

26th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

Mayor's Question Time 16 November 2023

This is my twenty sixth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 29 September – 2 November 2023.

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

Executive Summary

Reassuring communities affected by events in Israel and Gaza

The suffering and loss of innocent life in both Israel and Gaza is truly heart-breaking and my thoughts are with all those impacted. It's vital that we don't allow events overseas to spill over onto our streets in London and I continue to do everything I can to reassure both the Jewish community and the Muslim community that we will take a zero-tolerance approach to any Islamophobia or antisemitism.

On 16 October I announced a new Community Resilience Champions programme, run in partnership with London Boroughs Faiths Network, to provide more practical support for faith leaders on how to keep their places of worship safe for staff, visitors and communities. The programme is designed to give faith leaders and communities further expert support to ensure security in their buildings and practical guidance to stamp out hate. That includes safety actions, safeguarding and how to support communities in the event of emergencies.

This new programme strengthens existing support which is already in place, with MOPAC providing hundreds of free safety and security seminars and webinars for places of worship which impart practical tips on how to keep premises and worshippers safe.

It also builds on my £3 million Shared Endeavour Fund which is empowering thousands of Londoners to get involved in grassroots community-led projects across London that stand up to tackle extremism, hate, intolerance and radicalisation wherever they are.

On 20 October, I welcomed Muslim and Jewish faith leaders, the police and community groups to City Hall to further discuss how we can work together to tackle hate crime head on.

I continue to work closely with the police and community leaders to ensure our communities feel safe, and are safe, as they go about their daily lives. Our city is united against all forms of hate, and we will continue to do all we can to support faith leaders and communities as we build a safer London for all.

Government's missed affordable homes target

On 18 October, in light of new analysis revealing that the Government has missed its flagship affordable homes target under the 2016-23 Affordable Homes Programme, I called on Ministers to re-allocate underspending to London, given our track-record of delivery.

I successfully delivered over 116,000 genuinely affordable home starts by March 2023, achieving 46% of the national 2016-23 Programme, on just 1% of England's land area. However, there is much more that needs to be done, particularly in light of a looming national downturn in housebuilding, and I continue to call for Ministers to step up and act, starting by providing £2.2bn in additional grant funding to safeguard affordable housing supply in the capital, in the short term.

Publication of the London-wide ULEZ One Month Report

On 31 October I published the Expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone First Month Report. The report evaluates the impact of the newly expanded ULEZ in its first month. The initial data show that the scheme has been highly effective at reducing the proportion and number of older, more polluting vehicles on London's roads. 95.3 per cent of vehicles seen driving in the ULEZ on an average day in September now meet the ULEZ standards, up from 91.6 per cent in June 2023 and 39 per cent in February 2017 when changes associated with the ULEZ began.

On an average day there were 77,000 fewer non-compliant vehicles seen in the London-wide ULEZ compared to June 2023 (a 45 per cent reduction) and 48,000 fewer vehicles overall (a two per cent reduction). Since expanding London-wide, outer London vehicle compliance rates have nearly caught up with inner London - bringing cleaner air to five million more Londoners. To support the transition to cleaner vehicles, I have provided £160 million in funding for a scrappage and retrofit scheme to help Londoners, small businesses and charities prepare for the expansion. As of 22 October, over 37,000 applications have been committed.

Next sections of Superloop network in outer London confirmed by TfL

Hundreds of thousands more outer Londoners will have easy access to my Superloop as TfL has confirmed it will introduce the brand new express bus routes by spring 2024.

The two new routes, which recently underwent public consultation, are the SL2, which will connect Walthamstow Central and North Woolwich, and the SL3, which will connect Thamesmead and Bromley.

Earlier this year, I announced plans for the Superloop, a transformative network of express bus services to enhance public transport provision in outer London delivering quicker links to transport hubs, town centres, schools and hospitals.

I am excited about the benefits these new services will bring by providing Londoners with more alternatives to private car use, and helping us to build a better, greener London for everyone.

Fare deal for care leavers

On 9 October I announced that care leavers aged between 18 and 25, who live in London, will be able to apply to receive half price bus and tram travel from early 2024. This decision will give more young people the helping hand they need to thrive at a crucial period in their lives.

Our 'fare deal for care leavers' will directly support those who have left care after turning 18, and offer them more affordable travel options as they transition to independent living.

The offer will sit alongside other travel benefits provided by TfL such as the Job Seekers Allowance and 60+ concessions, and will help enable care leavers to make the most of the Mayor's Hopper Fare, which allows unlimited bus and tram journeys within an hour for the price of a single journey.

New London Living Wage Rate

On 24 October, I joined the Living Wage Foundation, and workers from the London Stadium and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, to announce an increase to the London Living Wage, from £11.95 to £13.15 per hour. More than 3,500 accredited employers have pledged to pay their staff the real living wage, which is based on the cost of living in the capital. Over 130,000 of London's lowest paid workers will benefit from the increase of £1.20 per hour. The 10% rate increase is the highest to date, reflecting that inflation remains high and is higher for lower-income households.

Dial-a-Ride hours extended to support disabled and older Londoners to socialise at night

On 29 September, TfL has extended the operating hours for London's vital free Dial-a-Ride service to midnight, with the last pick up at 11pm. This will support older Londoners, and those with long-term disabilities to socialise at night. Dial-a-Ride services will also be extended further over the festive period to allow people to enjoy Christmas festivities for longer.

TfL has been working closely with Transport for All and Age UK London to improve services and to get feedback from members who use it.

I am committed to making London's transport as inclusive as possible and I'm delighted that Dial-a-Ride is extending its hours.

London's transport network celebrates Black History Month

This October, TfL marked Black History Month during the 75th Windrush anniversary year, with a leaflet of Black poetry, performances and displays honouring the Black people who have shaped the transport network and city.

A double decker bus wrapped in a striking design honouring the Windrush generation entered service, while Brixton station hosted a photo series celebrating Black women members of TfL staff working across the organisation.

The experiences and contribution of our Black colleagues and our colleagues from other ethnic minority backgrounds should be recognised and celebrated all year round. During Black History Month we especially encouraged people to come together to acknowledge the incredible contributions of Black people in London and beyond.

Rewild London Fund round 1 completed

On 29 September, the first round of my [Rewild London Fund](#) completed. Funding supported projects focusing in and around London's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Projects include a new 6km pollinator trail along The Greenway in Newham, the reintroduction of water voles to the Hogsmill River in Kingston and new and improved wetland and meadow habitat at the Chase Local Nature Reserve in Barking and Dagenham. Over 270 hectares of priority habitat have been created or restored and around 50 SINCs have been improved and connected.

UEFA EURO 2028

On 10 October the UK and Ireland was appointed by UEFA as hosts of the Men's European Football Championships 2028. London is the sporting capital of the world and I am absolutely delighted that we will be hosting a record number of games at UEFA EURO 2028. Wembley and Tottenham Hotspur Stadium are two world-class sporting venues and I have no doubt that London will embrace football fans from across the world who come to enjoy the tournament.

Black History Month Reception

2023 marks the 36th anniversary of Black History Month, and I was delighted to host our annual Black History Month reception at City Hall on Tuesday 17 October.

With the theme of 'Saluting our Sisters - Celebrating Black Women', the event started with simultaneous panel discussions covering Windrush, Media, Climate Justice, Protecting our Sisters, and the Political Landscape. The panellists, all leading Black women in their field, included, amongst many others, broadcaster and journalist Brenda Emmanus OBE, Dawn Butler MP, Windrush specialist Jacqueline McKenzie, and campaigner Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah CBE. A keynote address by Paulette Simpson CBE, Deputy Chief Executive Office of Jamaica National Bank and Executive Director of the Voice newspaper, highlighted the crucial role that Black women have played in shaping our history.

Guests were also treated to live steel pan music and Afro-Cuban dance performances by Mangrove Steelband and Luanda Pau; poetry by Croydon's first Poet Laureate, Shaniqua Benjamin; a photographic exhibition of Windrush, from the era depicting people waiting, disembarking, travelling and looking for work; and paintings by London artist Priscilla Acquah-Arhin.

Diwali on the Square

On Sunday 29 October, the capital's celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, saw Londoners and people from around the world join together in the heart of London on Trafalgar Square to enjoy a fantastic array of dance, music, activities and food.

The event, delivered in collaboration with the volunteer-led Diwali in London Committee and comprising a range of community leaders, had an exciting mix of performances from artists drawn from London's Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities. Other activities included dance workshops, yoga and meditation, Ramayana Puppet shows, Soho Theatre comedy, and the Glimpse of Goddesses stall where visitors could find out more about Hindu goddesses, sari and turban tying.

Diwali on the Square is a cornerstone in London's calendar of cultural events. By celebrating our city's diversity, we are building a better, fairer, more prosperous London for everyone.

Policing, Crime and Security

Calling on Government to bring forward crackdown on zombie knives

On 3 October I wrote to Home Secretary Suella Braverman MP urging the Government to urgently bring forward the long-awaited legislation banning zombie-style knives and machetes. Ministers have my full support on this, and I've welcomed their announcements to tighten up the law. But there is no time to waste in progressing the legislation to ban these awful weapons as soon as possible. The proposals also need to be toughened up to close the loopholes that could still allow the sale of these weapons.

Supporting schools to help prevent and tackle violence and knife crime

On 13 October I wrote to the headteachers of every secondary school in London to outline the support, resources and funding available to them to help prevent and tackle knife crime and violence. This includes:

- **Enhanced police support** - Schools can ask the Met to provide an officer to deliver knife crime prevention talks to students on the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife. Schools can also request a Safer Schools Officer who provides visible reassurance to the school community and build positive relationships between young people and the police. And schools can also ask the Met for knife wands to screen for weapons on school premises. These knife wands can be obtained for schools to keep or can be used by Safer Schools Officers as part of a planned operation.
- **Mentoring opportunities for young Londoners most in need of support.** I have invested a record £34million in a package to support voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver high-quality mentor opportunities to young Londoners most in need and help vulnerable young people most at risk of exploitation or being drawn into violence. Teachers searching for mentors and activities for young people can search for opportunities through the Local Village Network website.
- **A toolkit to tackle violence against women and girls** available for teachers to use, free of charge, in all secondary schools across London. The toolkit -which is funded by City Hall and part of the wider public health approach to tackling violence against women and girls – helps boys understand why their words and attitudes towards women and girls matter and the need for them to recognise, call out and tackle sexist and misogynistic behaviour.
- **A Knife Crime toolkit** to help teachers talk to young people about knife crime and help them feel supported and empowered to make the right decisions like reporting concerns and how young people are more at risk of being victims of knife crime if they carry a weapon.
- **Funding for prevention work.** Schools can work with councils to bid for small grants of up to £5,000 from the London Violence Reduction Unit to support immediate practical measures to prevent violence. This includes practical safety measures like more CCTV, outreach youth work, and greater engagement with communities, and would be applied through and led by the local authority.

I welcome the support of Assembly Members in sharing these resources with schools in their areas to ensure that they are not missing out on valuable resources to help keep pupils safe.

Working with mobile phone companies to design-out robbery

On 17 October, the Commissioner and I convened a City Hall roundtable with representatives from world-leading mobile phone manufacturers and networks, including Apple, Samsung and Google, to discuss how police, City Hall and the mobile phone industry can work better together to find the most effective deterrent to mobile phone crime.

Figures show criminal demand for the latest devices continues to rise. In the last 12 months there has been a 28 per cent increase in mobile phone robbery in London and a 22% increase in theft of mobile phones. This represents a total of 57,174 mobile phones reported stolen and equates to an average of 157 mobile phones stolen every day in London.

The Met continues its dedicated work to pursue perpetrators and target mobile phone crime hotspots. However, the Commissioner and I agree there is more that can be done to prevent mobile phone theft by making it harder for stolen phones to be re-used and registered for services not just on phone networks but also for services provided by Apple, Google Play, Samsung and other online stores.

I'm grateful to everyone who attended the roundtable, an important step forward towards developing a practical and long-term solution to ending the menace of mobile phone crime which we know is driving violence and criminality in our communities - not just in London but across the UK.

Better supporting victims

It's vital that victims of crime receive the support they need during what can be a stressful and traumatising journey to securing justice. That is why I've committed to investing £3million a year to improve and enhance the Met's Victim Focus Desk.

On 26 October I welcomed the Met's announcement of further improvements to their victims service, including:

- The launch of My Met Service - an instant service where victims can use a QR code, email or SMS to give the Met instant feedback after they've spoken to an officer.
- The Victim Focus Desk phone line has been extended so officers and staff can provide victims with more regular updates, support and advice through every step of the criminal justice process.
- New victim information leaflets will give victims a QR code to go to My Met Service and make sure victims know their rights under the 'Victim's Code of Practice' (VCOP).
- A new Victim Voice Forum has been set up in collaboration with my Office for Policing and Crime, bringing together people who have been victims of crime who have volunteered their time to share their personal experiences to help the Met deliver a better service.

I'm encouraged by the progress made in the first six months, but we know there is more to do and I'll work with the Met Commissioner and London's Victims Commissioner to improve the service provided to victims of crime as we build a fairer, safer London for all.

Transport

New analysis shows how TfL's spending with UK-wide supply chain supports billions of pounds of economic growth across the country

A new independent report, commissioned by TfL, sets out the powerful economic effect that sustained investment in London's public transport system has across the whole country.

The report was launched at a reception attended by suppliers and key business stakeholders, with the Commissioner, Andy Lord and my Deputy Mayor for Transport speaking, hosted by the Railway Industry Association. The report by Hatch, a global engineering, project management, and professional services firm, showed how investment by TfL has huge benefit for its UK-wide supply chain. This in turn delivers wider benefits for the economy of the local areas where the suppliers are located, supporting jobs and economic growth across the country. This helps to demonstrate the case I have been making that investment in London transport is good for the whole of the UK and how great TfL's impact on the wider UK economy is.

Active bystander training to help empower Londoners to take a stand against hate crime

Throughout National Hate Crime Awareness Week, TfL supported the police to run a series of events across the transport network, to raise awareness of hate crime and reassure those who may lack confidence to travel on public transport.

It also funded hundreds of places on free Active Bystander Awareness training sessions to empower people to take action to prevent or reduce harm when they encounter hate crime. It builds on TfL's campaigns highlighting the important role fellow passengers can play in preventing and deescalating incidents, and supporting those being targeted.

I want everyone to be safe at all times when travelling around London. Everyone has the right to use public transport without fear of abuse and TfL takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime. Sadly, the recent increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime has reminded us there is always work to do. I am asking Londoners to join me in sending the message that hate has no place in our city.

Transport for London and Google Maps collaborate to make cycling better for Londoners

Enhancements to cycling navigation in Google Maps are set to benefit millions of Londoners, following a collaboration between Google and TfL. Informed by TfL insights, Google has updated their algorithms to prioritise cycling on safer, quieter roads and make them easier to discover within Google Maps.

Google has also announced Immersive View for cycle routes on Google Maps, which lets users preview routes in advance, including all the cycle lanes, and junctions along the journey. This feature will begin rolling out this year in London and other select cities around the world.

These updated algorithms will help Londoners choose safer cycling routes, whether it is a road with less traffic or part of my growing network of Cycleways, enabling more people to get around by bike as we build a greener and better London for everyone.

TfL and Hounslow Council complete work on latest phase of Cycleway 9

I am pleased to confirm TfL and Hounslow Council have completed work on the latest phase of the Cycleway 9 route in west London. Cycleway 9 is a major addition to London's growing network of high-quality Cycleways, enabling thousands of improved walking and cycling journeys between Brentford, Kew, Chiswick, Hammersmith and beyond each week. Enabling more people to walk and cycle is vital to a healthier and more sustainable transport network for all Londoners.

I want to build on the boom in cycling we've seen in recent years, and will continue to work closely with boroughs to rapidly expand the network of Cycleways as we build a greener and better London for everyone.

TfL welcomes its latest graduates, apprentices, and interns to help keep London Moving

I am proud to announce TfL has welcomed its latest diverse cohort of graduates, apprentices, and interns into the organisation who will help London keep moving and growing.

More than 260 graduates, apprentices and interns joined TfL in September, working across the organisation in more than 50 different schemes including engineering, technology and human resources. By creating innovative development programmes and introducing newcomers to award-winning teams, TfL has given this year's cohort the opportunity to gain unique skills and experiences whilst working on projects central to the daily operation of the capital.

LED lighting upgrade works at Oxford Circus station completed

I am pleased to confirm customers at Oxford Circus station are now benefiting from a more efficiently lit station as part of TfL's continuing work towards decarbonising its operations by 2030.

The work, which forms part of TfL's Corporate Environment Plan, has seen lighting throughout the station upgraded to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, which uses up to 60 per cent less energy than traditional lighting. The upgraded lighting also makes the station brighter and more welcoming, providing a better customer experience to people travelling to and from the West End.

I will continue to work with TfL towards decarbonising its operations as a crucial part of my mission to make London net zero carbon by 2030 as we build a better, Greener London for all.

TfL starts search for commercial media partners

On 23 October TfL announced it is launching one of the world's most unique advertising opportunities to search for media partners to manage, and further develop, its extensive advertising space across London's transport network - a network that is used by millions of customers every day.

The move is part of TfL's commercial approach to fully utilise its assets to generate non-fare revenue. The funds generated from these large-scale contracts will be reinvested back into London's transport network for the benefit of everyone living, working or visiting the capital. The new contracts are expected to start on April 1, 2025.

This is also the first time that TfL is bringing both components of its advertising estate, at bus shelters and across the Rail network (including London Underground), to market at the same time.

With ridership numbers on our buses, Tubes, and trains rising to close to pre-pandemic numbers, now is optimum time for media partners and brands to collaborate with TfL.

Places for London secures planning permission to improve Kilburn Mews

Places for London – the TfL Property Company - has secured planning permission to improve 11 arches it manages along Kilburn Mews, which will help transform the commercial units and open them up to the Kilburn High Road and the local community.

In collaboration with architect DK-CM, the work will enhance the infrastructure of the historic and characterful arches, bridges, and surrounding external space between Kilburn High Road and Loveridge Road, as well as improve the energy efficiency of the arches by utilising air source heat pumps to provide heating and cooling to the arches. This will mean more efficient space for tenants to occupy and overall lower operating utility costs.

This work is part of our wider investment into providing new spaces and opportunities for our tenants, many of which are small businesses across London’s diverse communities. It is not solely an investment in the arches, but in the town of Kilburn as a whole.

TfL Lost Property Office turns 90 as it moves to a new home in West Ham

TfL’s Lost Property Office, which celebrated its 90th anniversary last month, is moving to a new location which will see lost belongings returned faster to their owners.

The site, located next to West Ham Bus Garage, has been designed to accommodate the growing scale of TfL's Lost Property Office and will help improve how quickly lost items can be processed and recorded, allowing customers to be reunited with their belongings faster. It also provides easier parking for Black Taxi drivers wishing to drop any lost property off.

Over the next nine decades, TfL's Lost Property Office has become the largest of its kind in Europe, recovering more than 200,000 lost items each year on London's vast transport network, including the Tube and buses and more recently the Elizabeth line.

Art sensation Labyrinth celebrates 10 years with two new works for the extension of the Northern line

TfL continues celebrations of the 160th anniversary of London Underground and marks 10 years of artist Mark Wallinger’s Labyrinth installation with the unveiling of two new Labyrinths for Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms stations.

Labyrinth is one of Art on the Underground’s most recognisable and most loved art commissions. A unique artwork in every station, Labyrinth is seen by millions each day and has created a generation of ‘Labyrinth hunters’.

Fundraising for London Poppy Day

Earlier this month, TfL partnered with the Royal British Legion (RBL) and celebrities including Jools Holland OBE and Ross Kemp to pay tribute to servicemen and women ahead of the National Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12 November, and to raise donations for the annual Poppy Appeal.

London's transport network marked Armistice Day from the start of November with musician and broadcaster Jools Holland OBE making special station announcements, encouraging people to donate to the Poppy Appeal. TfL also created special poppy themed roundels displayed at ten Underground stations, five Overground stations and some bus stations across the network. Five London buses were wrapped with poppies, while trams, an engineering train, and Underground, DLR, Elizabeth line and Overground trains displayed poppy imagery.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the London Transport Old Comrade Association. The group was first given the right to march by King George V in honour of the men of the London General Omnibus Company who drove buses to the front line in France from 1914 to 1918. It also marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the ship Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks, Essex. The ship is symbolic of the generation who travelled from the Caribbean to settle in, and help rebuild, Britain in the decades after the Second World War, including many people who went on to work at London Transport.

Each year the Royal British Legion aims to raise £1 million during the London Poppy Appeal, with around £400,000 raised across London's transport network alone. I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who collect donations on TfL's network for the London Poppy Appeal supporting veterans, serving personnel and their families.

Environment

SMI Net Zero Carbon Building Roundtable

On 5 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) Net Zero Carbon Building Roundtable which was hosted by Derwent London. The event brought together a range of companies including finance, energy and the built environment sectors to discuss how to advance net zero buildings.

Electrification of Islington's Fleet

On 10 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the launch of Islington council's fleet depot power upgrade, which is enabling the transformation of their entire fleet of vehicles to electric by 2030.

With £1.5m support from my Good Growth Fund, the site is now equipped to power their entire 300-plus strong fleet. This includes refuse vehicles and other heavy vehicles that have traditionally been very challenging to convert to cleaner, quieter, electric versions.

Breathable Cities event at The Elmgreen School

On 11 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the Breathable cities event which was hosted at Elmgreen School. The event marked the conclusion of proceedings of a world first accelerator programme, dedicated to supporting start up organisation's seeking to tackle the effects of air pollution in cities. The accelerator programme was part of a partnership between Growth Studio and Impact on Urban Health.

Rewild London Fund and London is Wild and Free

On 11 October I joined project partners Ealing Wildlife Group, Citizen Zoo, Ealing Council, Friends of Horsenden Hill, Groundwork London and London Wildlife Trust to release a family of 5 beavers

into the wild at Paradise Fields in Ealing – the first beavers to be seen in west London for 400 years.

By reintroducing beavers to the site, the project, which is supported by my Rewild London Fund aims to transform the area into a flourishing wetland, help combat the impact of the climate crisis and create an improved ecosystem for plant and animal life.

I also launched a new interactive map ‘London is Wild and Free’ for Londoners to find out more about the improved spaces in the capital. It is part of my ‘Green, Wild & Free’ campaign to encourage more Londoners to connect with nature and environmentally focused activities, making nature more accessible to all.

Royal College of Art Design Challenge

On 12 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Professor Paul Anderson from the Royal College of Art (RCA) to discuss their design challenge for RCA students to develop innovative ways for London to contribute to ocean sustainability. They discussed how the programme can contribute to London’s sustainability and green economy, including via start-up businesses arising from the design programme, as well as how the GLA or its partners could advise on alignment between the RCA course and London’s sustainability policy.

L&P’s Sustainability Campaign event in Guildhall

On 12 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave the keynote speech at London and Partners Sustainability campaign launch event highlighting London’s sustainability credentials and offer, including achievements and initiatives led by the Mayor of London in the sector. This second campaign running until 12 December celebrates London’s vibrant sustainability ecosystem and inspires international founders to expand their sustainability businesses to London, engaging all key markets (North America, Europe, India, China).

London Surface Water Strategic Group October meeting

On 13 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended the London Surface Water Strategic Group quarterly meeting. The group was established to bring together senior leaders with a role in managing surface water flooding in London.

London Climate Resilience Review update meeting

On 13 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues met with the London Climate Resilience Review Team for an update on the progress of the Review. The independent Review Chair, Emma Howard Boyd gave an update on the evidence gathering and stakeholder consultation process which continues with good levels of engagement. The team are now focussing efforts on drafting the report and refining the recommendations.

Circular Economy Week 2023

On 16 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, gave a keynote speech at the sixth Circular Economy Week in London. The Deputy Mayor provided a city perspective sharing how policies in my London Environment Strategy and London Plan are helping drive a circular economy in London.

London Partnership Board

On 17 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended London Partnership Board (LPB) meeting to present on the London Anchor Institutions Network Green New Deal Working Group. The Deputy Mayor noted the progress of the working group and encouraged LPB organisations to champion the work of the Network and support its goals through joining actions such as rolling out carbon literacy training for staff, including senior leaders, and decarbonising last mile deliveries.

ReLondon Board Meeting

On 17 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the quarterly ReLondon Board meeting. The meeting covered organisational, financial and programme updates related to ReLondon's work to support London's transition to a circular economy.

Finance Leaders Summit: Advisory Group Call

On 24 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with Accountants for Sustainability (A4S) to advise on the upcoming Finance Leader's summit. The Deputy Mayor noted three core challenges facing investments to Net Zero: Stability of the economy and regulatory environment, pipeline development of investable projects and the breath of investments needed to achieve net zero. The Deputy Mayor also noted that the conference will play an important role in bringing private sector investors and public sector staff together to identify how challenges are best solved and encouraging greater government leadership.

Young London Print Prize at Woolwich Works

On 26 October my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, attended the Young London Print Prize. This was the culmination of a six month programme involving 2,000 young people from low income neighbourhoods across London. The Young London Print Prize is the biggest climate art initiative taking place in London schools. Launched in 2020 during the pandemic, it aims to nurture the creativity and self-confidence of young people and help make schools sustainable. It works at the intersection of youth voice, culture, and climate action.

Fire and Resilience

Community Resilience Celebration Event

On 10 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, spoke at a Community Resilience Celebration Event to share the successes of the community resilience programmes and projects funded by the GLA including 11 Community Resilience fund projects in Barnet, Camden, Croydon, Enfield, Greenwich, Haringey, Havering, Islington, Kingston, Lewisham and Sutton.

Meeting with Chair of Independent London Climate Resilience Review

On 12 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire & Resilience met Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Independent London Climate Resilience Review.

HMICFRS meeting

On 16 October my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with Lee Freeman, as His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services for the London and National Regions, to discuss LFB's cultural transformation.

Fire Performance Oversight Group, HMICFRS

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, the London Fire Commissioner and I attended His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Fire Performance Oversight Group as part of the HMICFRS' Engage process.

Meeting with Lucy Easthope

On 20 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with Lucy Easthope, a disaster planning and response expert, to discuss the GLA's role as a Category 1 Responder.

Meeting with Alex Norris MP

On 23 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, met with Alex Norris MP, Shadow Minister for Policing to discuss LFB's cultural transformation, the impact of climate change on fire and rescue services and the emerging fire risks presented by lithium-ion batteries.

Pool Re Event

On 25 October my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a dinner hosted by Pool Re, the UK's largest terrorism reinsurer which aims to provide protection from the impact of terrorism and improve the UK's resilience, to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Long Service Award Ceremony

On 30 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a service to honour LFB operational staff who have given more than 30 years of service to the Brigade.

Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board

On 31 October, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

HMICFRS Chiefs and Chairs Event

On 1 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a HMICFRS Chiefs and Chairs Event.

Winter Preparedness Briefing for Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayors

On 2 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended a Winter Preparedness meeting and was briefed by multi-agency partners on the risks London is facing over the coming months and the plans in place to address this.

London Resilience Forum

On 2 November, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired the London Resilience Forum.

Growth and Skills

Research programme

Four research projects were launched by my Skills and Employment Unit to understand the experiences of adult learners and skills providers' experiences and help shape future approaches to London's adult education provision. The research projects are considering the following areas:

- Analysis of the **transferable skills** provided through the Adult Education Budget.
- Understanding **how the London Adult Education Budget Funding Rules Flexibilities** have driven positive learning outcomes.
- The impact of the **rising cost of living** on adult learners and skills providers in London.
- Assessing the potential cost of **reaching net zero carbon** across London's Further Education colleges to help them make significant progress towards achieving net zero carbon estates by 2030.

London Learner Awards

My second London Adult Learning Awards on Thursday 2 November saw over 150 stakeholders from London's skills sector coming to City Hall to celebrate adult learning in the capital. The ceremony was hosted by Pablo Lloyd, CEO of Capital City Colleges Group and founder of several educational start-ups, with speeches from Will Gomperz, BBC Arts journalist and current Artistic Director of the Barbican Centre and Funmbi Tikare, Area Manager at Greggs and former award winner. For more information about the winners and highly commended please [visit](#).

Skills for Londoners Capital Fund Round 3

On 10 October, I launched an open call for applications to the third round of my £10 Skills for Londoners Capital Fund. The funding pot is available to skills providers and their partners for capital projects which meet the current and future skills needs of the London's key growth sectors

such as green, digital and creative. Half of the funding will be prioritised for projects that enable the delivery of green skills, to support London's progress towards becoming net zero carbon by 2030. The remaining funding will be available to support projects enabling the delivery of skills for the hospitality, digital, creative and health and social care sectors.

Housing

Specialist and Supported Housing

On 5 October, my Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development convened a roundtable to bring together experts across London's specialist and supported housing (SSH) field. The roundtable followed the publication of the London Assembly Housing Committee's report into exempt accommodation and SSH earlier this year, which recommended City Hall convene the sector to discuss challenges and solutions. The key challenges to SSH delivery discussed included a lack of long-term revenue funding, limited move on accommodation and existing SSH stock not being purpose built. Based on the roundtable discussions, my Deputy Mayor will be writing to the government, ahead of the autumn statement, with several lobbying asks to safeguard SSH delivery in London.

Renters (Reform) Bill

I have continued to lobby the government to pass – and strengthen - the Renters (Reform) Bill and ban Section 21 'no fault' evictions. I have expressed my disappointment that four years after the government promised to ban no-fault evictions, so little progress has been made. New City Hall analysis shows that since the original 2019 pledge, roughly 290 London renters have faced a Section 21 notice each week. Londoners are bearing a disproportionate impact of the government's failure to deliver, with a third of all no-fault evictions since 2019 happening in the capital.

Ahead of the Second Reading of the Bill on the 23 October, I publicly called on Ministers to support those facing eviction by ensuring these vital reforms are not kicked into the long grass. I briefed MPs ahead of the Second Reading debate and will continue to lobby the government to ensure the Bill is brought forward and genuinely delivers for London's renters. As part of this I continue to call on government to extend notice periods given by landlords to four months; and close loopholes that will still enable landlords to unfairly evict tenants once Section 21 is removed.

Monitoring the London Housing Strategy

On 25 October I published the 2023 edition of the 'Housing in London' report, the evidence base for my London Housing Strategy. The report sets out key trends on the supply, affordability and condition of housing in London, and the housing needs of Londoners.

The Economy, Business and Enterprise

GLA becomes a Living Hours Accredited Employer

Alongside news of the London Living Wage rate rise, I announced GLA's accreditation as a 'Living Hours' employer. This gives GLA staff earning the London Living Wage more predictable and guaranteed working hours, alongside a fair rate of pay.

Business Advisory Board

On 4 October, I chaired my Business Advisory Board to discuss London's post-Brexit competitive landscape and welcomed Christopher Hayward, Policy Chairman at the City of London Corporation to present on their newly launched report on the vision for economic growth: a roadmap to prosperity. We discussed areas where London can excel and maintain competitiveness, the importance of scale-ups and ensuring businesses have the right level of support, the impact of the high cost of living, and the ongoing challenges some businesses face with the return to the office.

Business Engagement

On 29 September, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, helped open the new office of L'Oréal UK and Ireland in White City, alongside the Ambassador of France to the UK and other dignitaries. Rajesh flagged the importance of businesses like L'Oréal to London's economy.

On 2 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Omar Ali, Managing Partner EMEA Financial Services and Karl Meekings, Director of Global Banking and Capital Markets at EY to discuss findings on the strength of the financial services industry in London. The discussions focused on EY's UK Banking Lending Forecast report, an attractiveness survey of the financial services sector and the European Financial Services Boardroom Monitoring report.

On 9-13 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, led London's MedCity delegation at BioJapan 2023, Asia's largest biotech exhibition, to champion the capital's life sciences sector. He met with Japanese business leaders and investors to promote London's life science capabilities and investment opportunities, and led a group of innovative high-growth life science companies, members of London & Partners' Grow London Global programme, looking to expand into the Japanese market.

On 18 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with a delegation of Norwegian companies visiting London on a trade mission organised by the British-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce. The companies represented sectors including energy, finance, aviation and education, and the discussions focused on London's strengths as a place to do business, and its resilience post-Brexit.

On 19 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, spoke at the Shoosmiths LLP quarterly talk series event hosted by Joe Mazzucca, partner and head of Shoosmiths London Office. There were about 60 legal professionals and consultants at the event. The focus of the event was on ensuring London remains a globally competitive hub for legal services.

On 26 October, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, participated in a roundtable organised by the Green Hydrogen Alliance on attracting business investment and the creation of a green hydrogen hub in Thames Estuary/East London area. Participants included London City Airport, Barclays and Port of London Authority.

Community and Social Policy

Age-friendly Employer pledge

On 1 October, the International Day of Older People, I signed the [Age-friendly Employer pledge](#) to make City Hall a more inclusive workplace for older people. The Greater London Authority (GLA) joined 167 organisations nationally who have pledged to become an age-friendly employer, signalling their recognition of the importance and value of older workers.

I am leading by example and taking action to ensure people aged 50 and over are valued at work and thrive in their careers at City Hall.

Our GreenHut visit

On 25 October 2023 Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard and I visited Our GreenHut in Brixton Hill to see the food and activities it is delivering over the half-term for 7-16 year olds, including those with SEND.

Our GreenHut is one of the hundreds of organisations receiving support through my Free Holiday Meals programme which to date has provided more than 7 million free meals to low-income families at holidays and weekends, including more than 500,000 due to be delivered over October half-term.

Children and Young Londoners

Care Leavers

On 23 October, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, took part in Care Leavers Week with an opening video for the celebration at City Hall. The event, curated entirely by care-experienced young people, was centred around the themes of Connections, Support, Health and Home.

Earlier in October, I announced that a new Transport for London (TfL) concession, which gives half price bus and tram travel for care-experienced young people, will be launching in early 2024. Following the announcement, the Deputy Mayor has emphasised the importance of travel in opening up new opportunities for our care-experienced community who are disproportionately not in education, employment or training.

Child Poverty Conference

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, addressed the London Child Poverty Summit on 17 October, as part of London's Challenge Poverty Week. She spoke with sector leaders about City Hall's approach to tackling child poverty, including addressing crisis issues like food insecurity, improving Londoners' access to advice, and ensuring Londoners are aware of support available to them. It is so important that we have spaces like this to bring partners together to tackle the biggest challenges facing our society, such as child poverty.

Hundreds of thousands of children living in poverty are not eligible for the Government's Free School Meals scheme due to restrictive eligibility criteria and the cost-of-living crisis means families and children across our city are in desperate need of additional support. That's why, considering the growing pressures on families, I intervened with emergency funding of £135m to provide Free School Meals for primary school pupils in state funded schools for this academic year. No child

should be punished for circumstances beyond their control, which is why I will continue to call on the Government to step forward and provide the funding to make this permanent.

Visit to Charedi Jewish Orthodox community

On 18 October, Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, accompanied by London Assembly Member Sem Moema AM, visited some Charedi Orthodox Jewish schools and organisations in north London.

During the visit, they met with representatives and members of the community to discuss important local issues. They also reiterated our solidarity with the Jewish community following the continuing violence in Israel and Gaza. I am clear that I am taking a zero-tolerance approach to any form of hate crime in London, and I am working hand in hand with the Community Security Trust (CST) and Metropolitan Police on visible policing. This includes a rolling programme of security visits to all of London's Synagogues.

Culture

National Conference of Visitors Attractions

On 5 October, I spoke at the 20th anniversary of the VAC 2023 Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions to leaders from across London and the UK's visitor attractions. I emphasised the importance of culture and tourism to London's prosperity and announced the results of my 2023 Let's Do London campaign, which has so far attracted over 850,000 additional visitors to the city, who in turn contributed £360m to London's economy.

20th Frieze London art fair and London Creates Campaign launch

On 11 October, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Frieze London, the world's most influential art fair, I launched London Creates, a new cultural campaign championing London as a world-leading creative capital. The campaign is in partnership with the Evening Standard and supported by London's artists and art world figures, gallerists, museum directors and auction houses. So far, the campaign has generated 16 pieces of press coverage, 141k estimated views online and a combined total of 19m publication-wide audience reach for all outlets featuring coverage.

BFI 67th London Film Festival – Mayor of London Gala

On 14 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE, spoke at my gala screening of the film *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget*, directed by Sam Fell and produced by Aardman Animations and Netflix Animations. During the London Film Festival I also fund elements of the festival's industry programme such as the Production Finance Market, a two-day financing event for film run by Film London and the only event of its kind in the UK. My support for the London Film Festival's industry programme is part of my Creative Economy Growth Programme which helps to deliver inward investment, sales and exports, and showcase diverse talent.

London Museum foundation stone unveiling

On 16 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE, spoke at the unveiling of the foundation stone of the new London Museum in Smithfield Market. She was joined by the Chair and Director of the Museum of London Clive Bannister and Sharon

Ament, and Chris Hayward, Deputy Chair Policy Committee, City of London Corporation. The stone is to be laid on site on behalf of all Londoners. The event represented a landmark in the new museum capital project, which I am supporting. The Museum of London will adopt its new name London Museum following its move to the new site.

World Cities Culture Forum

Between 25 –27 October, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Justine Simons OBE chaired the 12th World Cities Culture Summit in São Paulo. As Founder and Chair of this leading network of cities and culture, she opened the Summit along with the Mayor of São Paulo Ricardo Nunes and his Deputy Mayors for Culture and International Relations. The Summit was attended by over 140 senior city leaders from 40 cities across six continents. Under the theme ‘Culture, Courage and Leadership for a New World’ the Summit included panels on a range of topics, from working with local communities to the future of AI, and a dedicated session on culture and conflict with senior leaders from Kyiv. The World Cities Culture Forum was founded in London in 2012; it is now a UK registered charity and I am proud to be its Patron.

East Bank – London College of Fashion opening

On 1 November, my Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries Justine Simons OBE spoke at the opening of the public programme of University of the Arts London (UAL) London College of Fashion at East Bank, the UK’s newest cultural quarter at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The opening marks an important landmark for East Bank and the start of a brand-new chapter in the college’s 117-year history, comprising six sites across the capital and the new campus, bringing all London College Fashion undergraduate and postgraduate courses under one roof for the first time.

Night Time Borough Champions Network

On 29 September, the Night Czar chaired a meeting of the Night Time Borough Champions Network. All boroughs nominate a Night Time Champion at cabinet or committee chair level. The network enables the sharing of best practice from London, the UK and around the world in the governance and management of a 24 hour city.

The Night Time Champions updated the network on the successful impact of Night Time Enterprise Zones in Bromley, Vauxhall and Woolwich, and the launch of Business Friendly Licensing projects in Westminster, Hackney and Merton and the development of ground-breaking Night Time Strategies in Wandsworth, Richmond, Camden and Westminster.

Music Venues Day 2023

On 17 October, the Night Czar attended Music Venues Day 2023. It was hosted by Woolwich Works in my Woolwich Night Time Enterprise Zone. The event highlighted the perilous financial position of the UK’s grassroots music venues due to the cost of living crisis, energy bills and rising rents. My 24 Hour London and Culture and Community Spaces at Risk teams continue to work closely with Music Venue Trust protecting London’s much loved grassroots music venues.

Night Time Enterprise Zones

On 25 October, my Night Time Enterprise Zone in Bromley hosted a Winter Lights Festival. This is the latest in their successful BR1 Lates programme which has seen footfall boosted by 78 per cent in the early evening and 127 per cent in the late evening when BR1 Lates events have taken place. The Vauxhall Night programme led by Lambeth and the Woolwich Lates programme led by

Greenwich have also seen significant increases in footfall as a result of Night Time Enterprise Zone activity.

National Event Safety Roundtable

On 26 October, the Night Czar chaired a National Events Safety Roundtable. This meeting follows a roundtable held in June this year bringing industry leaders and regulators together to look at the challenges affecting safety in the live events sector.

The meeting included updates on the work being done to address some of the challenges identified in the first roundtable, which included the economic impacts of COVID and the cost of living crisis, skills shortages in the workforce and changes in crowd behaviour. My Night Czar will continue to work in a multi-agency partnership way to achieve solutions that will ensure the safety of Londoners and staff at our world-leading live events.

Civil Society and Sport

Go! London Fund

On 11 October the Go! London Fund announced the first funding awards. Go! London is a £19.5m partnership between City Hall, London Marathon Foundation and Sport England, with strategic guidance from London Marathon Events and London Sport. Go! London will support community sport and physical activity initiatives over the next five years and also invest directly in the next generation of leaders in the sector by supporting young (16-24 year old) social entrepreneurs.

More than £2 million has been awarded in principle to 44 sport and physical activity based projects in 28 boroughs. The projects will work with thousands of young Londoners aged 4 to 24, including those from low-income families, ethnically diverse communities, disabled young people and those experiencing homelessness. Young people's physical, mental, and social wellbeing will be supported through a range of project activities such as swimming, basketball and fitness sessions.

Health

World Restart a Heart Day

On Monday 16 October I helped mark World Restart a Heart Day.

At Highbury and Islington station, I was joined by TfL and LAS to announce the roll-out of publicly accessible defibrillators across the entire London Underground and Overground network.

Defibrillators are also available for the public to access at all dial-a-ride offices, TfL owned piers and some main bus stations and interchanges.

This rollout delivers on my manifesto commitment to maximise the number of public access defibrillators (PADs) on the TfL estate, making life saving technology available to any Londoner who needs it in an emergency. But making this technology accessible can only work if people have the confidence to use it.

Last year, the LAS responded to 13,000 cardiac arrests across the capital. We know that in the time it takes for an ambulance to arrive, the actions taken by a bystander could help save someone. Boosting people's knowledge and confidence key to enabling them to act. That's why I also worked with LAS and TfL to produce a short training video which demonstrates how to perform

chest compressions and use a defibrillator. This video can be accessed on the City Hall website and is being promoted via a heart-shaped QR code on every defibrillator in the TfL network.

During my visit, I was honoured to meet Estelle Williams, a 999-call operator at the LAS and her father Eddie. I heard how Estelle sprang into action after Eddie collapsed, using CPR and a defibrillator to keep Eddie's heart pumping oxygen to his brain until an ambulance arrived. Eddie survived, and has just celebrated his 72nd birthday.

On the same day City Hall co-hosted a special CPR and defibrillator training session with the LAS, and with support from TfL, for 214 Year Eight students from Hackney, Redbridge, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Ealing (six different schools). My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, helped to kick off the training sessions, welcoming the students. This event helped support the launch of the LAS London Lifesavers campaign for schools.

World Mental Health Day

On Tuesday 10 October I supported #WorldMentalHealthDay across my communications platforms, encouraging Londoners to speak to others about their mental health, to access support if they need it and to reach out to friends, family and colleagues who may be struggling.

I know positive mental health is vital to Londoners being able to fulfil their potential, and we all have a role to play in supporting ourselves and our communities. That's why I continue to do my part by using every possible opportunity to remind people in our city about resources that can help. You can sign up for updates by joining our campaign [#ChampionMentalHealth](#). As part of the work I'm doing to create a healthier London for everyone, I have also been encouraging Londoners to take #ZeroSuicideLDN's virtual training. I'm happy to report that on Tuesday 3 October more than 100 colleagues from across the GLA Group took the training with Zero Suicide Alliance.

International Relations

Mayor of Atlanta and Mayor of Jacksonville

On 1 October, I joined the Mayor of Atlanta, Andre Dickens and the Mayor of Jacksonville, Donna Deegan, at Wembley Stadium, welcoming the return of the NFL game this season and highlighting the success of London as the sporting capital of the world.

Ambassador of the European Union

On 25 October, I met with HE Mr Pedro Serrano, Ambassador of the European Union, to discuss London's relationship with the EU, how we can support EU Londoners, and tackling the climate emergency. I look forward to continuing our work together to defend our common values and interests.

Middle East conflict

In the wake of the conflict in the Middle East, I have been working with senior officers at the Met and communities across the city to support affected communities and Londoners. On 9 October I wrote a letter of Condolence to Israeli Ambassador, to convey my outrage at the attack by Hamas on Israel, and to strongly condemn these acts of terrorism.

I visited Golders Green on 10 October, along with the Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime, Sophie Linden, to show my solidarity with London's Jewish communities. That contact has continued since then to assess the impact of increased hate crime referrals of those needing support. MOPAC has also offered to provide increased resources if required, and engaged with CST directly to ensure that a list of all Jewish places of worship and places of interest was shared with the Met.

On 12 October, I wrote to the Foreign Secretary about the situation in the Middle East and called for urgent action to deliver humanitarian access and support to and from Gaza.

On 13 October, I visited the charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) to support them and show solidarity in the lifesaving work their team are doing to help Palestinian civilians caught up in the conflict in Gaza

On 20 October, I hosted an urgent roundtable at City Hall that brought together the Met, CST, Tell MAMA and representatives from the Muslim and Jewish communities.

On 27 October, I join the international community in calling for a ceasefire to allow vital aid supplies to reach those who need it in Gaza. Israel has the right to defend itself, to target those responsible for the appalling terror attack of 7 October, to take action to free the hostages. The international community must redouble its efforts to get the hostages released, however, a widespread military escalation will only deepen the humanitarian disaster. There can only ever be a political resolution to achieving peace.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Planning Applications

On 12 October, OPDC's Planning Committee resolved to approve the redevelopment of 1 Portal Way, North Acton for approximately 1,300 homes (35% affordable), 350 co-living units and 30,000 sq.m. commercial floorspace. The Section 106 is being finalised and the application will be referred to the GLA at Stage 2 shortly.

Old Oak West Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

On 12 October, the draft Old Oak West SPD was approved for consultation at OPDC's Planning Committee. The SPD sets planning guidance for a new urban district of up to 9,000 homes around the new HS2 station at Old Oak Common.

The consultation began on October 16th and will run until midnight on 27th November. The SPD was informed by the extensive engagement OPDC has undertaken over the past seven months to understand local priorities to help the corporation shape the future of Old Oak West.

Acton & Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone

On 5 October, a film funded by OPDC's Creative Enterprise Zone, created by Bollo Brook, a local youth centre, was premiered at the Horniman Museum's 茶, चाय, Tea (Chá, Chai, Tea) Exhibition. The film engaged with Bollo Brook's young people to better understand their lived experiences through conversations over tea, and showcased the culture of tea drinking within Park Royal.

London Legacy Development Corporation

East Bank

On 1 November, I visited East Bank to mark the official opening of UAL's London College of Fashion at the Stratford Waterfront site at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. I was also present for the announcement of the first season of joint cultural programming across the East Bank site. *The Music Is Black: A British Story* will bring together East Bank partners inspired by an inaugural exhibition which will be displayed at V&A East when the museum completes its move to the Park in 2025.

Housing developments

On 5 October, Chobham Manor, the first of five neighbourhoods on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, won Best Landscaping Design at the British Homes Awards.

On 24 October, a photocall was held to mark the early stages of phase two of East Wick and Sweetwater. The second phase of the development, built in joint venture with Places for People and Balfour Beatty Investments, will deliver 210 new homes, including 45 under the London Living Rent tenure. Phase two is being built by The Hill Group.

Venue contracts

Everyone Active, the longest-established leisure contractor in the UK has become the new operator of the London Aquatics Centre. The eight-year contract will cover the operation of the award-winning Dame Zaha Hadid venue, which hosted the diving and swimming events at London 2012. Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) will hand over the contract to Everyone Active in March 2024, having first won the contract in 2011. GLL has also been named as the new operator of the Copper Box Arena.

Planning and Regeneration

Planning

Planning Decisions

I have sent a letter in response to the following Statutory Stage 2 referrals. I have informed the relevant Local Planning Authorities that I am content for them to determine the cases themselves.

Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2022/0449	Former Fords site, Chequers Lane	Barking and Dagenham	16/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0883	100 Gray's Inn Road	Camden	02/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0090	3 Viveash Close	Hillingdon	16/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/0903	Land bounded by Oxestalls Road	Lewisham	02/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0854	Oxestalls Road	Lewisham	16/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0176	East India Dock House, 240 East India Dock Road, London	Tower Hamlets	30/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2

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
2022/0633	Beam Park, Barking and Dagenham	Barking and Dagenham	16/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0067	Woolwich Central	Greenwich	23/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0115	Land to the west of Kidbrooke Park Road	Greenwich	23/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0662	Former Alfa Laval	Hounslow	05/10/2023	No Stage 2 required	Stage 2
2020/6506	Chester, Salisbury, Norfolk,	Lambeth	05/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
	Worcester, Winchester, Hereford, And Gloucester House				
2022/0453	Alliance Park, Concord Road, Park Royal	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	23/10/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0717	Dean Bradley House	Westminster	05/10/2023	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
2023/0529	West Hendon Estate	Barnet	02/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0648	Victoria Quarter	Barnet	30/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0632	Wembley Greenway	Brent	23/10/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0516	Waitrose, Bromley South	Bromley	05/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0611	Royal Russell School	Croydon	05/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0627	TIDE Construction PBSA	Ealing	16/10/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0586	Tottenham Hotspur Stadium	Haringey	02/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0610	Stopping up of Highways (land adjoining No. 23 Rosslyn Avenue, Harold Wood)	Havering	05/10/2023	Do not hold Inquiry	Stopping up order
2023/0589	Former Alfa Laval	Hounslow	02/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0673	Perks Field	Kensington and Chelsea	25/10/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0620	Central Thameside West	Newham	26/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0575	Aggregate House	Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation	04/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0691	Bankside Hotel	Southwark	26/10/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0695	55-56 Chamber Street	Tower Hamlets	27/10/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0553	5 Strand	Westminster	23/10/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0638	Airwork House	Westminster	13/10/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

London Plan Guidance

On 19 October I published draft Purpose Built Student Accommodation London Plan Guidance and draft Digital Connectivity Infrastructure London Plan Guidance for consultation. The consultations runs for 12 weeks and closes on 11 January 2024.

Planning for London Programme

Engagement on the Planning for London Programme continues. We have now held 10 events with the NLA Expert Panel, a further five community events co-hosted with the London Housing Panel, and work with the London Sustainable Development Commission. Preparations are underway on a further 16 topic-based engagement events. Notifications have been sent out advising of the topics and dates for these, so that Londoners can express their interest in attending these.

Regeneration

A House for Artists Wins the Neave Brown Housing Award

On 19 October, A House for Artists in Barking and Dagenham won the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Neave Brown Award for housing which recognises the best new example of affordable housing in the UK. The project, delivered in partnership with Be First, Create London, and APPARATA architects, received £250,000 from the London Regeneration Fund and a further £420,000 from my Small Sites x Small Builders programme. The project delivered 12 affordable, high quality residential units combined with studio space and a dedicated public hall and new square. There is a year-round programme of activity for the local community. Artists are offered a lifetime tenancy at 65 per cent of market rent in exchange for a commitment to dedicating half a day a week to deliver free, public events in the hall. The first of its kind in the UK,

A House for Artists is an ambitious model for delivering affordable and sustainable housing while sustaining a community within the building and in the local area.

Charlton Workstack, RB Greenwich

The Charlton Workstack opened on 24 October. Part funded through my Good Growth Fund and delivered in partnership with Greenwich Enterprise Board, the Workstack provides affordable industrial space where small businesses can grow and develop. Its innovative, stacked and cantilevered design optimises the capacity of the site in line with my London Plan.

West Library Youth Employment Hub, LB Islington

The West Library Youth Employment Hub in Islington was opened to the public on 17 October. The project was supported with £350,000 from my Good Growth Fund and is part of the 'We are Cally' programme, a community focused plan which sets out to improve social infrastructure in the area, with a portion of the fund supporting the renovation and expansion of the library. This improved community asset will support local young people into employment, training and education with the help of local experts. The funding has also made accessibility improvements to the entrance, whilst the refurbished basement hosts local charities enabling them to be closer to the residents they support. The West Library is helping Londoners to actively participate in their local community and have a say in how their city is shaped.

Key engagements

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

- I visited projects benefitting from VRU funding in Croydon on 29 September
- I attended the first NFL game of the season in London at Wembley Stadium 1 October
- I welcomed new City Hall Apprentices to the GLA on 2 October
- I visited a VRU funded project based the Millfield Theatre on 3 October
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 3 October
- I chaired a meeting of my Business Advisory Board on 4 October
- I spoke at the 20th anniversary of the UK Visitor Attractions Conference on 5 October
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 5 October
- I joined a meeting of the UNSG's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments on 6 October
- I attended Labour Party Conference from 8-10 October
- I visited local businesses and met with community representatives in Golders Green on 10 October
- I joined local charities to release the first wild beavers for 400 years in Ealing on 11 October
- I officially launched the "London Creates" campaign at Art Frieze on 11 October
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 12 October
- I visited Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP) on 13 October
- I met with the Deputy Met Commissioner on 13 October
- I visited Highbury & Islington station to announce the rollout of defibrillators at TfL Stations on 16 October
- I held my regular planning meeting on 16 October
- I hosted a Mobile Phone Summit on 17 October
- I held my regular meeting with TFL on 17 October
- I chaired the London Partnership Board on 17 October
- I hosted and spoke at the City Hall Black History Month reception on 17 October
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 18 October
- I attended the HMICFRS Fire Performance Oversight Group on 19 October
- I chaired a roundtable on tackling hate crime with Jewish and Muslim representatives on 20 October
- I met with the Met Police Commissioner on 23 October
- I attended the London Stadium to announce the new London Living Wage increase on 24 October
- I visited GreenHut Community Hub to see the delivery of City Hall funded free holiday meals on 25 October
- I met with the EU Ambassador to the UK on 25 October
- I visited The Poppy Factory on 26 October
- I met with Met Police Commissioner on 26 October
- I attended Diwali on the Square on 29 October
- I attended the London Infrastructure Group on 30 October
- I met with the Chief Rabbi on 31 October
- I visited the official opening of the London College of Fashion on the East Bank development on 1 November
- I attended the London Transport Dinner on 1 November
- I attended the Assembly Policing Plenary on 2 November

- I held my regular meeting with the Met Commissioner on 2 November
- I spoke at the Centre for London Conference on 2 November