

# LONDON ASSEMBLY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



**LONDON**ASSEMBLY



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# FOREWORD

Dr Onkar Sahota AM  
Chair of the London Assembly 2022-2023



We look back on a year of change, both here at City Hall and more widely in London. Just as the capital began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Londoners faced another challenging year with the cost-of-living crisis.

It was a difficult year for our emergency services, too, with damning reports into culture at the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Fire Brigade (LFB), and capacity issues facing the NHS and London Ambulance Service (LAS).

We know how much these issues matter to Londoners. Assembly Members have advocated for you on these issues and others including food insecurity, counterterrorism, maternity care, exempt accommodation and flooding.

In September, we witnessed the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a deeply moving and historic moment for many Londoners. It was an honour to attend her funeral and pay my respects on behalf of the London Assembly and Londoners. In May, we were able to celebrate the joyous Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, and pass on the good wishes of Londoners.



We have been adjusting to life in our new home here in the Royal Docks. It has been a pleasure to welcome both Londoners, and those from further afield, back to City Hall. We have been delighted to see people returning to the public gallery, and to host visits to City Hall from international delegations and university student groups. It was particularly special to meet with a delegation from Kyiv City Council earlier this year, and to reiterate our solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

We have continued to hold the Mayor of London to account at Mayor's Question Time, making sure that your concerns are put to him directly. And it was great to hold our two People's Question Time (PQT) sessions in-person this year, at Redbridge and Ealing, following virtual attendance due to the pandemic. Our committees have also carried out brilliant work scrutinising some of the Mayor's key organisations – Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

The year ahead will be busy for everyone in City Hall as we prepare for the 2024 London elections. The London Assembly will continue to make sure your voices are heard as part of everything we do this year, when we examine issues including young Londoners' access to home ownership; child-care; youth violence; and outer London transport.



**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**









# KEY HIGHLIGHTS



## City Hall Service of Remembrance for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the London Assembly and the Mayor held a service of remembrance at City Hall to mark the passing of the late Queen. The Chair paid tribute to the late Monarch on behalf of the London Assembly, alongside faith leaders and the Mayor.



## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

To mark the historic occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, the London Assembly and the Mayor hosted a special event at City Hall.



In March, the Assembly Chair, other senior Assembly Members, the Mayor and Greater London Authority (GLA) staff representatives attended Buckingham Palace for a reception for Privileged Bodies. We are one of just 27 organisations with this status, which conveys a historic right to present an address to the British Sovereign in person on certain occasions, such as the Coronation.

## Topical updates from the Metropolitan Police Service

The Police and Crime Committee continued to lead public scrutiny of the MPS, and to hold it to account during a challenging time for the Service. New Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley QPM and other senior officers used the Committee Q&A sessions to set out plans for reform, while Baroness Casey attended the Police and Crime Committee to answer questions about her damning review of culture and standards at the MPS.

▲ **Top:** Dr Onkar Sahota AM at the City Hall service of remembrance.  
**Middle:** Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM with King Charles III at the reception for Privileged Bodies.  
**Bottom:** Len Duvall OBE AM (left) and Susan Hall AM (right) with King Charles III at the reception.



The Mayor and Sir Tom Winsor appeared before the Police and Crime Committee to answer questions about Sir Tom's report for the Home Secretary on circumstances surrounding the departure of former MPS Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick.

### **Exempt accommodation**

Following an investigation into exempt accommodation in London, the Housing Committee launched its report 'Unsafe and unregulated: London's rogue supported housing providers' in the House of Commons, alongside Bob Blackman MP and Crisis.



### **Ukrainian delegates from Kyiv**

Members of the London Assembly hosted delegates from Kyiv City Council at City Hall, in a show of solidarity with Ukraine and its people following the Russian invasion.

### **Maternal care services**

The Health Committee conducted a survey of Londoners' experiences of maternal care during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of its investigation into maternal health services in London. These experiences helped shape its report, 'Maternal health and care in London', which was prominently covered by the BBC and ITV.

### **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill**

The Planning and Regeneration Committee proposed amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill going through Parliament.

### **ULEZ**

The Transport Committee agreed a cross-party response to the Mayor's proposals to amend his Transport Strategy to allow for the extension of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). The full Assembly then considered whether to use their powers, under the GLA Act 1999, to reject the revision to the Strategy. They decided not to reject the revision.

### **Community Risk Management Plan**

The Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning (FREP) Committee used its statutory powers to review and make recommendations on LFB's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The Committee published 19 recommendations on the draft, including one urging LFB to look again at responding to emerging risks related to climate change in the final plan.

### **Green Bond Programme**

Both the Environment Committee and the GLA Oversight Committee held meetings to review the Mayor's £90 million investment in a new Green Bond Programme.

### **Culture off the beaten track**

For its investigation into London's 'culture off the beaten track', the Economy Committee held a roundtable at Theatre Royal Stratford East, with representatives from grassroots organisations, to hear about the opportunities and challenges the sector is facing. It then launched its report at Battersea Arts Centre, with attendees from London's cultural sector.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Assembly Committees ran:



**61**  
investigations

This included:



**93**  
Committee meetings



**13**  
site visits

We heard from:



over **330**  
guests giving oral evidence



**12**  
Calls for Evidence/  
surveys

We published:



**20**  
reports



**37**  
letters



**412**  
recommendations



# MOTIONS

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These are statements put forward by individual Assembly Members and agreed by the whole of the Assembly – sometimes unanimously, but sometimes by majority.

Plenary meetings are an opportunity for the whole Assembly to come together to discuss critical issues facing the capital, and to call for change on the issues that matter to Londoners.

Highlights this year include the following:

**Adopt a zero-tolerance approach to damp and mould in London**

**Assembly supports 'Regulate the Rogues' campaign**

**More needed to keep Londoners safe on nights out**

**Assembly slams trans conversion therapy**

**Improvements to Dial-a-Ride must be made**

**Cuts to BBC local radio services not on, says Assembly**

**Implement a vision zero strategy for London's missing children**

**A public inconvenience – Londoners need more loos in stations**

# PLENARY

The Assembly uses its monthly Plenary sessions to hold certain bodies to account, including TfL, LFB, the MPS, the LLDC and the OPDC.

In June 2022, the Assembly held its annual Plenary session on transport. It questioned the Mayor (in his capacity as Chair of TfL) and Andy Byford (Commissioner of TfL) on how the transport network is supporting London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and what its greatest priorities and challenges are over the longer term.

For the annual Plenary session on policing and crime in London, held in November 2022, the Assembly asked the Mayor and the MPS Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley QPM about how they were delivering for Londoners.

In January 2023, the Assembly put questions to the Mayor on his Draft Consolidated Budget, as part of the annual budget-scrutiny process.

For its annual Plenary session on the priorities and challenges facing LFB, the Assembly put questions to Baroness Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience; and Andy Roe, the London Fire Commissioner (LFC).

The Assembly also held a Plenary session on how the LLDC (the planning authority for the area around and including Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park) and the OPDC (the development agency for the regeneration of a large site spanning the London boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Brent and Ealing) were delivering for Londoners.

In September 2022, the Assembly used its Plenary session to put questions to the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, and the GLA Assistant Director of Skills and Employment,

on the Mayor's priorities for the Adult Education Budget.

The Assembly can also use its Plenary meetings for discussions with other organisations whose work has an impact on the lives of Londoners.

In October 2022, a decade on from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Assembly Plenary looked at what challenges and opportunities remain following the event. Guests including Sir Peter Hendy (Chair of the LLDC) and Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson (Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords and Paralympian) spoke about the impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on London, and how to maintain its legacy.

With the rising cost of living on the minds of Londoners, the Assembly met for its November 2022 Plenary session to examine pressures facing Londoners and how these can be tackled. Guests included Torsten Bell (Chief Executive of the Resolution Foundation) and Klara Skrivankova (Programme Director at Trust for London).





# PEOPLE'S QUESTION TIME

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PQT is a chance for Londoners to ask the London Assembly and Mayor about the issues affecting them. It's a statutory event that we run twice each year, usually covering topics including transport, policing and safety, and housing.

In November, PQT was hosted at Sir James Hawkey Hall in the borough of Redbridge. Keith Prince, Assembly Member for Havering and Redbridge, was pleased to chair the session hosted in his constituency, with many community members attending the event.

The second PQT of the year took place at Ealing Town Hall, in Assembly Member Dr Onkar Sahota's constituency of Ealing and Hillingdon. Dr Sahota chaired the event where Londoners had the chance to question Members and the Mayor about their plans and priorities for the capital.



# CALLS FOR EVIDENCE

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London Assembly Committees reintroduced calls for evidence for many of their investigations. These sought the views and experiences of Londoners, and the expertise of local organisations and bodies.

12 calls for evidence were published, receiving over 3,000 responses. These were used by the Committees to inform their investigation and questioning, and their final outputs from investigations.

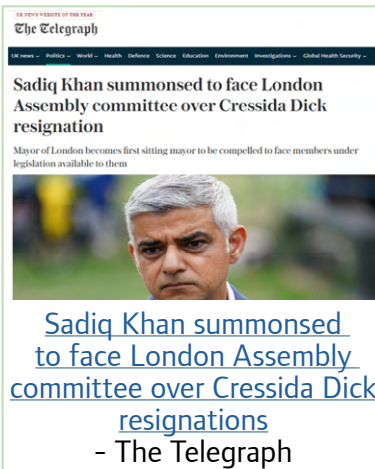
# IN THE MEDIA



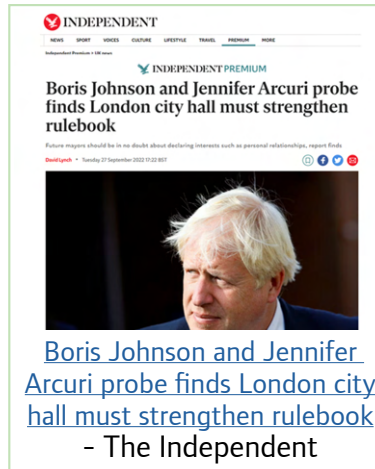
The Guardian  
Metropolitan police  
Two or three Met police officers to face trial every week, commissioner predicts  
Mark Rowley tells London assembly that police housing for corrupt officers in court until 2025 as 'systemic failings' rooted out  
Vikram Dodd Police and crime correspondent  
Headline: Two or three Met police officers to face trial every week, commissioner predicts  
Source: - The Guardian



ITV NEWS  
Maternity care in London a 'postcode lottery' during Covid-19 pandemic, report says  
LONDON | MATERNITY | NHS | MENTAL HEALTH | Friday 14 April 2023 at 6:05pm  
Headline: Maternity care in London a 'postcode lottery' during Covid-19 pandemic  
Source: - ITV



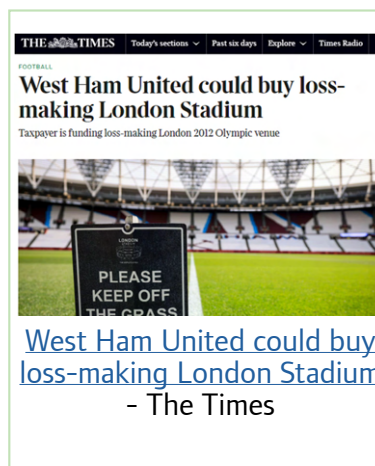
The Telegraph  
Sadiq Khan summoned to face London Assembly committee over Cressida Dick resignation  
Mayor of London becomes first sitting mayor to be compelled to face members under legislation available to them  
Headline: Sadiq Khan summoned to face London Assembly committee over Cressida Dick resignations  
Source: - The Telegraph



INDEPENDENT  
INDEPENDENT PREMIUM  
Boris Johnson and Jennifer Arcuri probe finds London city hall must strengthen rulebook  
Recent reports should be in no doubt about declaring interests such as personal relationships, report finds  
Headline: Boris Johnson and Jennifer Arcuri probe finds London city hall must strengthen rulebook  
Source: - The Independent



BBC  
NEWS  
Tube noise concerns raised by London Assembly  
Headline: Tube noise concerns raised by London Assembly  
Source: - The BBC



THE TIMES  
FOOTBALL  
West Ham United could buy loss-making London Stadium  
Taxpayer is funding loss-making London 2012 Olympic venue  
Headline: West Ham United could buy loss-making London Stadium  
Source: - The Times





# YOUR HEALTH

The **Health Committee** reviews health and wellbeing issues for Londoners, with a particular focus on the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy.



▲ Health Committee Members on a visit to Newham Emergency Operations Centre.

The Health Committee began the year aiming to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic affected early childhood development; and the services that provide support to young children and their families.

The first five years of a child's life are critical for their long-term development, and a strong predictor of outcomes in later life. The Committee asked what the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy and Implementation Plan can do to help address these issues; and scrutinised the Mayor's policies relating to early years.

The Committee then held an investigation into maternal health and maternity services in London, with a particular focus on experiences during the pandemic. As well as holding a formal meeting in City Hall, the Committee launched a survey and call for evidence, where it heard from

members of the public about their experiences of pregnancy and giving birth during the COVID-19 crisis.

The pandemic created unprecedented challenges to maternity services, in particular due to the restrictions on birth partners attending appointments. The Committee published a report focusing on how the Mayor could work with the NHS and other stakeholders to drive up standards in maternity care in London.

The Committee also examined 'healthy living', aiming to understand the barriers faced by Londoners to eating healthily and taking part in everyday physical activity. In particular, this involved looking at the 'healthy living' strand of the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy, and how the Mayor's policies can help build physical activity and healthy eating as part of people's daily lifestyles.





Across two meetings in City Hall, the Committee scrutinised the impact of the Mayor’s initiatives and programmes designed to reduce barriers to healthy living. It asked what further action could be taken by the Mayor, local government and third-sector organisations.

The LAS published a new organisational strategy in 2023, and the Committee collected evidence on its performance and future plans with the aim of feeding into this strategy. As well as launching a call for evidence, the Committee visited the Dockside Education Centre and Emergency Operations Centre in Newham in January 2023, and held a discussion with LAS representatives on the new strategy.

The Committee made several recommendations to LAS about the new strategy; and wrote to the NHS and the Mayor with recommendations on

how they could provide additional support to LAS.

In 2022, the GLA established the GLA Group Public Health Unit (PHU). The Health Committee held a meeting to explore the rationale behind creating the PHU, and how it intends to add value across the GLA Group.

Guests presented on the structure of the PHU; and how it will work with the Health and Wellbeing Team to combat health inequalities, and implement a ‘health in all policies’ approach across the GLA Group.

The Committee published a set of recommendations on how the PHU can help address some of London’s key public health challenges. It is still early days for the PHU, and the Committee looks forward to scrutinising its work in future years.





# HEALTH - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Health Committee ran:



**5**  
investigations

This included:



**6**  
Committee meetings



**2**  
site visits

We heard from:



**29**  
guests giving oral evidence



**149**  
written responses  
received to three  
surveys/Calls for  
Evidence

We published:



**1**  
report



**5**  
letters



**34**  
recommendations

# YOUR MONEY

The **Economy Committee** investigates economic issues that matter to Londoners.

## WATCH VIDEO



The Economy Committee started the year by looking at two parts of London's economy that can sometimes be overlooked: street markets and small cultural venues.

Looking at the challenges faced by London's street and covered markets, the Committee heard from key representatives from the sector; and scrutinised the Mayor's initiatives in this area, including the London Markets Board.

The Committee was particularly interested in how markets that serve low-income residents are faring, and how the sector is recovering from the challenges created by the pandemic.

As well as holding a formal meeting in City Hall, the Committee visited Brixton street market to speak to market operators and traders. In December 2022, the Committee set out a series of recommendations in a letter to the Mayor.

A highlight of the year was the Committee's investigation into 'culture off the beaten track'. London is renowned for many world-famous cultural institutions, yet its smaller cultural attractions and grassroots culture can sometimes be overlooked.

The Committee was interested in understanding the challenges faced by this part of the sector, as well as the role it plays in London's cultural life – particularly in local communities.

The Committee held a roundtable event at Theatre Royal Stratford East, where it heard from seven representatives from organisations in the sector. It published its findings and recommendations in a report, launched at Battersea Arts Centre in April 2023.

## WATCH VIDEO





▲ Economy Committee Chair Hina Bokhari AM.

In 2022, inflation rose to levels not seen for decades, ushering in a cost-of-living crisis for Londoners. The Committee examined the impact of this on Londoners' food security, and as part of this visited Wandsworth Foodbank. Representatives from the charity sector, as well as Londoners with lived experience of food insecurity, shared their views and experiences with Members.

The Committee's report made a series of recommendations to the Mayor and the Government relating to, among other topics, the benefits system, free school meals and the London Food Board.

The Committee then considered the role that cargo bikes and other forms of sustainable transport can play in supporting London's businesses. Cargo bikes provide a cleaner and more efficient way for businesses to move goods around the city.

After hearing from sector representatives, the Committee published a report highlighting the many benefits of cargo bikes for businesses. It made recommendations on how the GLA, TfL and London boroughs can take steps to enable more businesses to benefit from them.

Finally, the Committee explored London's skills and employment system; and considered several groups facing disproportionate barriers to work in London.

Members held a meeting looking at the barriers faced by asylum seekers and refugees looking for work. This included questioning the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, and the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, on the Mayor's initiatives to support these groups.

The Committee then looked at the barriers faced by Londoners who have had contact with the criminal justice system, as those with a criminal record can often struggle to access employment.

Economic inactivity amongst the over-50s has risen dramatically since the pandemic. The Committee held a meeting with experts including Age UK and the Centre for Ageing Better to understand the causes of this, and what action could be taken to address it. The Committee also considered how the Adult Education Budget, which is delegated to the Mayor, can equip Londoners with the skills needed to enter employment and progress in their careers.

The Committee wrote letters to the Mayor with recommendations on how he could address barriers to work for all these groups.





# ECONOMY - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Economy Committee ran:



7 investigations

This included:



9 Committee meetings



2 site visits

We heard from:



41 guests giving oral evidence



13 written responses received to one Call for Evidence

We published:



3 reports



5 letters



70 recommendations

The **Budget and Performance Committee** examines the Mayor's draft budget before it is voted on by Assembly Members. The Mayor's budget totals over £19bn, so the Assembly's work is crucial in ensuring that the best spending decisions are made for the city.

The Budget and Performance Committee investigated the 2023-24 budget plans for the whole GLA Group, which encompasses the core GLA, TfL, MOPAC, LFB, the LLDC and the OPDC.

To start the year, the Committee met with senior representatives from the GLA, TfL, MOPAC and the MPS to explore the GLA Group's 2021-22 performance. It assessed what implications this had for the delivery of the 2022-23 GLA Group Budget, and the budget-setting process for 2023-24.

It then examined the proposed 2023-24 Budget process, including the assumptions underpinning funding and timelines. The Committee then wrote to the Mayor outlining a series of improvements to be made to the GLA Group budget and reporting processes.

The annual Budget scrutiny process began in November 2022, with a meeting covering the Mayor's 2023-24 Budget proposals for the core GLA. The Committee discussed the progress on delivering the Mayor's Green Bond Programme, and the repair work required at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. It also observed that, over the last six years, the Mayor had received additional unanticipated income from business rates and council tax averaging £198 million per year.

The Committee then met in December to consider the 2023-24 Budget proposals for the LLDC and the OPDC, as well as those for MOPAC, the MPS and the LFB.

Scrutiny of the Budget continued in January, when the Committee met with TfL officers; the Deputy Mayor for Transport; and the Mayor.

## READ THE LETTER



## WATCH MEETING



Later that month the Committee published its response to the Mayor's 2023-24 Budget consultation. It highlighted a significant growth in the reserves held by the GLA, noting previously planned reductions that had not materialised. The report asked the Mayor to reassess the GLA Group reserves position; and establish a clear and consistent policy for the use of reserves across the GLA Group.

The Mayor then published his Draft Consolidated Budget and, in February 2023, his Final Draft Consolidated Budget. Together these versions included an additional £317 million of expenditure, and an extra £81 million in fares income, compared to the Mayor's Consultation Budget.

To ensure the appropriate scrutiny of any additional budget proposals, brought forward late in the budget process, the Committee held another meeting in February 2023; the Mayor was summonsed to attend. This meeting focused on the additional £317 million, including the Mayor's proposals for free school meals. Various questions were asked regarding how the scheme would be delivered in practice, and the potential need for additional capital investments.

This meeting preceded the all-Assembly Budget Mayor's Question Time in February, when the Mayor's Final Draft Consolidated Budget was considered by the full London Assembly.

▼ Budget and Performance Committee Members during a tour of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, to discuss affordable housing, the London Stadium and plans for Stratford Station.





# BUDGET - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Budget and Performance Committee ran:



4 investigations

This included:



9 Committee meetings



1 site visit

We heard from:



33 guests giving oral evidence

We published:



1 report/consultation response



2 letters



53 recommendations

# YOUR SAFETY

The **Police and Crime Committee** raises policing concerns from around the capital with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the MPS.

Following a troubling period for the MPS, a key priority for the Police and Crime Committee has been scrutinising how the force is rebuilding trust and confidence.

The Committee holds regular scrutiny sessions with senior representatives from the MPS and MOPAC. In October 2022 the Committee held its first Q&A session with new Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley QPM, when he was a month into his new role.

Trust and confidence again dominated the headlines in March 2023, when Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CB published her damning review of culture and standards at the MPS, accusing it of being institutionally racist, misogynist and homophobic. The Committee held a Q&A session with Baroness Casey, Sir Mark Rowley and Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime), to explore the findings of the review. The Commissioner used the meeting to apolo-

gise to Londoners and officers in the MPS for the failings highlighted in Baroness Casey's report; and set out his plans for reforming the Service.

For its themed sessions, the Committee started the year looking at the police complaints system. Amidst a series of scandals involving MPS officers, the Committee examined the role played by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) in improving public confidence.

After questioning representatives from the IOPC, the MPS and MOPAC, the Committee published its report. It called on the Mayor to request that the Home Secretary reviews guidance to allow for the immediate removal of police officers who are proven unfit for the role – including those who have been convicted of criminal offences.

Another area of focus for the Committee was London's probation services and the management of high-risk offenders. Following the ter-



Baroness Casey discussing her review of culture and standards at the MPS during a Police and Crime Committee meeting.



rorist attacks at Fishmongers' Hall in 2019 and Streatham High Road in 2020, questions were raised over the effectiveness of probation services.

The Committee held a meeting with the Regional Director at the London Probation Service, and representatives from the MPS and MOPAC, to find out how effectively they were working to supervise high-risk-of-harm individuals in the community and keep Londoners safe.

Publishing its findings, the Committee called for a large-scale recruitment campaign for probation staff in London, to ensure continued success in the supervision of high-risk offenders released into the community.

In March 2022, former Home Secretary Priti Patel MP commissioned Sir Tom Winsor to conduct a review of the circumstances surrounding the departure of the former MPS Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick.

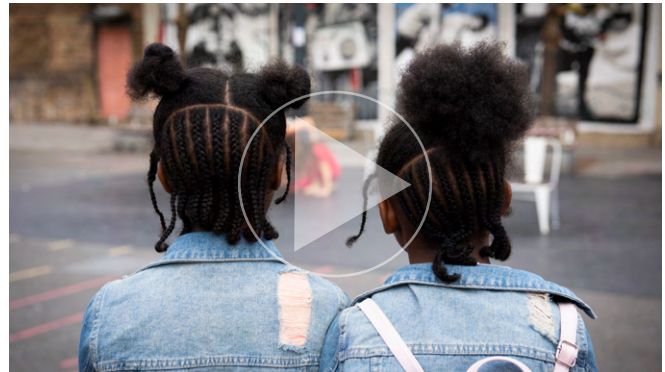
Following the publication of his report, the Committee summonsed the Mayor to appear before it to answer questions related to the former Commissioner's resignation. The Committee summonsed documents, and then summonsed the Mayor for a second time, to further investigate the circumstances around the resignation.

Terrorism remains a significant concern for Londoners, and is a priority for the Mayor. Because of this, the Committee held a two-part investi-

gation on counterterrorism and radicalisation in London, with guests including Lord Toby Harris of Haringey and Brendan Cox.

One year on from Lord Harris' second major review into London's preparedness for a terror attack, the Committee published a report with 12 recommendations to the Mayor, MOPAC and the MPS.

## WATCH VIDEO



Children and young people who go missing from home or care can be vulnerable to sexual and criminal exploitation, including gangs, violence and trafficking. The Committee launched an investigation into the issue of missing children in London, examining the performance of the MPS and MOPAC in keeping young people safe.

To end the year, the Committee published its report on missing children in London, making 17 recommendations to relevant bodies.



Police and Crime Committee Members with MPS Deputy Commissioner Dame Lynne Owens.

# POLICE - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Police & Crime Committee ran:



8 investigations

This included:



17 Committee meetings



2 site visits

We heard from:



48 guests giving oral evidence



27 written responses to two Calls for Evidence

We published:



4 report



4 letters



42 recommendations



## The **Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee** reviews the London Fire Brigade’s priorities and objectives.

This year, the FREP Committee has focused its attention on the culture in the LFB.

In July 2022, an inspection report by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services found that LFB requires improvement in several important areas. His Majesty’s Inspector Matt Parr CB raised concerns about the workplace culture, with some staff describing discriminatory behaviour directed towards them and a lack of confidence in reporting such behaviour.

In September, the Committee held a meeting with His Majesty’s Inspector and the LFC, Andy Roe, to discuss the findings and what action LFB was taking to improve its performance.

Culture in LFB was under scrutiny once again in November when Nazir Afzal OBE published his independent culture review. It made 23 recommendations to the service after testimonies from 2,000 members of staff found “dangerous levels of ingrained prejudice against women”, and that people of colour are “frequently the target of racist abuse”.

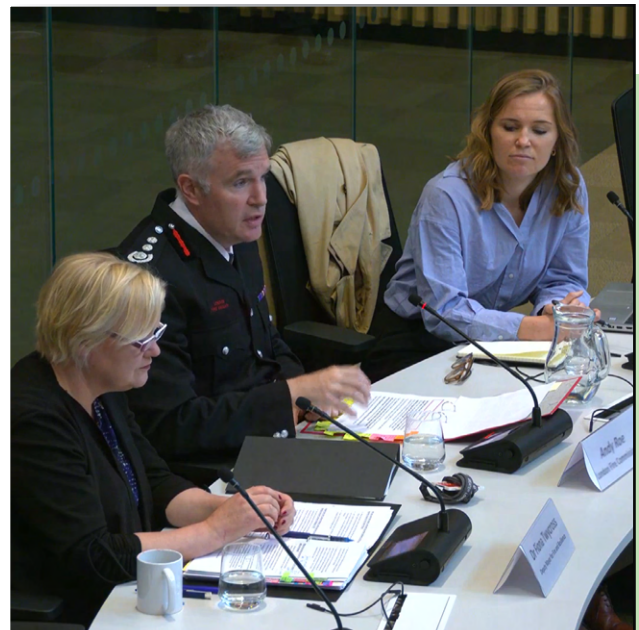
The Committee held an initial Q&A session with the Commissioner and Baroness Twycross, Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, before a further in-depth session alongside Mr Afzal, the report author.

During the second meeting, the Commissioner told the Committee that LFB could only request a basic Disclosure and Barring Service clearance for its staff. However, he added, “all the other emergency services can do an enhanced check”. Following this, the Committee wrote to the Min-

ister for Crime, Policing and Fire calling for all fire services to have access an enhanced level of vetting for staff, to better ensure the safety and protection of the public. The Government later amended the law to allow fire and rescue services to undertake more than just a basic check.

London’s resilience has been another focus for the Committee this year, particularly when faced with extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding.

▼ Andy Roe (middle), London Fire Commissioner, Dr Fiona Twycross (left), Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience and Kate Bonham (right), Assistant Director for People and Services at a London Assembly Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee



In July 2022, an extreme heatwave led to hundreds of fires across London, resulting in LFB declaring a major incident. During a Q&A session with LFB, the Committee questioned representatives on the key challenges when dealing with a large number of grass and open land fires, especially when these wildfires can jump across into the urban environment.

The Committee also examined whether LFB had sufficient resources to respond to multiple incidents at the same time, should there be a similar heatwave in the future.

As part of an investigation into London's resilience, the Committee examined the role that local boroughs can play, focusing on a fire in the village of Wennington that destroyed 16 houses. It discussed how the borough supported displaced residents, and continued to do so during discussions with insurers and others on how to rebuild the destroyed homes.

The Committee also looked into how London's local resilience forum works; and how various organisations, emergency services, and community and voluntary services come together in the forum to plan for emergencies.

The Committee heard from UK Power Networks, TfL, the UK Health Security Agency and London NHS about planning and preparedness for winter

risks – including possible loss of power, impact of strike action and influenza/COVID-19 outbreaks.

The Committee also heard from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the Government's plans to strengthen local resilience forums and build a stronger and more consistent resilience response nationally.

As well as two formal meetings on London's resilience, the Committee visited LFB's control centre in Merton to view new technology and training practices; and listen to live 999 calls.

The LFB is required to publish a plan that sets out how to improve public safety, reduce the number of emergency incidents, and save lives. To achieve this, the LFB engaged with Londoners to create the CRMP – a strategy and delivery plan for 2023-29.

The Committee has statutory powers to review, make recommendations on, and approve the draft plan before it is finalised. In August, the Committee published a report with 19 recommendations on the four key areas in the draft plan. The Committee urged LFB to look again at responding to emerging risks related to climate change in the final plan.

## WATCH VIDEO



# FREP - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Fire, Resilience & Emergency Planning Committee ran:



6 investigations

This included:



8 Committee meetings



2 site visits

We heard from:



26 guests giving oral evidence

We published:



1 report



6 letters



19 recommendations



# YOUR TRAVEL

The **Transport Committee** presses the Mayor for improvements to the capital's travel network.



▲ Transport Committee meeting in the chamber at City Hall.

The Transport Committee focused on what the future of London's transport system could look like this year, from shared mobility to road-user charging.

It began the year with an investigation into the bus network in London, following TfL's publication of its Bus Action Plan two months earlier. It put questions to TravelWatch, a former bus driver, and other passenger groups to better understand their needs as part of a well-functioning transport system.

It held a second meeting on the Bus Action plan, questioning representatives from TfL on the proposals; and on TfL's consultation on service reductions to its bus network. It also launched a public call for evidence on the proposals.

The Committee met to consider the Mayor's proposals for a further expansion of the ULEZ and the proposed revision of the Mayor's Transport Strategy. The Committee agreed to write responses to both consultations.

With rental e-bikes and e-scooters now prominent on London's roads and streets, the Committee held a meeting on shared mobility. It considered how the various forms of shared mobility currently in use in London can help to achieve a reduction in car use, and an increase in active travel modes.

Following an announcement in August 2022 that TfL had reached agreement with the Government on a long-term funding settlement, the Committee met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, TfL's Commissioner and its Interim Chief Finance Officer to discuss the terms and implications of the deal.

The Committee also examined the future of smarter road-user charging, looking at several practical questions around smarter road-user charging. The first meeting heard from representatives from Business LDN, Centre for London, Rebel Group, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Campaign for Better Transport and Possible.

At a second meeting, the Committee heard from TfL, London TravelWatch, Transport for West Midlands and the RAC Foundation. It also published a call for evidence, inviting the views of Londoners; this received over 2,500 responses. This evidence will be published alongside any output in the coming year.

In January, the Committee held a meeting on public transport fares. The Committee heard from the Deputy Mayor, TfL, the Campaign for Better Transport, London TravelWatch and Age UK London. It discussed the increase in fares for 2023-24; its potential impact on Londoners; the future of travel concessions; and different fare structures.

To end the year, the Committee held a Q&A with the Deputy Mayor for Transport and TfL Commissioner. Topics covered included Vision Zero, TfL finances, active travel investment, London's river crossings, the bus network in London, road-user charging and rail in London.



▲ Seb Dance (left), Deputy Mayor for Transport and Andy Lord (right) TfL Commissioner at a Transport Committee Meeting.



# TRANSPORT - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Transport Committee ran:



7 investigations

This included:



10 Committee meetings



1 site visit

We heard from:



42 guests giving oral evidence



over 3,300 written responses to two Calls for Evidence

We published:



2 consultation responses



2 letters



30 recommendations



# YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The **Environment Committee** investigates key environmental issues including the impact of poor air quality on Londoners, access to green spaces and the Mayor's Environment Strategy.

The Environment Committee began the year with a meeting about London's wild spaces, with particular reference to biodiversity and ecological corridors. This followed a site visit to Lee Valley Regional Park in March 2022. The Committee considered how green infrastructure policies are included in Mayoral strategies such as the London Plan, the Environment Strategy and the Transport Strategy.

The impact of noise and light pollution on the capital was an important investigation for the Committee this year. The first part of the investigation focused on the major sources of London noise pollution: roads, rail and aviation. It heard evidence from TfL, Heathrow Airport, noise experts and campaign groups.

Following the first meeting, the Committee wrote to London City Airport expressing serious concerns over its proposed expansion. This included a warning that it will worsen existing noise pollution, which already poses significant health and wellbeing risks to thousands of local residents.

The second part of the meeting heard from experts on light, including representatives from the Royal Astronomical Society, Buglife and Enfield Council; a dark sky consultant; and a volunteer from the Campaign to Protect Rural England. It considered whether existing policies were sufficient to prevent increased light pollution.

The Committee held an informal meeting on the Green Bond Programme and GLA Climate Budgeting. GLA and TfL experts answered questions on the scale and type of potential projects funded through green bonds, and the impact of the Green Bond Programme on the Mayor's climate budget. This was informed by a GLA Oversight Committee meeting on the governance approach to green bonds held earlier that week.

As part of its work on how businesses can transition to more sustainable ways of working, the Committee held an informal roundtable hosted by a sustainable restaurant in Hackney. It engaged with hospitality-sector representatives working on sustainability in their operations; and looked at how businesses could be supported on this transition.



▲ Members of the Environment Committee during a roundtable hosted at Silo, the world's first zero-waste restaurant, in Hackney, East London.

The Committee then held a formal meeting on this topic, with guests including the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, and a senior representative from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In January, the Committee held a meeting on London’s environmental priorities for 2023. This gave Members an opportunity to engage with local environmental groups and campaigners. The discussion covered a range of issues, including tree planting, biodiversity, environmental messaging and air pollution.

How prepared is London for flooding events? This was a topic the Committee considered when it published its London Under Water report in February. With 200,000 properties in London at risk of flooding, it outlines the steps the Mayor should take to reduce the risk of flooding and increase London’s preparedness.

It included recommendations to bring together key stakeholders annually to reassess prepared-

ness; expand communications; and take actions to retain and increase green space to prevent flooding.

To end the year, the Committee held a session with the Deputy Mayor on Environment and Energy to find out about the progress on the Mayor’s Environment Strategy, and the scale of interventions needed to achieve net zero by 2030, including the environmental impacts of emissions zones.

## READ THE LETTER



# ENVIRONMENT - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Environment Committee ran:



6 investigations

This included:



9 Committee meetings



1 site visit

We heard from:



43 guests giving oral evidence

We published:



3 reports



4 letters



43 recommendations



# YOUR HOMES

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The **Housing Committee** examines matters relating to housing in London, and looks into the Mayor’s housing delivery record.

A key priority for the Housing Committee this year was what housing options are available for vulnerable Londoners.

In June 2022, the Committee visited Ekaya Housing Association. This provides housing and accommodation support to predominately Black and ethnic minority women and their families in South London. The site visit formed part of an investigation into women’s access to safe and affordable housing in London.

## WATCH VIDEO



The Committee also held a formal meeting the following month, and heard from the GLA, the Women’s Budget Group, Housing for Women, Solace Women’s Aid and Southall Black Sisters. The Committee then published its report, which made 13 recommendations on how to improve access to safe, secure and affordable housing for women in London.

Later in the year, the Committee launched an investigation into the issues surrounding exempt supported housing in London. It held two roundtables – one with local boroughs and one with providers. In December 2022, the Committee held a formal meeting and heard from Bob Blackman MP, Crisis, and representatives from Birmingham City Council.

To launch its report, the Committee held an event in Westminster with Bob Blackman MP and Crisis. The investigation uncovered that some rogue providers are targeting vulnerable Londoners for profit. While the issue of exempt accommodation has been scrutinised on a national level, and in other cities, this was the first large-scale investigation into how the issue is affecting Londoners.

The Housing Committee also discussed older people’s housing in London. At an informal meeting, the Committee heard from the Centre for Ageing Better, Age UK, the International Longevity Centre, London Older Lesbian Co-housing, and the Race Equality Foundation.

In February 2023, the Committee held a formal meeting on the topic of resident voice in social housing, considering how this has changed since the disaster at Grenfell Tower in 2017. It heard from a range of voices across two panels. The first of these featured One Housing, Islington Council, the Chartered Institute of Housing, and the GLA. The second panel consisted of housing campaigners Kwajo Tweneboa; Sam Vacciana from Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation; Pat Turnbull from the London Tenants Federation and Khalid Mair from Imani Housing Co-op and the BME London Landlords Tenants Forum.

The Committee then wrote a letter to the Mayor, urging him to establish a Social Housing Commissioner for London, to ensure tenants' rights and interests are at the forefront of housing in London.

In October 2022, the Committee published its annual Affordable Housing Monitor, which looks at the Mayor's affordable homes programmes and the delivery of homes against his commitments along with other London-based housing data.



Alongside its focus on housing for vulnerable Londoners, the Committee also examined the recommendations arising from the Kerslake Report into housing delivery across the GLA Group. It then sent a letter to the Mayor outlining further recommendations to build on those set out in the Kerslake report.

To end the year, the Committee held an informal session with three stakeholders who had approached the Committee over the year. It heard from the Smith Institute, the New Horizons Youth Centre and the Women's Development Unit.

# HOUSING - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Housing Committee ran:



7 investigations

This included:



9 Committee meetings



1 site visit

We heard from:



44 guests giving oral evidence



28 written responses to three Calls for Evidence

We published:



3 reports



2 letters



43 recommendations



The **Planning and Regeneration Committee** leads the London Assembly's response to the Mayor's London Plan, the capital's key strategic planning document which promotes the economic, social and environmental development of the capital; and sets the direction for planning of properties, high streets and land.

The Planning and Regeneration Committee began the year with a site visit to a Gypsy Roma Traveller pitch in Hackney. The Committee visited homes and met residents, before holding a meeting with the local community to discuss the challenges they face in terms of accessing culturally appropriate housing.

The Committee continued to consider Gypsy Roma and Traveller pitches as part of its next meeting on the topic of design. In July, it held a meeting to examine the GLA's London Plan Guidance (LPG). The meeting focused on two pieces of guidance – one on small sites and one on design codes.

After the meeting the Committee sent a letter to the Mayor outlining several recommendations for the improvement of the LPGs. These included a recommendation to create an additional LPG on the topic of design for Gypsy Roma and Traveller sites.

Later in the year, the Committee held an investigation into the future of planning in London. Over two meetings, the Committee scrutinised the extent to which the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill would improve community engagement in planning.

It then published its report, The Future of Planning in London, with 11 recommendations to the Government and GLA. This had the intention of ensuring that community participation in planning is improved.

The Committee also published a letter outlining proposed amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, aligning with the recommendations set out in the report.

The Committee met to discuss the impact of London's two Mayoral Development Corporations: the OPDC and the LLDC.

Representatives from both organisations attended, as well as representatives from community groups and those who have worked with communities. These included the East End Trades Guild; the OPDC community Review Group; and academics Professor Tony Travers and Dr Myfanwy Taylor.

The Committee also held an informal meeting on the topic of planning and the climate emergency, considering in detail the topic of whole-life carbon assessments. The Committee heard from the GLA; AECOM; the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers; and Hawkins\Brown, whose speaker was also a Mayoral Design Advocate.



# PLANNING - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Planning & Regeneration Committee ran:



4 investigations

This included:



6 Committee meetings



1 site visit

We heard from:



31 guests giving oral evidence

We published:



1 report



3 letters



20 recommendations

# GLA OVERSIGHT

The **GLA Oversight Committee** leads the Assembly's scrutiny of issues not covered by the other committees. It also monitors scrutiny expenditure and oversees the programming of the Assembly's business.

The GLA Oversight Committee began the year with an investigation into devolution in London. It considered the Government's Levelling Up White Paper; the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill; and the impacts of these on London. In July, a second meeting on the topic explored how the London Assembly's role could be strengthened for the benefit of London government and Londoners.

In September, the Committee published its report on the GLA's Code of Conduct and the governance processes of London & Partners. It found that the Code of Conduct has potential gaps and areas where strengthening is needed, including the rules and guidance around non-pecuniary interests for the Mayor and Assembly Members.

Later in the year, the Committee considered the Mayor's £90 million investment in his Green Bond Programme, which aimed to deliver £500 million of investment into green initiatives.

It also met to review the latest GLA workforce report; and to look at progress in delivering the 42 recommendations from the independent review by The Equal Group. This review looked at whether there are structural barriers preventing Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority staff from progressing their careers at the GLA.

The Committee also examined the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and Annual Equality Reports, with the Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard.

In February, the Committee met to discuss the London Recovery Programme and its impact. Guests included London Recovery Board Members, GLA representatives and a London Councils representative.





# OVERSIGHT - YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022-23 the Oversight Committee ran:



**7**  
investigations

This included:



**10**  
Committee meetings

We heard from:



**30**  
guests giving oral evidence



**6**  
written responses to  
one Call for  
Evidence

We published:



**3**  
reports



**2**  
letters



**58**  
recommendations





the living room  
bar & terrace

LONDON



# YEAR AHEAD

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Our work holding the Mayor to account, and investigating the issues that matter to Londoners, continues in 2023-24.

The London Assembly will investigate and scrutinise the biggest issues affecting Londoners, including the cost-of-living crisis. It will also address the ongoing housing crisis, and ensure we have an effective transport system that works for everyone.

## **Safety**

The Police and Crime Committee will continue its important work in scrutinising progress made by the MPS in improving trust and confidence, particularly through the lens of the Baroness Casey report. It will also examine preventing violence and protecting young people.

## **Fire hazards**

Meanwhile, the FREP Committee will assess emerging fire hazards in London; and continue to assess how LFB is responding to Nazir Afzal OBE's culture review.

## **Housing**

The Housing Committee will investigate young Londoners' access to home ownership, and temporary accommodation. The Planning and Regeneration Committee will consider the architecture and design of social housing in London, as well as planning and accessibility.

## **Health and economy**

In terms of Health, the Committee will examine treatment for eating disorders in London; and investigate the health impact of gambling. The Economy Committee will look at the cost-of-living crisis's impact on childcare costs and child poverty in London.

## **Environment**

The Environment Committee will hold a two-part investigation into London's rivers; and look at food security and sustainability, and the protection of green spaces.

## **Budget**

A large part of our work goes into scrutinising the Mayor's GLA Group budget, which the Budget and Performance Committee will begin in the autumn.

The GLA Oversight Committee will continue its scrutiny of the City Hall relocation, as well as examining Mayoral trips, the GLA Workforce Report and the London Recovery Board.

## **Cost of living**

The Cost of Living Working Group will examine the biggest issues facing Londoners as costs rise. It will hear directly from Londoners and policy-makers about the impact this is having on the capital.



# SECRETARIAT BUDGET

The London Assembly's budget is agreed through the Mayor's annual budget-setting process. The Assembly's budget position for 2022-23 is set out below:

Directorate	Full Year Outturn									Original Budget		
	Budget			Actuals			Variance to Budget			£000's		
	£000's			£000's			£000's			£000's		
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net
<b>Assembly and Secretariat</b>												
Assembly Communications	405	-	405	332	0	332	(73)	-	(73)	388	-	388
Committee Services	804	-	804	652	(6)	646	(152)	(6)	(158)	747	-	747
Executive Director	294	-	294	228	-	228	(66)	-	(66)	274	-	274
Member Services	1,925	-	1,925	1,845	-	1,845	(80)	-	(80)	1,873	-	1,873
Member Services (Conservative)	859	-	859	721	-	721	(138)	-	(138)	824	-	824
Member Services (Green Party)	282	-	282	296	-	296	14	-	14	274	-	274
Member Services (Labour)	1,035	-	1,035	909	-	909	(126)	-	(126)	1,007	-	1,007
Member Services (Liberal)	215	-	215	199	-	199	(16)	-	(16)	183	-	183
Scrutiny	1,519	-	1,519	1,225	-	1,225	(294)	-	(294)	1,457	-	1,457
Special Projects	1,110	-	1,110	1,110	-	1,110	0	-	0	1,089	-	1,089
<b>Total Assembly and Secretariat</b>	<b>8,448</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,448</b>	<b>7,517</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>7,511</b>	<b>(931)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(937)</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,116</b>

For less than £1 per Londoner per year, the London Assembly performs the function of scrutinising the GLA Budget of over £20 billion.

The London Assembly maintains a separate reserve, which is predominantly designed to meet the cost of resettlement grants for Assembly Members following an election. Any underspends arising at the end of the financial year are added to this reserve. At the end of the 2022-23 financial year, the Assembly reserve stood at £2,538,000.

Details of the London Assembly's budget are published as part of the Mayor's budget-setting process. The GLA Oversight Committee receives quarterly budget reports providing detail on in-year spend and forecasts.

# THE LONDON ASSEMBLY

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The London Assembly is a crucial check on the powers of the Mayor of London. As the most powerful directly elected politician in the UK, the Mayor must be held publicly and democratically accountable.

The Assembly examines the Mayor's decisions and actions to ensure promises to Londoners are delivered and the money he controls, collected from Londoners, is wisely spent.

The 25 London Assembly Members are elected every four years, at the same time as the Mayor of London. The 2020 election was suspended until 2021 due to the pandemic. Eleven Assembly Members represent the whole capital, and 14 are elected by constituencies. The Assembly holds the Mayor and mayoral advisers to account by publicly examining policies and programmes through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.

In addition, the Assembly questions the Mayor ten times a year at Mayor's Question Time. The Mayor must also consult Assembly Members before producing statutory strategies and the multibillion-pound budget for the GLA Group. The Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies and amend the draft budget if a two-thirds majority agrees to do so.

Assembly meetings are open to the public so Londoners can stay informed about the activities of the Mayor and the Assembly.

As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, Assembly Members act as champions for Londoners by investigating issues that are important to the capital.

Assembly investigations are carried out by cross-party committees that cover vital areas such as transport, policing, housing and planning, the economy, health, and the environment. The Assembly can press for changes to national, mayoral or local policy.





# KEEP IN TOUCH

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City Hall  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
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020 7983 4000

City Hall is open to all. Members of the public are invited to join us and watch Mayor's Question Time, Plenary sessions and our Committee meetings in person. You can also watch all of our [meetings live, or later, online](#).

You can also join us for PQT, both in person and online. It's a free event for Londoners, and you can [find out how to join here](#).

Details of all our Committees and current investigations are [on our website](#).

We welcome responses from members of the public when we publish a call for evidence; details on how to respond are on our website. If you have a question for the Mayor, [let us know](#) and we can put it to him on your behalf. You can also read the answers the Mayor and other key London officials have given to questions they have already been asked.





# ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

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**Marina Ahmad AM**  
Labour



**Shaun Bailey AM (now The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM)**  
Conservatives



**Elly Baker AM**  
Labour



**Siân Berry AM**  
Greens



**Emma Best AM**  
Conservatives



**Andrew Boff AM**  
Conservatives



**Hina Bokhari AM**  
Liberal Democrats



**Anne Clarke AM**  
Labour



**Léonie Cooper AM**  
Labour



**Unmesh Desai AM**  
Labour



**Tony Devenish AM**  
Conservatives



**Len Duvall OBE AM**  
Labour



**Peter Fortune AM**  
Conservatives



**Neil Garratt AM**  
Conservatives



**Susan Hall AM**  
Conservatives



**Krupesh Hirani AM**  
Labour



**Joanne McCartney AM**  
Labour



**Sem Moema AM**  
Labour



**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**  
Liberal Democrats



**Zack Polanski AM**  
Greens



**Keith Prince AM**  
Conservatives



**Nick Rogers AM**  
Conservatives



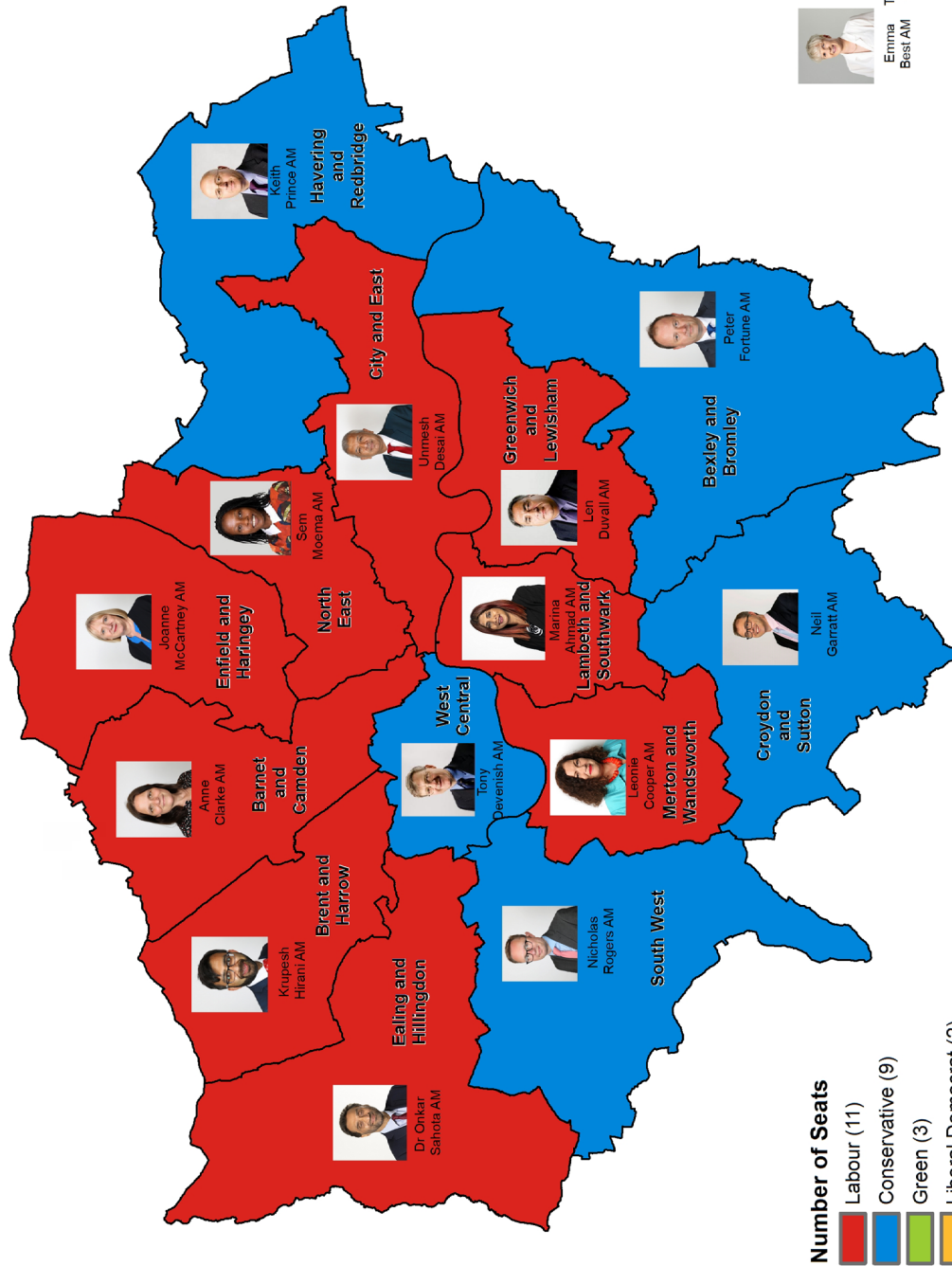
**Caroline Russell AM**  
Greens



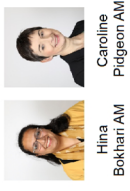
**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**  
Labour



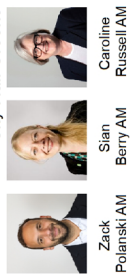
**Sakina Sheikh AM**  
Labour



**Liberal Democrat**



**City Hall Greens**



**Labour Group**



**GLA Conservatives**

