by Loughborough Farm, who have been using part of the site for many years as growing space. The buildings are operated by Meanwhile Space, and provide 18 workshops, 8 studios and co-working desk space. All are available at below market rates.

A community give-back scheme provides a framework for LJ Works member businesses to connect with the wider Loughborough Junction community through skill sharing, training opportunities, organising creative and social activities, or volunteering with local organisations. The largest space on site is let to Old Spike Roastery, a social enterprise providing workplace training opportunities for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, Old Spike Roastery works with its employment partners to place graduates into London Living Wage jobs.

Boston Manor Community and Creative Catalyst (Good Growth Fund)

Boston Manor House in Hounslow received £490,000 from my Good Growth Fund and my Head of Regeneration attended the official opening on 15 June. This development transformed and restored the Grade I listed Boston Manor House into a new piece of civic infrastructure to support local people, businesses and creatives.

The sensitive restoration and transformation of the service wing into creative workspace and studios supports the local creative sector, enabling the establishment of an arts market that will take place under the M4. The towpath linking Boston Manor to the surrounding developments and Creative Enterprise Zone areas was also enhanced. In combination these interventions will support and grow creative talent in the Great West Corridor.

Supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England, the wider project re-designed parkland, a café, and cultural and community spaces which will be accessible to local communities for events, family activities and volunteering opportunities.

Plumstead High Street Improvements

Plumstead 'Embrace the Change' project was allocated £2.51m from my Good Growth Fund. On 26 June My Head of Regeneration attended the opening of the first phase of the project. This phase delivered several improvements to Plumstead High Street that are designed to help local business and improve the level of comfort for people using the street. Shopfront improvements have been carried out on twenty shops; green spaces have been made more usable; and footways have been widened amongst others.

Key Engagements

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

- I attended and spoke at the London Symphony Orchestra concert in Trafalgar Square on 10 June
- I attended the 'It's Time' National memorial service on 11 June
- I spoke at the opening of London Tech Week on 12 June
- I chaired the Homes for Londoners Board on 12 June
- I visited a VRU mentoring project on 13 June
- I chaired the London Partnership Board on 13 June
- I visited the site of Grenfell Tower on 14 June
- I chaired the VRU Reference Group on 14 June
- I met the Chairman of Battersea Power Station on 14 June
- I marked "Clean Air Day" at Green Dragon Primary School on 15 June
- I chaired the C40 Steering Committee on 15 June
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 15 June
- I spoke at the GLA Armed Forces Day ceremony on 19 June
- I spoke at the 'People Move' Exhibition as part of Refugee Week on 19 June
- I spoke at the Muslim News Awards on 19 June
- I hosted the annual GLA Business Reception on 20 June
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 22 June
- I attended a National Service of Thanksgiving for the 75th anniversary of Windrush on 22 June
- I visited the Muslim Women's Welfare Association on 25 June
- I spoke at a vigil for Zara Aleena on 25 June
- I attended the Major League Baseball at the London Stadium on 25 June
- I held my regular planning decisions meeting on 26 June
- I attended an opening reception for London Climate Action Week on 26 June
- I attended the APPG London Summer Reception on 26 June
- I received an honorary fellowship from the Faculty of Public Health on 27 June
- I met with the President of COP28 on 27 June
- I attended the Serpentine Summer Reception on 27 June
- I joined HRH the Princess of Wales at the reopening of the Young V&A on 28 June
- I joined HM the King at the London Climate Action Week on 28 June
- I hosted the annual GLA Pride Reception on 28 June
- I attended the Met Police Annual Ceremony of Remembrance on 29 June
- I attended the State of London Debate on 29 June
- I joined the GLA LGBTQ+ Network at the annual London Pride parade on 1 July
- I visited 3 Mills Film Studios on 3 July
- I met with Ben Lindsay, CEO of Power the Fight on 3 July
- I held my regular meeting with the London Fire Commissioner on 3 July
- I met with Tim Leiweke, CEO of Oak View Group on 4 July
- I spoke at an Eid Reception in Parliament on 4 July
- I attended the London Assembly Transport Plenary on 6 July
- I met with the Canadian High Commissioner on 6 July