

25th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 12 October 2023

This is my twenty fifth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 1 September – 28 September 2023.

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

Executive Summary

Rollout of Universal Free School Meals

I'm immensely proud that up to 287,000 more children across London state schools are now benefiting from free school meals due to my historic and unprecedented £135m emergency expansion. I visited Newport Primary School on 5 September to mark the rollout of the scheme in state primary schools across the capital. It was humbling to meet with school staff, parents and pupils and to hear about how the cost-of-living crisis has impacted them.

I have repeatedly called for the Government to provide universal free school meals to help already stretched families and remove the stigma of receiving the meals, but they have simply failed to act. That's why, in light of the growing pressures on families, I intervened to provide this necessary support to families. I'm determined to do all I can to help families across London who are struggling and I know from personal experience what a lifeline free school meals can be. Our latest polling shows that a third of parents and guardians of children between five and 11 years say they are financially struggling, with around 16% going without basic needs or relying on debt to pay for them.

This funding will save households upwards of £440 per child across the year, and ensure parents aren't worrying about how they're going to feed their children. I want to thank boroughs and schools across the capital for their ongoing partnership work with us, and their incredible efforts to be ready to serve the additional lunches in time for the start of term.

Inaugural meeting of the London Policing Board

On 26 September I was proud to chair the first meeting of the London Policing Board, at which Members were able to question Baroness Casey and Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley about plans for reform of the Met and particularly the culture and standards in the Service. The Members of the London Policing Board represent a wide and diverse range of expertise and lived experiences and will help me oversee and drive the changes in policing that Londoners need and deserve. Crucially we have strong representation from those communities who have been let down by the police for far too long and have the lowest levels of trust in the Met.

The insightful comments and incisive questioning at this first meeting shows how invaluable their contributions will be in driving the reform we need to see to build a safer and fairer London for everyone. I am deeply grateful to all of the Members for putting themselves forward to be a part of the Board, and for their contributions so far, as well as to the MOPAC and GLA staff who have worked so hard to make this Board a reality.

The webcast of the meeting is available [here](#). The next meeting of the Board will take place at 10:00am on 6 December.

Visit to New York to promote Investment in London and speak at the UN Climate Ambition Summit

On 17-20 September, I visited New York to bang the drum for international investment in London and speak at the UN secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit, which was held alongside the United Nations General Assembly. The climate emergency is the most significant challenge we face today. It marked the first time a UK Mayor has received an invitation to such an event, emphasizing London's pivotal role in advancing and implementing climate action.

I had the privilege to address world leaders following a personal invitation from the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres. I am committed to ensuring that London remains at the forefront in addressing the twin challenges of air pollution and the climate emergency so that we can deliver a brighter, sustainable future. At the summit, I reinforced London and the C40 network of global cities' commitment to the Paris Agreement, aiming to limit warming to below 1.5 degrees. My visit to the UN was a great opportunity to learn from other cities and nations and ensure London remains at the forefront of global action.

During my time in the USA, I was championing our capital as the perfect destination for businesses to invest in and tourists to visit as I continue working to build a more prosperous London for everyone. In New York, I showcased London's potential at high-level business meetings with senior global business leaders, encouraging US companies to expand and invest in our city. I also participated in a business roundtable hosted by London & Partners, our city's business growth and destination agency, where I engaged with businesses keen on expanding their operations to London.

Meeting with Mayor Chow, Mayor of Toronto

On 25 September, I held an introductory phone call with the newly elected Mayor of Toronto, Olivia Chow. London and Toronto face similar challenges, such as addressing the climate emergency, bridging societal inequalities, and delivering affordable housing. This meeting was a great opportunity to develop a closer relationships with Canada's largest city and an opportunity to share best practices. Mayor Chow and I also discussed the London Plan; London's mentoring support for Young Londoners through my New Deal for Young People; The Met Police's The Right Care, Right Person Policy (RCRP); and the work of London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner to make the capital's streets safer for walking and cycling. London and Toronto share a rich history of cooperation and engagement, and we will continue to work together and learn from each other on our shared issues.

New routes and next steps for the next phase of the Superloop network in outer London

Transport for London has confirmed that it is pressing ahead with plans to introduce two brand new express bus routes to the Superloop network, following a public consultation and the publication of reports into the consultations. Both route proposals were welcomed by respondents.

The two new faster bus services - the SL1 and SL10 - will connect Harrow and North Finchley, and North Finchley and Walthamstow and will be the next Superloop routes to be added to the network, with plans to start services on the two routes later this year.

The SL1 will run alongside part of the existing route 221 between North Finchley and New Southgate, and part of route 34 between Arnos Grove and Walthamstow while the SL10 will offer Londoners additional bus connections to busy areas and neighbourhoods in north and northwest London.

The SL10 will run alongside part of the existing route 183 between Harrow and Hendon, and part of route 125 between Hendon and North Finchley.

Routes SL1 and SL10 will connect at North Finchley with same stop interchange in both directions. Interchange will also be available between routes SL9 and SL10 at Harrow Bus Station, allowing for simple transfers across the multiple routes that make up Superloop.

Next phase of 4G and 5G across the Tube network as first West End stations go live

On 9 September, I welcomed the next phase of the introduction of high-speed mobile coverage across the Tube network as the first stations in the West End got 4G and 5G mobile coverage. Customers using the Central line between Oxford Circus and Tottenham Court Road became the latest to benefit from 4G and 5G coverage in the ticket hall, on escalators and on Central line platforms. In addition, coverage has also been introduced to the Northern line platforms at Tottenham Court Road.

All four mobile network operators - Three UK, EE, Vodafone, and Virgin Media O2 (VMO2) - are taking part in the rollout, which has already delivered mobile coverage on sections of the Jubilee, Northern and Central lines.

By the end of the year, 33 stations with platforms that are underground and therefore usually unable to get a mobile signal, as well as their connecting tunnels, will have mobile coverage, increasing to more than 40 stations by Spring 2024. In the coming months, further stations along the Northern and Central lines such as Goodge Street, Chancery Lane and Bank will get mobile coverage, helping the millions of visitors who come to Central London and in particular the West End every year better navigate the capital.

TfL to launch 65km of new lower speed limit schemes to cut road danger across the capital and save lives

Transport for London has announced plans to introduce 65km of new 20mph speed limits. These will be located within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Lewisham, Southwark, Wandsworth, Merton, Bromley and Lambeth. The new speed limits will be introduced in stages over the last four months of the year, making London's streets safer for everyone.

The announcement came as TfL launched a powerful new road safety campaign to tackle speeding. These new speed limits will help make a large area of south London safer and more attractive for people in these communities to live and work in, encouraging people out of their cars to walk, cycle and use public transport more often.

Enabling more people to use healthier and more sustainable forms of travel will be vital to reducing congestion and air pollution. Once the works on the new speed limits are finalised, TfL will have delivered 140km of 20mph roads, ahead of its target to do this by May 2024.

The speed limits will be supported by new signs and road markings and TfL is working closely with the Metropolitan Police Service to ensure that drivers understand and comply with the new lower speed limits.

London Borough of Culture Liberty Festival

From 1 to 3 September, Liberty, my flagship festival celebrating the work of D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists took place in and around Fairfield Halls in Croydon as part of their year as London Borough of Culture. Curated this year by Croydon focused charity, Drunken Chorus, the festival celebrated its 20th anniversary and included dance performances, immersive theatre, poetry readings and fitness workouts and showcased work from over 60 artists.

The three-day festival included some of the UK's best stand-up comedy talent including Francesca Martinez and Aaron Simmonds. There were inclusive workout sessions with Joe Wicks, arts organisation Touretteshero created a spaceship for their immersive piece, 'Journey to a Better World' and there were family garden parties across the weekend. The event achieved broad media coverage including a piece on BBC London news, a two hour broadcast on BBC London Radio

Black on the Square

On Saturday 2 September, I was delighted to hold the first ever Black on the Square. This celebration of Black culture and creativity is a fantastic addition to our capital's cultural calendar and was delivered with the support of Creative Programmer, Kobi Prempeh from fynn studio, and our Community Advisory Group, chaired by Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE.

London's Black communities are a vital part of the rich fabric of our city, and I am proud that this brand new, free event showcased and championed the sheer breadth of the capital's Black creative talent.

On the main stage, there were a number of fantastic performances including MOBO unsung artists Melica and Bea Anderson, The Spit Game UK, and Enny. There were stalls for Black-owned businesses and organisations and Black-owned food vendors offering dishes from across the African and Caribbean Diaspora. The official media partners for the day, The Voice and Alt Africa, covered the event and the hashtag #blackonthesquare was widely used by attendees to share photos of the day.

Black on the Square delivers on my manifesto pledge to develop a public event which specifically celebrates Black culture and creativity. The festival aligns with my wider commitment to identifying, supporting and nurturing creative talent from across London's diverse communities, and is a welcome addition to the programme of community events on Trafalgar Square. That list also includes Diwali, Eid, St Patrick's Day, Lunar New Year, Vaisakhi, St George's Day, Chanukah, and Pride.

Policing, Crime and Security

London's health partners adopt public health approach to tackling VAWG

At a landmark summit in central London on 13 September, NHS London, the new Integrated Care Boards and Directors of Public Health, together with local authority community safety and safeguarding leads committed to tackling violence against women and girls by signing up to six pledges in line with the public health approach to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) set out in my VAWG Strategy for London.

My VAWG Strategy recognises that more robust policing or the threat of the criminal justice system alone cannot prevent violence against women and girls. A more innovative approach is needed - one that seeks to understand the underlying drivers of harassment, abuse or violence against women and girls and brings public sector agencies together with communities to address them.

The six pledges are:

- **Recognise all forms of violence against women and girls in everything we do** - Develop strategies and policies to identify how each respective organisation tackles all VAWG in all areas of business.
- **Embed action to end perpetration of VAWG** - Address offender behaviour, supporting them to change, while ensuring the safety of the victim is at the heart of any action.
- **Work together to actively tackle VAWG** - Create a culture across all partners where all staff are confident to identify and respond to VAWG whether it's dealing with a staff issue or supporting a patient.
- **Strengthen workplace safety** - Acknowledge and address the role of power dynamics within work environments and providing protection and support for staff who are experiencing or have experienced VAWG.
- **Promote a collaborative learning environment** - Understand the gaps in knowledge within our services and listening to experiences of colleagues to provide effective staff training focused on providing bespoke support to the needs of individual.
- **Ensure an anti-misogynistic environment** - Develop a shared understanding of what misogyny is, identifying structural barriers and working to address them, and through training with a focus on allyship to ensure there is no space for misogyny in the workplace.

I welcome this commitment from London health partners to do everything possible to tackle all forms of sexual harassment, misogyny and violence against women and girls – helping build a safer London for everyone.

Violence reduction

Evidence shows that children and young people are more vulnerable to exploitation and violence on a school day, between 3pm and 10pm.

My Violence Reduction Unit has invested £3.4 million in its after-school programme, providing targeted interventions and opportunities for young people aged 8-18.

On 15 September, I visited the Business Launchpad in Tooting to announce that the VRU's programme will provide targeted opportunities for 17,000 young people through 23 community-led organisations.

The investment trebles the number of young people that will benefit from the programme, up from 5,000 supported over the last two years.

I met more than 80 young people at Business Launchpad, which is being funded through the VRU's after-school programme, all of whom are developing business ideas and getting support on how to get them off the ground.

It's part of our approach to provide children and young people with positive and constructive things to do in order to keep them safe and enabling them to develop and thrive.

Transport

August Bank Holiday ridership figures the highest since the pandemic as TfL encourages Londoners to get out and about this autumn

The latest ridership figures from Transport for London have revealed the August Bank Holiday was the busiest for bus journeys and Tube journeys since the pandemic.

The long weekend saw the highest number of journeys taken since the pandemic in comparison to previous years, as millions travelled to west London to commemorate the 75th Windrush anniversary at Notting Hill Carnival. Bus travel saw a near 10 per cent increase on the equivalent weekend last year, with Tube journeys seeing a near six per cent increase.

After a strong summer of high ridership numbers, TfL has been encouraging Londoners to walk, cycle and hop on public transport during September to make the most of the Open House Festival's inspiring programme of sites opening up to the public, and to discover an unfamiliar part of the capital.

London has been roaring back this summer, with Londoners and tourists from around the world using TfL's network to explore the capital's cultural gems. There is much more to enjoy this autumn as London plays host to a wide range of events, including London Fashion Week and Open House Festival.

TfL sets out bold new strategy for making buses safer

Transport for London has published a new Bus Safety Strategy that outlines specific actions to be taken to achieve its Vision Zero goals for the bus network. The strategy sets out TfL's safety priorities for the bus network and ensures that buses remain the safest way to travel on the roads, and to reduce the number of deaths caused by bus collisions and for zero serious injuries by 2041.

TfL's Bus Safety Programme is already delivering the greatest reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured per journey of any road-based mode of transport. The Bus Safety Standard which sets out the standards required for new buses in the capital's fleet, is at the heart of this programme and is leading the international bus industry in requiring physical and technological safety improvements. TfL has now reached the milestone of more than 1,000 buses in London's fleet meeting the standard.

The new strategy sets out what TfL and bus operators are already doing and what more needs to do be done to meet the Vision Zero ambition in London. TfL recently launched the fourth Bus

Safety Innovation Challenge to help find solutions to reduce injuries to customers while travelling on a bus.

TfL and delivery companies launch new road safety charter, to keep motorcycle couriers and other Londoners safe on the roads

Transport for London and meal and grocery delivery companies have committed to improving road safety in London with the launch of a new voluntary Meal and Grocery Delivery Company Motorcycle Road Safety Charter. The Charter, signed by five companies: Deliveroo, Getir, JustEat, Stuart and UberEats, consists of 10 road safety principles that aim to keep motorcycle couriers and other Londoners safe on the road.

The Charter is part of a range of measures that TfL is taking to make London's streets safer for all who use them, and key to the Mayor's Vision Zero goal of eliminating death and serious injury from the transport network.

TfL is working in partnership with the meal and grocery delivery industry to improve safety for riders and other road users, and to drive down these devastating incidents. The safety principles set out by the charter include: a commitment to Vision Zero and eradicating deaths and serious injuries from London's roads; ensuring couriers meet the legal requirements for working and riding in the UK; assisting couriers in understanding how to ride safely and within the law; and to ensure that vehicles are legally compliant and roadworthy. As well as providing a set of principles that meal and grocery delivery companies can commit to, to help improve the safety of riders, the charter also represents an important step in raising awareness of motorcycle rider safety and what can be done to improve standards.

The support of meal and grocery delivery companies is vital in helping TfL to achieve Vision Zero, and TfL will continue to work with other firms in the industry to encourage them to sign up to the Charter. As part of committing to this shared Charter, TfL has also asked meal and grocery delivery companies to attend TfL's six-monthly Meal and Grocery Delivery Company Road Safety Forum. At the Forum, TfL and meal and grocery delivery companies will discuss progress around implementing the Charter, and new ideas to improve road safety.

TfL and MOPAC announce new victim support service with Brake and RoadPeace to improve support for those affected by road traffic collisions in London

Transport for London in collaboration with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), police and charities Brake and RoadPeace, is to launch a new pilot victim support service to significantly improve support for victims of the most serious road traffic collisions in London. The service will enhance the level of support available to families left bereaved and those catastrophically injured and make it easier to access the support they need following incidents that can often devastate lives.

Despite progress being made, last year 102 people were tragically killed and 3,859 seriously injured on London's roads. The devastating consequences for the families, friends and communities impacted by these deaths and life-changing injuries is immense. The new service will help support people affected by the most serious collisions and those experiencing a bereavement or catastrophic injury

Every single death or serious injury on our roads results in heartache and trauma for victims, their loved ones and their communities. With the right support, those affected can begin to heal, which

is why we're working with TfL, the police and charities to launch A new victim support service. The service will offer victims and those affected the practical and emotional support they need, helping us to continue building a better and safer London for everyone.

TfL launches four new Cycleways in north and east London expanding the network further across outer London

Transport for London has launched four new Cycleways in Enfield and Waltham Forest that have further expanded the network, making it even safer and easier for people to travel around north and east London by bike. The new or extended routes have been delivered rapidly alongside TfL and the boroughs' existing programme to build new walking and cycling infrastructure, helping people to access jobs, schools, and hospitality by bike, and has added 10km to London's network of safe cycle routes.

TfL and the boroughs' continued work to develop Cycleways in outer London means that more than 40 per cent of people in Waltham Forest are within 400m of a high-quality cycle route, contributing toward the target of 40 per cent of Londoners living within 400m of a high quality cycle network by 2030. Neighbouring Enfield also has one of the capital's largest Cycleway networks with 51 per cent of residents living within 400m of high-quality cycling infrastructure. Well-connected and high-quality cycleways play a crucial role enabling more Londoners to cycle safely.

There has already been a significant boost in cycling in north and east London and the Mayor is committed to building on this progress even further. These new cycleways in outer London will make cycling safer and more accessible to more communities across the capital.

TfL encourages people to make the most of car-free streets to boost their mental health and wellbeing

Transport for London and London boroughs encouraged people to enjoy traffic-free streets as London marked World Car Free Day on Friday 22 September with around a hundred events in local streets and neighbourhoods.

Local streets across London were open for play over the weekend as they become play streets for the day, enabling thousands of Londoners to play, walk, cycle and spend time with their neighbours. London hosted its largest Car Free Day celebrations in 2019, which saw thousands of people enjoy traffic-free streets in central London as well as hundreds of local streets across the capital.

Santander Cycles encouraged people to make the most of their cycles with the opening of a new docking station in Clapham and a special Car Free Day discount of 50 per cent off monthly memberships. The new docking station on Nightingale Lane in Clapham has proven popular with more than 500 hires in its first weeks of opening. TfL and the free community walking app Go Jauntly encouraged Londoners to improve their health and wellbeing by walking at least 20 minutes a day in order to raise awareness of World Alzheimer's Month.

Environment

Deputy Mayor attended meeting with Mayor/Sir John Armitt

On 4 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Transport and Planning, Regeneration and Skills and I met with Sir John Armitt, Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC). We discussed the NIC's upcoming 2nd National Infrastructure Assessment and the emerging recommendations regarding London's infrastructure investment needs.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Price Bailey

On 7 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment Energy, met Price Bailey - the liquidator for Green Energy Together (GET), one of the installers under Solar Together London. The Deputy Mayor expressed how unacceptable the performance of GET has been and set out my intention to ensure Londoners are properly protected. She sought assurances that Price Bailey, would be thoroughly investigating the conduct and finances of GET to ensure no London affected by GET's liquidation is out of pocket.

Deputy Mayor will be meeting with 3Ci Advisory Board Meeting

On 7 September Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, attended the quarterly 3Ci Advisory Board meeting. MP Chris Skidmore attended to discuss London's progress on green finance. The Deputy Mayor raised London's key achievements to date on mobilising green finance and key issues/barriers we and other urban areas face in mobilising the billions needed. Chris Skidmore invited board members to contribute any further recommendations and information about green jobs and growth success stories to a 'Mission Zero' report he will release later this month. The GLA will submit a response.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Ofgem

On 11 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met Ofgem to discuss how Ofgem can deepen interaction and co-operation with the GLA. They discussed Ofgem's plans for reformed governance arrangements for local energy institutions. My Deputy Mayor made the case for a more active leadership role by London in regional input to future energy system planning, specifically given London's 2030 net zero target compared to the national 2050 target. She stressed the need for Ofgem to look at energy holistically, in addition to their traditional focus on electricity and gas.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Councillor Deidre Costigan

On 11 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met with Deidre Costigan, Deputy Leader of Ealing Council & Cabinet Member for Climate Action. Cllr Costigan is currently acting Chair of London Council's Transport and Environment Committee. They discussed the work being done to reduce London's exposure to toxic air, to bring about a retrofit revolution and to ensure London remain the climate finance capital of the world.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Warmworks

On 11 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met with David Green, the Chairman of Warmworks, and Ross Armstrong, Chief Executive of Warmworks.

They discussed lessons that can be learned from Warmworks' delivery of fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes. They discussed challenges with piecemeal programmes and the need for longer-term support, a single front door and outcome-based programmes.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Emma Howard Boyd, London Climate Resilience Review

On 12 September, my Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff and my Deputy Mayors for Environment and Energy and Fire and Resilience met with the Chair of the London Climate Resilience Review, Emma Howard Boyd, and her team, for an update on the progress of the Review. I commissioned the independent Review to take stock, identify the gaps in London's climate resilience and adaptation, and make recommendations to guide London's preparations for more extreme weather.

Deputy Mayor meeting with Ameresco UK

On 13 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met the Managing Director of Ameresco to discuss their involvement in the Bristol City Leap model. Bristol City Leap is a partnership between Bristol City Council and Ameresco Ltd to accelerate green energy investment in Bristol and help decarbonise the city. They discussed the approach to funding, and the extent to which the approach can be scaled up.

Food Supply Roundtable

On 12 September, Shirley Rodrigues, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, met with 30 business leaders representing food sector and partner organisations who are influencing behavioural and organisational change on food waste. The meeting focused on what collective action they could take to accelerate food waste and food-related emissions reduction in London to meet the targets laid out in my London Environment Strategy.

UK Green Building Council reception

On 14 September, Shirley Rodrigues, the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, spoke at UK Green Building Council's reception in Parliament to launch a new report on the UK-wide need for a retrofit revolution. The tool helps calculate the cost of retrofit in an area and is intended to support lobbying asks for funding. The work was developed through a programme which the GLA co-funded and was a member of the steering group. The Deputy Mayor will speak to the need to not only properly finance retrofit but to ensure policies are implemented in a way that unlocks, rather than restricts delivery.

Rewild London

On 25 September, I announced the Rewild London competition to inspire Londoners as to how their city can be made wilder and, greener, whilst getting closer to nature. The £700,000 fund is designed to support Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) owners and managers in responding to the climate and ecological emergencies by creating and restoring priority habitats across London's SINC network. These projects will be key to delivering London's nature recovery network and may serve as corridors between large-scale rewilding sites as well as strengthening the city's wider ecological network.

C40 climate budget programme workshop

From 25-27 September, the GLA hosted the C40 Climate Budget programme workshop. Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, provided the opening remarks and welcome to the officers from the 13 Cities participating in the C40 climate budget programme. The

workshop was designed to help the cities implement, improve and expand the scope of their climate budgets and learn from each other's experience.

London Climate Tech Show

On 27 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, attended the Climate Tech Show and participated in a panel discussion to share how the GLA's vision for cleaner air and climate resilience is culminating in world-leading air quality measurement and neighbourhood-scale air quality data via the Breathe London Network.

Oversight Committee

On 28 September, Shirley Rodrigues, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy attended GLA Oversight Committee to answer questions on progress of my green finance programme. She updated Assembly Members on investments already made by the Green Finance Fund, and explained how the GLA is working with public sector partners across London to encourage applications for financing.

Fire and Resilience

Winter planning assumptions

On 5 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a meeting to discuss risks facing London ahead of the winter period. The discussion included consideration of weather, energy supply and health related risks.

Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board

On 8 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

Stronger Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) Workshop

On 11 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a workshop hosted by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Following a competitive application process, London has been selected to take part in the Stronger LRFs pilot programme which will include funding to improve the leadership, accountability, and integration of the London Local Resilience Forum. The DLUHC workshop brought together the 8 successful LRFs to discuss plans for programme implementation.

Meeting with London Fire Commissioner

On 12 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and I met with London Fire Commissioner, Andy Roe.

RAAC Briefing

On 14 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, was briefed on reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and the implications for LFB's response by Brigade officers.

E-bike fires

On 15 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, and Will Norman, Walking & Cycling Commissioner met with Alda Simoes and Maria Macarro to discuss fire safety around e-bikes and e-scooters.

Meeting with the Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire

On 19 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with the Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire to discuss LFB's ongoing transformation and culture change, the fire risks of lithium-ion batteries, the planned fire service reforms, and Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations.

Meeting with Shadow Minister for Building Safety

On 19 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and the London Fire Brigade met with the Shadow Minister for Building Safety. They discussed building safety issues facing London and the country more widely including RAAC and the safe storage of lithium-ion batteries.

Grenfell Response Steering Group

On 21st September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a meeting of the Grenfell Response Steering Group to discuss the progress of the recommendations in response to the Grenfell Tower Fire.

Thames barrier visit

On 25 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, visited the Thames Barrier to discuss the important role it plays in protecting London from flooding.

Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board

On 26 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

LAS Strategy Launch

On 26 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, made a keynote speech at the launch of the London Ambulance Service's Strategy.

RACC – London Resilience Partnership Roundtable

On 28 September, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a roundtable with partners to establish the implication of RAAC for the London Resilience Partnership. At the meeting partners discussed the London Structural Collapse Framework.

Growth and Skills

Skills for Londoners Board

My Skills for Londoners Board met on Tuesday 26 September 2023. The Mayor of Newham (in the Chair) led a discussion on priority work areas moving forward and how to best demonstrate the Board's impact on GLA programmes and the adult skills sector in London. The Board also considered the agenda of the joint meeting with the Jobs & Skills Business Partnership taking place in November 2023.

The Board heard a presentation on the implementation of the Skills Roadmap for London including recent activity and key successes across the programme's priorities of locally relevant provision, impactful outcomes and increasing accessibility.

Under the standing Adult Education Budget (AEB) update on programme delivery since the previous meeting, there was a confidential presentation on the outcomes of the AEB evaluation process.

The meeting closed with a short update item summarising recent work around AEB Multiply and Skills Bootcamps.

2021/22 AEB Evaluation

The 2021/22 AEB Evaluation Report highlights the impact of some of the AEB policies and flexibilities I introduced in the 2021/22 academic year which made a real difference to Londoners. As a result, London has performed better in the provision of adult skills and training compared to the non-devolved areas and all other Mayoral Combined Authorities. The Free Courses for Jobs Fund has resulted in an increased number of learners taking high level qualifications. Moreover, improvements have not been limited only to number of enrolments and learners, but I have improved the accessibility of AEB learning to Londoners.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

On 7 September, I launched an open call for the Support for Young Londoners programme (part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund People and Skills strand). Over £11m is available for three interventions which include support for young people aged 16-24 who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) to help them develop their interpersonal skills and increase their employability. Organisations interested in bidding were invited to an information event at City Hall on 25th September, and the deadline to submit applications is 18th October.

Community Outreach Programme

My Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Programme is now live. The programme is supporting organisations that are undertaking outreach activity in key target communities to increase participation in skills opportunities across London. Once my team have finalised the onboarding with successful organisations, the list will be available to view [on our website](#).

ESOL Capacity Fund

I have invested £200k in fully funding training for around 180 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutors to build capacity in the workforce through the ESOL Capacity Fund. Grant awards are being finalised and training will be delivered over the next year.

Housing

Help for Londoners with unaffordable Help to Buy loans

On 6 September, I called for urgent support for the capital's homeowners who have used the Government's Help to Buy scheme and now face huge increases in their monthly housing costs.

New City Hall analysis has revealed that up to 4,500 London homeowners with a Help to Buy loan are being financially squeezed as they face a double whammy of higher interest rates on their mortgages and expensive Help to Buy loan repayments as the fee-free grace periods come to an end.

Without action, there is a risk of these over-stretched homeowners in London defaulting on their monthly repayments as costs continue to soar. Those in the capital who have bought their home through Help to Buy and are coming to the end of the interest-free grace period on their government loan are now having to pay rising costs on two loans.

I specifically called for the Government to consider options including suspending or freezing Help to Buy loan payments for a limited time so that Londoners have the financial breathing space they need to make ends meet until interest rates come down.

RAAC in homes

On 13 September, my Deputy Mayor Tom Copley sent a follow up letter to building safety minister Lee Rowley MP reiterating concerns around the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in residential buildings and asking what steps the Government is taking to identify the scale of this issue.

Cost of lack of clarity on second staircases in new high-rise housing blocks

On 14 September, I demanded urgent action from the Housing Secretary as new City Hall figures show the Government is risking holding up the delivery of thousands of new homes in London by leaving housebuilders in the dark about impending new fire safety requirements.

Ministers first proposed rules requiring a second staircase in new tall buildings in December last year in response to the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017. In a speech in July, the Housing Secretary, Michael Gove, committed to this major change for new blocks over 18 metres tall - about six storeys - and promised a transition period that would ensure "there is no disruption to housing supply".

However, data from City Hall has revealed there are now 34,000 homes on major developments being held up due to a lack of clarity from the Government on these new fire safety requirements. This figure only includes the biggest developments (those that require Mayoral planning sign off), meaning thousands more homes will also be affected on other smaller developments across the capital. With construction costs rapidly rising and developers already warning they could be forced

to down tools, this delay from the Government could cause some schemes to be abandoned altogether.

Protecting London's private renters

I have launched a new project uniting London Trading Standards with my Report a Rogue Tool, which will allow London's 2.7 million renters to report rogue landlords and letting agents more easily. Using the Report, a Rogue tool, renters will now be able to inform Trading Standards teams across London if they have been charged fees illegally. I campaigned to protect renters from unfair fees, which were banned under the Tenant Fees Act. This new tool goes further to help renters potentially claw back any illegally charged tenancy fees. This new initiative builds on my promise to protect the capital's renters and create a better, fairer, and safer London for everyone, that enables renters to know and use their rights.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

Deputy Mayor for Business participation in the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) roundtable

On 4 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with senior members of the UK Venture Capital community to discuss London's VC landscape. The focus of the discussion was on London's role as a leading centre for venture capital, and participants provided views on the challenges and opportunities for investors, the types of support which would enable them to grow, and how to attract further investment into London.

Deputy Mayor for Business participation in the BusinessLDN Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Summit

On 5 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, participated in the BusinessLDN Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Summit, hosted at BT Group's headquarters in Aldgate. This was the first BIDs summit that has taken place since 2019, with attendance from senior leaders from BIDs and the private and public sectors. The summit explored how working together can support London's continued growth, and what more is needed to create a capital that is both resilient and attractive.

London Business Forum

On 6 September, 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 brilliant summer that Londoners and visitors across the city enjoyed with events, attractions and festivals helping the capital roar back to life. We also discussed the *London Anchor Institutions' Network's* work on bringing together some of London's biggest employers to build a better London and work by *London & Partners* to deliver a single front door service for micro and small businesses to access support and advice.

Deputy Mayor for Business participation in London & Partners' Cohort 2 of Grow London Global launch

On 18 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke at the launch event for London & Partners' 2nd cohort of the Grow London Global programme, which supports high-growth companies to expand internationally. The event welcomed the new, expanded, Grow

London Global cohort – 100 scaleup founders and CEOs representing sectors such as Fintech and Enterprise Tech, Life Sciences, Creative Industries and Sustainability.

UEFA Champions League Final 2024 - Innovation Programme

On 19 September we launched the UEFA Innovation Programme at the Female Founders event at City Hall. This opportunity offers startups from the UK and Internationally to collaborate with some of UEFA's sponsors to develop key innovative programmes that will be showcased at the Champions League Final in 2024. It is important to me to build a space where we can champion innovative ways to challenge key aspects such as sustainability, the environment and recycling at large scale events in London to continuously strive for better. I am looking forward to seeing what innovate solutions are worked up and implemented ahead of the event next year.

Deputy Mayor for Business visit to Employee Owned Business Formation Architects

On 21 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, visited Formation Architects, an Employee Owned Business and Good Work Standard accredited architecture practice. He participated in a roundtable discussion on how employee ownership works in practice, why it is important for good work in the capital and the difference it makes to businesses and their employees.

Mayoral Ownership Roundtable

On 27 September, I convened a roundtable of senior stakeholders in the worker and employee owned business sector at City Hall. Building on the establishment of the London Ownership Hub which I announced last year, we discussed the benefits of worker and employee ownership for good jobs and for business resilience. Stakeholders shared their views on the state of the sector in London and strategies to support growth.

Making London a Living Wage City Steering Group

On 28 September, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor co-chaired the quarterly Making London a Living Wage City Steering Group, with co-chair, Anna Purchas, Senior Partner & Regional Chair, KPMG, at KPMG's offices in Canary Wharf.

She heard directly from workers on the difference a living wage makes and celebrated early campaign successes, with 1300 new Living Wage employers employing 420,000 people in the past 21 months. There has now been a fivefold increase in the number of Living Wage employers since I became Mayor in 2016. As a group they planned how they'll encourage more London employers to sign up during Living Wage week in November.

London Real Estate Forum

On 27 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, addressed the audience of the London Real Estate Forum, an annual event that brings together leaders from the public and private sector to drive sustainable investment and development in cities. He highlighted some of my key initiatives to support investment in housing, low carbon infrastructure and the green economy.

Community and Social Policy

Inclusive Employer Toolkits Launch

On 20 September, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, launched my Inclusive Employer Toolkits at an event at City Hall. These toolkits, a key resource of the Workforce Integration Network, help employers in hospitality, healthcare, the creative industries and the green economy to make progress on equality and inclusion. The launch welcomed over 100 employers to hear from leading EDI experts and to discuss and collaborate on common challenges with their peers. Employers were also able to meet with my Skills Academies hubs, who are working directly with Londoners currently underrepresented in these sectors to support them into good work.

Children and Young Londoners

Government consultation on early years funding

On 8 September, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, responded to the government's recent consultation on early years funding. This looked specifically at the government's proposed approach to funding extended early years entitlements for children of two-years-old and under, as announced in the Chancellor's spring budget.

In her response, Joanne urged government to listen closely to feedback from this consultation: not just on the technicalities of the proposed new funding formula, but also on the very serious broader concerns being raised. In particular, she has called on the government to:

- increase overall funding to the early years sector, to a truly adequate level to deliver high-quality provision
- work closely with the sector to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to support early years providers to deliver the places that families need
- ensure reform of the sector serves to reduce inequalities, rather than widen them.

Visit to Sacred Heart Primary School

On 11 September, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, alongside members of both the London Assembly Cost-of-Living Working Group and Economy Committee, visited Sacred Heart Primary School in Wandsworth to hear from them about how the rollout of my UFSM intervention is going in their school. They spoke to families, catering staff, teachers and local Council staff about the financial struggles that families in Wandsworth have been facing, and about the impact of this funding on their school community.

Commonwealth Ministers Youth Reception

On 14 September, the Co-Chair of the New Deal for Young People and Director of the London Violence Reduction Unit, Lib Peck, welcomed Commonwealth youth ministers and young leaders to City Hall for an evening reception showcasing the Mayor's support for young people and connecting London's youth organisations with their peers overseas.

Attended by over 200 ministers, young leaders and youth sector stakeholders, the reception formed part of a week-long delegation marking the Commonwealth Year of Youth and celebrating

the 50th anniversary of the [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#), established to deliver support enabling young people across the Commonwealth to reach their full potential.

I am committed to building a fairer, more equal, and more prosperous London where no-one is left behind. This is why, through the New Deal for Young People, I am ensuring that 100,000 disadvantaged young Londoners have access to high quality mentoring by December 2024. So far over 50,000 young Londoners have already had access to mentoring, well on the way to reaching our target, and thousands more will access support over the coming months.

Meeting with key figures from the Care Leavers Compact

On 21 September, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney met with key figures driving the work to support care leavers across the capital.

The meeting allowed the Deputy Mayor not just to hear from Directors of Children's Services about the work they are doing, but also to hear from young people with care experience themselves and their unique challenges.

I remain committed to both the work of the Pan-London Care Leavers Compact and the national Care Leavers Covenant. It is vital that we continue to engage with the work being done to ensure that young people with care experience can truly thrive in our city.

Culture

London Fashion Week and Vogue World London

On 14 September, I and my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons, OBE attended Vogue World London at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. The event showcased outstanding performances from theatre, dance, music, film and fashion and showed the world why London's arts, culture and creativity are unmatched. Through the generous support of Anna Wintour, global Editor in Chief of Vogue, and Edward Enninful, editor of British Vogue, the event raised an amazing £2m which will go to support arts and cultural organisations across the capital.

My Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, attended this season's London Fashion Week which showcased 48 buyers from 13 markets including US, China, Japan and South Korea. Fashion employs nearly 900,000 people in the UK and contributes around £21 billion to the UK economy. UK fashion and retail industries show strong signs of steady recovery with consistent increase in fashion demand since 2021. London Fashion Week gives participating designers a crucial opportunity to present to buyers from markets all over the world. I fund 12 new and emerging fashion businesses each year through the British Fashion Council's NEWGEN programme, 30 per cent of whom are from diverse backgrounds.

London Design Festival - Design Medal Award

On 18 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, presented this year's London Design Medal to structural engineer and designer Hanif Kara. The London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world. The GLA has a longstanding funding relationship with the festival going back over twelve years and across three Mayors. The festival provides vital opportunities for design businesses across London to meet buyers and customers. The festival now has 13 Design Districts which encourage visitors to walk around design clusters across the capital from Battersea to Park Royal to Greenwich.

East Bank

On 18 September, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, was part of the official opening of the UCL East (University College London) Campus Marshgate on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford. This is the first of five world-leading institutions to open at East Bank, the UK's new culture and innovation quarter. UCL is one of the top ten universities in the world and brings phenomenal opportunities for education, collaboration and knowledge sharing in east London. It has already shown a commitment to our shared vision for East Bank by helping to provide skills, jobs and opportunities for local communities ahead of the opening of the new campus.

24 Hour London

On 5 September, my Night Czar spoke at the London BIDs Summit, organised by BusinessLDN, looking at the importance of the night time in supporting the city's growth. She spoke alongside Mark Williams from the Heart of London Business Alliance, the first BID to implement a night time strategy.

On 15 September, my Night Czar visited the Park Royal Design District. She met with members of the Park Royal Women's Group to discuss issues around safety at night in the area and highlighted the work being done by City Hall to tackle this through my Women's Night Safety Charter.

On 20 September, my Night Czar spoke at the BusinessLDN Conference. She addressed London businesses and political leaders on the need for a more strategic approach to growing the economy at night. She also highlighted the important role nightlife and culture plays in driving tourism and how extending opening hours can benefit both visitors and businesses.

On 22 September, my Night Czar held a night surgery in Woolwich in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. She heard about the impact my Night Time Enterprise Zone has had on supporting a diverse and inclusive night time offer. She also met with business owners, community groups and local volunteers to hear about their experiences of the town centre at night.

On 28 September, my Night Czar held a night surgery on the King's Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. She held a roundtable discussion with councillors, officers, members of the youth council and business representatives to discuss how the council's forthcoming night time strategy could help support the night time offer for residents and visitors to the area. She also visited several night time businesses, the local fire station and hospital.

Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board Meeting – Young People and Creative Skills

On 26 September, my Cultural Leadership Board met at the Museum of London Docklands. The Ambassadors worked in groups with creative freelancers, with recent experience of skills training, to gather ideas about how to address some of the issues faced by people (particularly those under 30). Many struggle to secure employment following their initial skills training and others find it difficult to become established and stay in their chosen field without existing connections in the industry. Policy officers will use the information from the session to think about how to strengthen creative skills policy more broadly.

Civil Society and Sport

Ambassador Programme

On 3 September, my Team London Ambassador volunteers concluded their 2023 summer programme support of domestic and international visitors to London. 331 volunteers took part in the volunteer programme this year, volunteering across 6 locations in the city, including Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square, St James' Park, Exhibition Road, Greenwich and Piccadilly Circus. Across the summer, they delivered nearly 5000 hours of volunteering to support London to welcome visitors.

Big Half

On 3 September, my Major Event Volunteers took part in supporting the London Marathon Big Half Marathon event. My volunteers welcomed participants to the start point of the race and provided a wayfinding service to those watching and supporting the race on how to navigate London throughout the race. 10 volunteers supported this event.

London Volunteering Strategy Group

On 28 September, my Civil Society and Sport unit convened a meeting of the London Volunteering Strategy Group. Ten pan-London organisations representing different types of volunteering gathered to discuss how they could work collaboratively to champion and support all types of volunteering in London and engage with volunteer involving organisations to enable a stronger vision for volunteering in the capital.

Health

Supporting World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September)

On 10 September I helped to mark World Suicide Prevention Day.

I reaffirmed my commitment to doing what I can to reduce the number of suicides in our city. All Londoners, at all stages of their life, deserve the chance to feel well, think clearly and live with a sense of purpose and enjoyment.

I can proudly say that since launching the #ZeroSuicideLDN campaign in 2019, more than 360,000 Londoners have joined me in taking Zero Suicide Alliance's (ZSA) free virtual training. It's an important step in our mission to eliminate stigma. This training ensures people learn how to: spot suicide warning signs, normalise conversations around mental health, and signpost someone to further support.

I wrote to senior leaders across the capital to mark my renewed commitment towards making London a 'zero-suicide' city. Recipients include leaders at the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London, London Fire Brigade, London Councils, London Ambulance Service, London's five Integrated Care Boards, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, Transformation Partners in Health and Care, and all Council Leaders. With them I shared details about the ZSA suicide prevention and trauma-informed practice training offers to cascade to colleagues and Londoners they serve.

Supporting #AskAboutAsthma Week (11-17 September)

During the week of 11 – 17th September, I supported #AskAboutAsthma campaign across my communications platforms. Now in its seventh year, the campaign highlights the fact that having a management plan is vital for the children and young people with the condition, but so is being aware of their triggers.

Asthma affects nearly 250,000 children in London. Every year the number of asthma attacks rise in the week following the return to school and it's one of the top three causes of emergency admissions to hospitals. As someone who suffers with adult onset asthma, I wanted to ensure that families and carers [have the latest information](#) from the campaign to support children and young people in their lives with the condition. It's well established that air pollution is a trigger for asthma, which is why tackling this is a key asks of the campaign. It's one of the many reasons why I am passionate about [cleaning up London's air](#), so that it doesn't rob children of the opportunity to lead happy, healthy and fuller lives.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Old Oak West, public engagement report

On 1 September, OPDC published the Engagement Summary Report for Old Oak West.

The report is a culmination of the engagement OPDC has undertaken over the past seven months, speaking to over 200 members of the local community across 27 events to understand local priorities which will help the Mayoral Development Corporation shape the future of Old Oak West, a planned new urban district for 9,000 homes around the new HS2 station at Old Oak Common.

Park Royal Design District

On the 16 and 17 September, OPDC sponsored the Park Royal Design District (PRDD) weekend in Park Royal. Now in its third year, PRDD is one of the largest design districts showcasing the area's unique mix of innovative designers, artists, makers and other creative businesses.

The weekend featured 40+ open studios, 21 workshops, 14 exhibitions, 11 public networking events, eight food stalls, seven pop-up shops and three walking tours. In attendance were several stakeholders from the local area including MP for Ealing Central and Acton, Rupa Huq.

Park Royal Women's Group

On 16 September, the first Park Royal Women's Group panel session took place, funded by OPDC as part of the Acton and Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone.

The event was chaired by the Mayor's Night Czar, Amy Lame. Women from the local area were invited to discuss issues they face day to day within the industrial estate as makers, artists and business owners in Park Royal. Discussions and findings will be used to inform work on public safety in Park Royal and beyond.

London Legacy Development Corporation

East Bank

Tamsin Ace was appointed as East Bank's inaugural Director on 4 September. Tamsin is familiar with the East Bank project, having worked as Head of Cultural Programming at UAL's London College of Fashion since 2021. In this new role she will facilitate collaboration between the East Bank's world-leading cultural institutions, its globally renowned universities and the residents of the local boroughs.

On 18 September, Olympic champion and former UCL student Christine Ohuruogu joined Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries, Justine Simons, UCL President & Provost, Dr Michael Spence, Pro-Provost UCL East, Professor Paola Lettieri and other senior dignitaries to mark the [official opening of UCL East](#).

Another milestone for the East Bank project was reached in the week commencing 25 September when UAL's London College of Fashion opened its doors to students. They will join an established and growing academic community that is already based at the Park which includes amongst others Loughborough University London, LMA London and College of Esports. More than 10,000 additional students are expected to be learning from the universities based at the Park in the weeks and months ahead.

A large portion of the public realm on the Stratford Waterfront site of East Bank has now also been opened to the public.

Events

During the international football break, more than 60,000 fans attended the Sidemen Charity Match at London Stadium on 9 September. The sold-out event raised funds for suicide prevention charity Campaign Against Living Miserably, youth charity Teenage Cancer Trust and wish-granting charity, Rays of Sunshine. The event was also streamed to an audience of millions online.

The Copper Box Arena welcomed another e-sports event on 16 September. Almost 3,000 people were in attendance to watch the Call of Duty World Series of Warzone Global Finals, with competitors from across the world and huge numbers of gaming fans tuning in to watch online.

The World Halal Food Festival returned to the Park over the weekend of 23 and 24 September. There were over 100 food and drink stalls to choose from on the Stadium island.

Olympic gold medallist Adam Peaty hosted a swim clinic at the London Aquatics Centre on 24 September alongside fellow swimmers Luke Greenbank, Anna Hopkin and Sydney Pickrem.

GDI Hub

On 13 and 14 September, the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) hosted a Disability Innovation Summit, bringing together global experts and emerging voices to share ideas and explore the future vision for disability innovation.

School Street

The capital's air quality is very important to me and I was pleased to see news from Mossbourne Riverside Academy about the positive impact the implementation of a School Street has had on air quality and active travel participation. Research has shown a drop in nitrogen dioxide and other

dangerous particulates since the School Street was introduced in February 2023. The study was commissioned by LLDC and the SHIFT innovation agency in collaboration with Aeternum whose network of sensors reported a reduction in PM2.5 levels of 45 per cent during the morning school rush hour. As well as an improvement in air quality, the study reveals an increase in pupils cycling to school, which has been supported by the installation of additional cycle stands.

Your Neighbourhood Talks

The latest Your Neighbourhood Talks took place at the Building Craft College on Carpenters Estate on 28 September. The theme of this year’s event was “Neighbourhood Priorities,” which showcased some of the incredible community activity that takes place on and around the Park, and how LLDC has helped to fund these through the CIL Neighbourhood Priority Fund.

Planning and Regeneration

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

The Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration & Skills, under powers delegated to him 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
2022/0783	Hillingdon Hospital	Hillingdon	14/09/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0529	Red Lion Court	Southwark	04/09/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0172	EVO Industrial, Estate Way	Waltham Forest	04/09/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0381	Redevelopment of the land to the West of Willoughby Lane	Haringey	21/09/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/0266	79-87 Westminster Bridge Road	Lambeth	21/09/2023	Allow LPA to refuse	Stage 2
2021/1042	21 St George's Road	Southwark	21/09/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2

Planning Decisions (Stage 1 referrals)

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

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0519	Shakespeare Road	Barnet	14/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0599	Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital	Camden	12/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0629	100 Liverpool Street	City of London	21/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0549	Croydon College Annexe	Croydon	14/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0464	6 Portal Way (One West Point)	Ealing	08/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0521	Bollo Place	Ealing	04/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0566	Waitrose, West Ealing	Ealing	14/09/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0585	Morden Wharf Revetment	Greenwich	07/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0624	Eastmoor Street	Greenwich	07/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0491	Kensington Centre, 66 Hammersmith Road	Hammersmith and Fulham	07/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0530	White City Place	Hammersmith and Fulham	01/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0593	White City Living	Hammersmith and Fulham	21/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0628	Central Foundation Boys School	Islington	08/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0564	6-7 Park Lane	London Legacy Development Corporation	14/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0461	Abbey House	Newham	04/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

2023/0543	Land Corner Of Store Road	Newham	01/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0542	26 Park Royal Road	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	07/09/2023	No Stage 2 required	Stage 1
2023/0575	Aggregate House	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	21/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0513	257 - 283 Ilderton Road (Corner of Sharratt Street)	Southwark	07/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0557	18 Blackfriars Road	Southwark	21/09/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0615	Tower Bridge Business Complex	Southwark	26/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0613	1 Alie Street	Tower Hamlets	26/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0577	French Railways House	Westminster	11/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0621	St James's Market Phase 2	Westminster	07/09/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

Local Plans

On 21 September, GLA officers responded on my behalf to London Borough of Waltham Forest's Main Modifications Local Plan consultation. In that response I raised issues in relation to the borough's proposed modifications to industrial land and tall buildings policies and supporting text but did not raise general conformity concerns.

On 6 September, GLA officers wrote to the Royal Borough of Greenwich to respond to their Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation. Greenwich are at the beginning of their local plan process and the response highlighted the GLA's commitment to working in partnership with them in bringing forward their Local Plan.

Planning for London Programme

Engagement has continued on this programme to gather evidence of views on the future of the London Plan, with an event for boroughs, 4 events held in conjunction with the New London Architecture expert panels, and 4 community events hosted as part of the London Housing Panel's engagement work.

I have also launched this year's Design Future London challenge, linking it with the Planning for London programme to encourage young people to think about where they live, how places are shaped and influenced, and to engage them on their design visions for the future of the city.

Regeneration

Good Growth Fund

Industria

On 12 September, my Head of Regeneration attended the official opening of Industria in Barking and Dagenham. In London, where space is at a premium, providing space for industrial uses can be a challenge. Industria in Barking's Thames Road Employment area is piloting an innovative way to relieve this pressure. By densifying industrial workspaces, the project is piloting an approach that could enable London to sustainably serve the need for industrial developments within its boundaries.

By sharing lessons learned and key information with private sector industrial landowners, Industria will lead industrial regeneration for London and support similar projects coming forward for development. This project is the first of its kind in the UK.

This project was funded by £1m from my Good Growth Fund which supported the research and design phase to unlock the design challenges of the project from design brief through to detailed design. The project won "Best Use of Brownfield Land in Placemaking" at the 2023 Planning Awards.

Angel Yard

On 16 September, my Head of Regeneration attended the official opening of the 'Angel Yard' project in Angel Edmonton. Located in a converted garage and laundry yard, 'Angel Yard' provides low-cost affordable commercial space for local businesses and young entrepreneurs alongside a programme of business support for tenants. The project includes incubator workspaces, commercial offices, shops, a multipurpose community hall, and a community yard for events and exhibitions.

'Angel Yard' was the final phase of the 'Fore Street Angel Edmonton' town centre regeneration programme that received £1.1m from my Good Growth Fund. The programme of projects also included a series of integrated and high street focused interventions including a new school street, public art murals and a newly refurbished library to host community and cultural events. All projects were developed in engagement with local residents and businesses, with the aim of offering new opportunities to help steward the area through the transformative change that will be brought about by the large-scale growth that is planned in future years.

Open House

I was delighted to see my place-based investment in London's communities showcased at Open House festival through the 'Good Growth' Collection'. The projects in the collection opened their doors to festival goers. Projects in the collection included the Blue Market in Bermondsey - a community-led plan to breathe life back into the local market and surrounding high street; BLOQs - an open-access makerspace in Enfield, prototyping a new kind of maker-led economy, in a former vehicle testing warehouse; Talent House, in Newham - the first permanent home for black music and dance companies in the UK providing facilities and support to the next generation of

artists; and the recently Stirling Prize nominated House for Artists – which provides affordable, sustainable housing for artists, who will offer long-term civic and cultural engagement for communities in Barking Town Centre.

The projects demonstrate how the investments made through my £75 million Good Growth fund have supported London's communities, provided opportunities for young Londoners, enhanced public spaces and supported London's cultural and creative sector amongst others.

Open House Festival is a city-wide celebration of London's neighbourhoods, heritage and architecture. It has been running for 30 years attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors from London and beyond. The festival is a chance for visitors to explore remarkable buildings, public spaces and landscapes across the capital, and an opportunity for communities and organisations to tell the stories behind the buildings and public spaces.

Key Engagements

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

- I attended the first Black on the Square on 2 September
- I met with the Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission on 4 September
- I visited Newport Primary School on 5 September
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 5 September
- I chaired the London Business Forum on 6 September
- I visited Heatherwick Studios on 7 September
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 7 September
- I visited Tottenham Court Road station to announce the continued rollout of 4G & 5G on the tube on 8 September
- I took part in the annual BCG Charity Day on 11 September
- I held my regular meeting with the London Fire Commissioner on 13 September
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 14 September
- I attended the HMICFRS Policing Performance Oversight Group on 14 September
- I attended the inaugural Vogue World London event on 14 September
- I announced new VRU funding on a visit to Business Launchpad in Tooting on 15 September
- I visited New York to promote London as a place for businesses to invest in and tourists to visit, and to speak at the UN General Assembly at the invitation of the UN Secretary General from 17-20 September
- I announced the members of the new London Policing Board on the 21 September
- I visited Old Oak Common on 25 September
- I met with the Mayor of Toronto on 25 September
- I chaired the inaugural London Policing Board on 26 September
- I visited Leeds with fellow Metro Mayors to address the Transport for the North Board meeting on 27 September
- I visited Croydon Police station to meet with police officers and community leaders on 28 September