

# 24th Mayor's Report to the Assembly

## Mayor's Question Time 14 September 2023

This is my twenty fourth report to the Assembly, fulfilling my duty under Section 45 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It covers the period from 7 July – 31 August 2023.

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

## Executive Summary

### Ultra Low Emission Zone launch

On 29 August, the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expanded to cover all London boroughs. To mark the expansion, I visited St Laurence Church in Lewisham and met with health professionals, faith leaders and NGOs to discuss the importance of policies to improve air quality in London. Air pollution in London is an urgent health crisis, which can't be pushed later down the line for future generations to solve. It's responsible for around 4,000 premature deaths in the capital each year and is leading children to grow up with stunted lungs and adults to develop a whole host of illnesses - from asthma to heart disease, cancer and dementia. The ULEZ is a highly targeted scheme that aims to take the most polluting vehicles off London's roads. 90 percent of cars seen driving in outer London on an average day are already compliant and for those that aren't, there is financial support available for every Londoner with a non-compliant car or motorcycle together with a series of grace periods, exemptions and third-party offers. Grants and grace periods are also available for London-based small businesses (with less than 50 employees), wheelchair accessible vehicles and charities. Londoners can check whether their vehicle meets the ULEZ standards and apply for financial support on the Transport for London website:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion-2023>.

### Universal free school meals

My emergency expansion of universal free school meals for all children in state funded primary schools in London is set to roll out when schools return in September. Latest figures published by City Hall show around one in six parents or guardians of children aged between five and 11 years are going without essentials, including food, electricity or gas. Up to 270,000 primary schoolchildren are set to benefit from my funding, which could save families upwards of £440.

On 13 July, I visited Stroud Green Primary School in Haringey to see the preparations taking place ahead of the free school meals starting after the summer holidays. It was wonderful to speak to school staff, pupils, parents and guardians to learn how this intervention will positively impact them.

I was joined by my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, who has also visited other primary schools to hear from a range of schools and families about their excitement for September. One of these visits took place on 10 July in Smallwood Primary School in Wandsworth, where my Deputy Mayor spoke to families about the detrimental impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on them. My officers are continuing to work with schools, boroughs and partners ahead of the launch and preparations are progressing well.

## **Next phase of the #HaveAWord campaign launches**

On 21 July, I joined comedian Romesh Ranganathan, social media activist Max Selwood and anti-VAWG campaigners to launch the next phase of my #HaveAWord campaign, which launched last year and called on men to “have a word” with themselves and then their mates.

This new phase – ‘Say Maaate to a Mate’ – takes that message further, equipping men and boys with a simple phrase they can use to step in if a friend crosses the line.

As part of the campaign, I have also released a new interactive short film that can be used as a tool to help determine when, where and how to call out inappropriate language. The interactive short depicts a conversation between a group of twentysomething men and adopts the style of a choose-your-own ending game. Its immersive design provides viewers with the opportunity to intervene – by clicking ‘Maaate’ when they think the language used about women and girls crosses the line.

The campaign was developed with the sector and using expert behavioural science research which spoke to men in the UK from a diverse range of ages, ethnic backgrounds and professions to understand what stops men from intervening when they hear sexist or misogynistic language and test what interventions would work best to counter this. It is part of a wide range of action and investment I have made as Mayor that champions a public health approach to ending violence against women and girls. I am clear that, when it comes to ending violence against women and girls, men and boys must be the champions of change. Through this new phase of the campaign, I hope to be able to support them to do that.

## **Domestic abuse safe accommodation funding**

On 1 August, I launched a second round of funding to increase support for domestic abuse survivors in safe accommodation. I have already made available over £26m for a range of safe accommodation support services in London, including refuge provision, move on support, and counselling support. This new £14.2m round of funding, made available through a commissioning framework as part of my Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation programme, is for new and enhanced services in London. Access to safe accommodation is one of the biggest barriers facing domestic abuse survivors when leaving abusive relationships. This funding will enable an increase in provision and provide a range of support to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable groups in London. You can read more about my Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation programme here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/housing-and-land/domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-and-support>.

## **Additional investment to tackle rough sleeping**

On 10 July, I announced that I will be investing an additional £20.2m into my flagship Life off the Streets Programme as part of a continued efforts to help people sleeping rough in London rebuild their lives.

More than three-quarters of the funding (£17.27m) will be used to deliver my No Second Night Out (NSNO) service from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with the possibility of extending the service for up to a further two years. The NSNO service is a key part of the Life off the Streets Programme, supporting people who are seen sleeping rough for the first time. The service assesses each person’s individual situation and provides tailored support based on their unique circumstances and needs to deliver a sustainable route off the streets. In 2022-23 the service supported 1887 people, 87 per cent of whom did not return to sleeping rough.

Extraordinary financial pressures are putting the poorest Londoners at growing risk of homelessness, and I continue to urge the Government to do much more to prevent the steady flow of new people coming onto the streets. In particular, the Government must put more robust measures in place to tackle the unprecedented cost-of-living-crisis, provide further assistance for those with drug and alcohol dependency and restore the social security safety net which helps stop people become trapped in a cycle of homelessness.

### **Pension Credit uptake campaign**

On 21 August, I announced the results of the Pension Credit uptake campaign. The campaign funded 17 London boroughs to take part in a data driven approach to benefit uptake with data analytics social enterprise Policy in Practice. The results saw almost £8.4m in Pension Credit claimed by older Londoners. Just over 2,150 older people made a successful claim and each claim averaged just under £4000. I have provided funding to re-run the campaign in Autumn/Winter this year and expand the campaign with up to 23 London boroughs to reach more older Londoners on some of the lowest incomes in the city.

### **7/7 Anniversary**

On 7 July, I laid a wreath at the Hyde Park 7 July Memorial to honour the 52 innocent people killed and the 700 injured as a result of the 2005 terrorist attack. I was joined by senior representatives from the emergency and transport services who responded so bravely on the day.

As Londoners, with each passing year, our determination to stand united only strengthens. I'm committed to continuing to work with communities, partners and the police to tackle the threat of terrorism and ensure that no stone is left unturned in building a safer London for everyone.

### **LatinoLife in the Park 2023**

I was delighted to again support LatinoLife in the Park, the UK's largest free Latin festival this August. This multi-arts festival celebrates the on-going contribution of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese (Latin) culture to London life, through music, dance and food. The event was held in Walpole Park, Ealing on Saturday 5 August 2023 and featured a fantastic line-up of exceptional artists.

Now in its seventh year the festival has grown from strength to strength in its showcase of the diversity and quality of Latin music and dance.

### **UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition**

On 23 August, I was delighted to host an event at City Hall with the London Assembly Chair, Andrew Boff AM, to commemorate the UNESCO International Day for Remembrance of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition.

By bringing Londoners together for this event we are providing a much-needed opportunity to remember the victims and reflect on the injustices of the slave trade, while learning about - and celebrating - all those who resisted and helped bring about justice and change.

This year's theme was *"Fighting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Through Transformative Education."* Transformative education seeks to empower people to view society through a critical lens, so they

can challenge the status quo, stand up for their rights, and call out racism whenever and wherever it arises.

I am committed to tackling systemic inequalities, and doing all I can to eliminate them once and for all and sincerely believe that by working together we can bring about transformative change and build a more just society.

### **UK Black Pride 2023**

I was proud to again support UK Black Pride this August, an event that's more vital and relevant than ever. It's clear that the struggle to end stigmatisation and inequality is far from over, both here at home and around the world. As the world's largest celebration for African, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and Caribbean-heritage LGBTQI+ people, UK Black Pride is not just a celebration, it's a moment to raise awareness and recommit to the fight for equality. The inclusive free event, held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, saw great food, live music, and a community area hosting talks and workshops, as well as involvement from charities and small businesses.

Our capital city will always be a place where diversity is celebrated and I'm incredibly proud to stand with members of our Black LGBTQI+ communities and allies who unite at the event.

### **Notting Hill Carnival**

On 27 August, I spent the afternoon enjoying the music, magnificent parade costumes and meeting carnivalists at Notting Hill Carnival. This year's event was particularly significant as we mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush and celebrate the contributions of this remarkable generation and their descendants. The community-led celebration of Caribbean history and culture embodies everything that makes London the greatest city in the world.

Notting Hill Carnival attracted an estimated 1 million people across the weekend. The event would not have been the success it was without the hard work of Notting Hill Carnival Ltd, the public and the voluntary agencies involved, and I thank them for their dedication.

### **Enhancements to outer London bus services are set to add over one million kilometres per year as TfL introduces more than 80 new zero-emission buses in Sutton**

On 23 August, the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Seb Dance, announced that more than 80 new zero emission electric buses have taken to the streets of Sutton this summer, bringing the total operating in the area to nearly 100. TfL has introduced the new buses in the borough on routes 93, 154, 164, 213 and 80, joining the zero emission buses already operating on Route 413.

This significant addition to Sutton's fleet means that over half of the journeys undertaken by bus in Sutton will be in a zero emission bus, with more zero emission buses set to join the borough's fleet in spring next year. The borough is also set to benefit from improvements to bus services, providing new or better connections across the borough and between town centres and hospitals, adding over 400,000 bus kilometres to the area's network.

The introduction of the new buses follows the recent milestone of more than 1,000 zero emission buses operating across the capital, now taking the total to over 1,100 zero emission buses and putting TfL on track to transition to a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2034, a target which could be achieved by 2030 with continued Government investment. TfL will save an estimated 4.8m

tonnes of carbon by 2034 or an estimated 5.5m tonnes of carbon by 2030 with Government funding.

### **London reaches major milestone with more than 1,000 zero emission buses**

On 4 August, the capital passed a major milestone of more than 1,000 zero emission buses picking up customers on the city's streets, with the 1,000th zero emission bus being normally used on route 204.

This means that more than one in nine of the iconic red buses have now gone green. Since 2021, all new vehicles joining the fleet have been zero emission, helping TfL become the green heartbeat of London. In addition, all of TfL's other buses are low emission and meet or exceed Euro VI emission standards, the same emissions standard as the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

TfL's zero emission bus fleet is the largest in western Europe and has the lowest CO2 emissions per passenger kilometres compared to other global cities such as New York, Sydney, Paris and Vancouver. All of the new buses joining the fleet will have enhanced customer features, such as improved flooring, seating, lighting and customer information, and will meet the industry-leading bus safety standard.

London has a world-class public transport network and our zero emission bus fleet is setting the standard for others to follow. I'm committed to cleaning up London's air achieving net-zero carbon by 2030, and that includes delivering a zero-emission bus fleet. The decarbonisation of our bus fleet, the increases and improvements in bus services in outer London, and the new proposed Superloop will help build a better, greener London for all.

## **Policing, Crime and Security**

### **A New Met for London**

On 18 July, Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley published his plan for reform of our capital's police service – A New Met for London. Following the publication, I gave the following statement:

"As Mayor, I've been determined to shine a spotlight on the true extent of the performance and cultural problems within the Met. This pressure has resulted in a new Commissioner, Baroness Casey's review and now this new plan from the new Commissioner to address the deep-rooted issues that have been exposed.

"We've already ensured progress is underway with a new leadership team at the Met committed to change. This new plan is an important step on the road to reform – putting the Met on a path of far-reaching systematic and cultural reform, which will mean police officers unfit to serve always being dealt with robustly, stricter checks to become a police officer, greater support for victims of crime and a real focus on neighbourhood policing. I'm determined to ensure the Met rebuilds trust with Londoners and takes a new and encouraging community-first approach, where police officers listen, understand and respond to the needs and concerns of London's communities, particularly those who have been let down for far too long.

"Londoners will rightly judge this plan on actions not words, and I will be unflinching in holding the Met and the Commissioner to account and supporting him to deliver. The Met has many committed, professional police officers and staff who want to be part of this change. I see police reform as a critical part of my mayoralty and I will not be satisfied until Londoners have the police

service they deserve – one that is trusted, representative of London and delivers the highest possible service to every community in our city as we continue to build a safer London for everyone.”

### **Calling on the mobile phone industry to help tackle robberies**

On a visit to join MPS officers on patrol in Ealing on 9 August, Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley and I called on the mobile phone industry to work with us to make London safer by ‘designing out’ theft and robbery of devices.

MPS data shows that nearly 70 per cent of all thefts in London last year related to mobile phones. Violence and weapons have also been used in many robberies – in line with national trends - leaving victims traumatised and in the most extreme examples seriously or fatally injured. After a period of decline during the pandemic, England is now experiencing a steady increase in robberies, as is London, in line with national trends.

The Met is spearheading dedicated and targeted police work to prevent these crimes but as the criminal demand for high-value mobile phones continues to grow, Sir Mark and I believe more can be and should be done by the mobile phone industry to make it harder for stolen phones to be sold on, repurposed by vendors and re-used illegally.

We have jointly written to mobile phone providers and invited them to attend a roundtable discussion. I look forward to hosting this meeting, which will focus on how the police, City Hall and the mobile phone industry can work better together to find the most effective deterrent and ultimately significantly reduce mobile phone robberies in London and beyond.

### **More funding for grassroots organisations tackling VAWG**

On 14 August I visited Kiran Support Services in Waltham Forest to see how support from my VAWG Grassroots Fund was helping them deliver vital services to women and girls in their community, and to hear about the challenges the sector continues to face.

The rising cost of living is having an unprecedented impact on women and children experiencing domestic abuse and on the life-saving services they need. Local grassroots services know their communities and are best placed to help, but they need support to survive these challenging times.

That’s why I have decided to allocate more investment to my VAWG Grassroots Fund, which has already supported more than 40 projects since 2020, benefitting over 30,000 Londoners in need. The latest round of grants brings the total funding for grassroots groups to £6m. It will help up to 45 projects across London to provide thousands of more women, girls and families with a wide range of vital support, including counselling, safe accommodation and legal advice.

The funding is part of the record £117m investment I have allocated since becoming Mayor to tackle violence against women and girls, which is working to save lives, address waiting lists and keep doors open for vital specialist support services for victims during the cost-of-living crisis.

# Transport

## **TfL announces the next Tube stations to be prioritised for step-free access**

On 11 July, Transport for London (TfL) outlined the ten London Underground stations it will be reviewing for potential step-free access, as it progresses plans to further improve public transport accessibility in London.

The approach has been influenced by feedback from accessibility campaigners and TfL's consultation on step-free access, which took place in 2021 and saw 5,500 responses. This feedback highlighted the importance of TfL addressing the gaps in areas that have few step-free stations.

The Tube stations shortlisted in this next phase of step-free access work in 2023 and 2024 are: Alperton, Arnos Grove, Burnt Oak, Eastcote, Finchley Road, Northolt, North Acton, Rayners Lane, West Hampstead and White City.

TfL is working to access the Government's 'Levelling Up Fund' to start work in 2024 to make Colindale and Leyton Tube stations step-free. TfL is also doing further work to identify how best to provide step-free access on the southern section of the Northern line between Elephant and Castle and Morden, where there is currently a significant gap in step-free provision, and TfL aims to update on this work in early 2024.

TfL is also continuing to actively engage local authorities, developers and businesses in other areas of London to explore what options are available to introduce further step-free access to stations. For instance, feasibility work at other stations, such as Boston Manor, East Putney, Hatton Cross, North Ealing, Park Royal, Rickmansworth, Ruislip and Snaresbrook could be progressed should the right amount of investment be provided by these organisations.

## **All aboard as Tube, bus and rail journeys roar back with London's blockbuster summer of events**

On 10 August, TfL launched a new campaign to highlight the value and benefits of public transport as the ideal way to make the most of London this summer and beyond London's roaring summer of blockbuster events is helping TfL's ridership figures start to exceed pre-pandemic levels on some weekends as overall ridership bounces back.

Latest figures show that stations in central London are hitting pre-pandemic levels at weekends, if not exceeding them, with international events and London's cultural gems helping to drive a huge return of visitors to London. Weekday ridership levels on the Tube and bus are now regularly reaching at least 80 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. London Overground journeys are surging back to around pre-pandemic levels, while bus demand is also seeing a strong recovery.

London is enjoying a successful summer with more than one million people attending live music events across a week in July, and cinemas enjoying the busiest weekend for ticket sales in four years with people travelling to see the much-anticipated premieres of Barbie and Oppenheimer. It is also expecting to welcome two million more international arrivals this year compared to last year, bringing an additional £674m.

## **TfL opens 10 new low traffic cycleways across the capital making cycling accessible to even more Londoners**

On 13 July, TfL launched 10 new low traffic cycleways across the capital, the most TfL have ever opened at one time, making it safer and easier for people to travel around London by bike.

The new routes are the latest additions to a series that mainly use new low traffic local streets with three cycleways also launched earlier this year in March. These have been delivered rapidly alongside TfL and boroughs' existing programme to build new walking and cycling infrastructure.

It was also decided to retain the changes made at Park Lane permanently. The scheme saw the introduction of a new bi-directional, segregated cycle lane and bus lane on the north side of Park Lane.

## **TfL launches consultation on new cross-river cycling services for Silvertown Tunnel**

On 17 July, TfL launched a consultation setting out its proposals to allow cyclists to cross the Thames safely and comfortably as part of its long-standing commitments surrounding the Silvertown Tunnel.

The tunnel, which lies within the existing Ultra Low Emission Zone, will link the Greenwich Peninsula on the south of the river with Silvertown on the north and along with the Blackwall Tunnel and be subject to a user-charge when it opens. Work on the tunnel is progressing, with construction of the second tunnel bore, as well as the new road layout, both well underway.

As part of the permission granted for the construction of the tunnel, the Mayor and TfL committed to investigating and delivering an alternative cross-river facility for cyclists, to be delivered by tunnel opening in 2025. Based on work to date, the preferred and safest option is a new bespoke bus shuttle service for cyclists. A cycle shuttle bus would look to be accessible to a range of different bike designs and provide the best overall solution balancing cyclists' needs, providing flexibility to respond to uncertain demand and value for money.

## **TfL and other organisations call on the Government to strengthen basic motorcyclist training**

On 18 July, TfL, the Motorcycle Industry Association, the National Motorcyclists Council, and other transport authorities and road safety charities called on the Government to make changes to Compulsory Basic Training for motorcycles to strengthen safety standards and reduce danger on roads.

Current CBT for motorcycles and mopeds, which enables people as young as 17 to ride motorcycles up to the national speed limit with L-plates after one day of training and without a theory test, was developed more than 30 years ago.

Strengthening CBT would be a positive step to ensure safer motorcycling across the UK. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and Department for Transport held a consultation regarding changes to motorcycle training in 2017. There was very strong support for the proposals in the consultation document.

Every death or serious injury on the roads is one too many, which is why our Vision Zero approach is so important. We hope that our calls will encourage the Government to take action to improve compulsory basic training and help to eliminate death and serious injury on our roads.



## **Important walking, cycling and public transport improvements at Bishopsgate to be made permanent**

Transport for London has announced it will make its scheme on the A10 Bishopsgate permanent to help more people walk, cycle and use public transport, amid data suggesting that the scheme has led to faster bus journey times and thousands of safer cycle journeys each day.

Last year's consultation into the future of the scheme on the A10 Bishopsgate received more than 2,150 responses. Enabling more people to use healthier and more sustainable forms of travel is vital to reducing congestion and air pollution.

The decision to make the changes permanent will be followed by short-term upgrades to improve the streetscape, as well as further safety and public realm improvements in future years.

## **TfL to start work to transform Kingston Cromwell Road bus station**

Work will transform the bus station, making it much easier to use and strengthening Kingston's public transport network.

While construction is carried out, buses will not stop in the bus station and some buses which normally stop at the bus station or just outside on Cromwell Road will stop at new temporary stops a short walk away along Cromwell Road, while other services will be diverted as close to their original route as possible. Stops A1 to A16, and Z1 will be closed for the duration of the works. Stop R on Wood Street will also be closed. Two new temporary bus stops with shelters will be located to the east of the bus station on Cromwell Road and the bus lane will be extended to minimise impacts to bus journey times.

We're determined to make it even easier to use public transport in the capital and our work to transform Cromwell Road bus station is a key part of our plans to strengthen the network in Kingston. The new state-of-the-art bus station will be a significant improvement on the existing station, and I'd like to thank people in the area for their patience as work is carried out. I'd encourage people using buses in the area to plan ahead and allow extra time for their journeys.

TfL Invites Londoners to have their say on proposals for new sections of the Superloop

On 21 July, Transport for London invited Londoners to respond on proposals for the latest game-changing express bus routes that would form part of the proposed Superloop bus network.

The new SL2 (Walthamstow Central to North Woolwich), SL3 (Thamesmead to Bromley) and SL5 (Bromley to Croydon) services would be a significant addition to the bus network in south and east London, providing additional bus capacity in busy locations and encouraging more sustainable journeys. The proposed routes would also allow for quicker journey times and additional transport options in Bromley, Croydon, North Woolwich and Walthamstow.

TfL will also make service enhancements to two Superloop services from 19 August. The SL7 between Heathrow and West Croydon will double in frequency so that buses run every 15 minutes instead of every 30. The SL8 between Uxbridge and White City will see its timetable extended so that buses run earlier and later than currently.

## **TfL's first joint housing development with Barratt London and L&Q completed in Blackhorse Road**

TfL, through its wholly-owned commercial property company, has announced the completion of Blackhorse View, the first of its joint venture housing developments with Barratt London and London and Quadrant (L&Q).

The car-free development, construction of which began in 2019, has delivered 350 new homes opposite Blackhorse Road Tube and Rail station, with 50 per cent affordable housing. This marks another step forward in TfL's ambition to deliver 20,000 new homes across the capital.

Built on the 1.8 acre site and designed by RMA Architects, the 350 new homes span across six buildings and are a mixture of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom properties, providing options for all types of households.

The development has also delivered a new public cycle hub on Forest Road, close to the protected cycle route, along with 650 cycle parking spaces for residents. The transformation of the nearby Blackhorse Road junction also makes it even easier to travel more sustainably.

## **Superloop route SL9 - formerly known as route X140 - launches**

Route X140 between Harrow and Heathrow Central was renumbered SL9 and rebranded to become part of the Superloop from Saturday 26 August, offering customers an instantly recognisable express bus service in west London. This route also features other improvements, including improved customer information, renaming of some stops to better reflect their location, and the route will be fully zero emission. There are also USB charging points on all buses. This is part of TfL and the Mayor's plans for Superloop, a transformative network of express bus services in outer London to strengthen and improve public transport options and maximise the benefits of the London-wide ULEZ expansion.

Buses on the SL9 route call at the same stops as the X140, but some of the bus stop names have changed to better reflect their locations, such as Willow Tree Lane, which is now Yeading Lane / Willow Tree Lane.

More than 95 per cent of Londoners live within 400 metres of a bus stop, and thanks to the Mayor's Hopper fare, customers can take unlimited journeys within an hour for just £1.75. The Superloop is delivering more frequent and longer running bus services, with the express services circling the city, providing quicker links between transport hubs, town centres, schools and hospitals and offering Londoners even stronger alternatives to private car use, helping us to build a better, greener London for everyone.

# Environment

## **Deputy Mayor meeting with Emma Howard Boyd**

On 7 July, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross, met with the recently appointed Chair of the London Climate Resilience Review- Emma Howard Boyd and her team. They discussed the Mayor's strategic direction for the review, the timing of interim and final outputs, and how the Review team would work with the GLA.

## **Grant offers made as part of London Community Energy Fund phase 6**

On 10 July, my London Community Energy Fund made grant offers to 14 organisations for 27 community energy projects. The fund, now in its sixth round, is helping to develop and deliver zero-carbon community energy projects across a school, places of worship, community gardens and other community buildings. Over £400,000 of funding has been offered to install nearly half a mega watt of solar PV and pave the way to develop a further two megawatts of capacity. Details of the projects funded to date through LCEF can be found at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/energy/london-community-energy-fund>

## **Low Carbon Accelerator European targets met**

On 31 July, My Low Carbon Accelerator programmes provide free support to help London-based organisations to decarbonise. In July my Workplaces and Local Energy Accelerators met the targets set by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which has co-funded the programme. As announced during London Climate Action Week, I have provided further funding to extend the Accelerators until March '24, which are now open to receive new applications from public sector organisations. A video of the programmes can be viewed here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/energy/low-carbon-accelerators>.

## **Launch of 1000<sup>th</sup> zero emission bus and expansion of ULEZ Scrappage Scheme event**

On 4 August, I visited Edgware Bus Garage to launch the 1000th zero emission bus and announce that the ULEZ scrappage scheme was expanding to more Londoners. I was accompanied by Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, and community and health stakeholders, as well as Metroline staff. The event celebrated the 1,000+ zero emission buses now running in TfL's fleet, on track to meet my target of a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2034, or 2030 with further Government funding. The event also highlighted that the Scrappage Scheme for the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone, launching on 29th August 2023, was being expanded to offer more London residents, businesses and charities financial support to switch from non-compliant to compliant vehicles.

## **Deputy Mayor meeting with NGOs**

On 7 August, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues, met with a number of non-governmental organisations from the health and air quality sector to hear their views on the London-wide expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone on 29 August.

### **Meeting with New York City Commissioner**

On 15 August, my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended a meeting with Rohit Aggarwala, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, to discuss shared priorities ahead of the UN General Assembly, including a shared understanding of water security and resilience to climate impacts.

### **Recruitment of Chair to Surface Water Flooding Strategic Group**

On 18 August, Deputy Mayor for Environment & Energy, Shirley Rodrigues attended a meeting with members of the London Surface Water Flooding Strategic Group (Chair Recruitment Sub-Group) to agree an approach to attracting and appointing an independent chair. The Chair will lead the strategic group to help deliver London's first city-wide surface water flooding strategy and improve governance in this area. The aim is to ensure London is better prepared for the growing impacts of climate change and increasingly severe weather.

## **Fire and Resilience**

### **London Fire Brigade's Volunteer Celebration**

On 7 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, attended London Fire Brigade's Volunteer Celebration to thank the volunteer cadet instructors from within the Brigade and local communities who volunteer their time, skills and experience to support the Fire Cadets.

### **Launch of London Fire Brigade Summer Safety Campaign**

On 10 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross observed a demonstration of the London Fire Brigade's new equipment to tackle the increasing risk of wildfires following last summer's record-breaking extreme weather. The Holey Hose is a type of fire service hose which has pre-prepared holes that creates a curtain of water reaching up to two metres high.

### **Meetings to discuss 999 outages**

On 18 and 20 July respectively, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross met with DLUHC and BT to discuss the recent 999 emergency call service outage and seek assurances that steps had been taken prevent recurrence.

### **Fire Boat launch**

On 19 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross attend a blessing ceremony for the London Fire Brigade's new fire boats, which will respond to emergencies and operate along the Thames. These new fire boats carry more lifesaving equipment than ever before and are part of a £40m investment in the Brigade's transformation which has been funded by City Hall.

### **Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board**

On 25 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, chaired a regular meeting of her Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board.

## **Fire Boat Visit**

On 31 July, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross, and Florence Eshalomi MP visited the London Fire Brigade's new fire boats.

## **Visit to Launderers Lane**

On 3 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross met with Jon Cruddas MP's office, Keith Prince AM, and Havering Council to discuss the ongoing fires at Launderers Lane and the impact on local residents as well as firefighter safety.

## **Shoreditch Fire Station visit**

On 4 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross visited Shoreditch Fire Station with Fire Commissioner Andy Roe.

## **Meeting with Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC)**

On 4 August, my Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Baroness Twycross met DLUHC to discuss the Stronger Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) pilot programme. London has been selected to participate in the pilot programme and will receive funding to strengthen the leadership, accountability and integration of resilience.

## **North Kensington Fire Station**

On 28 August, I visited North Kensington Fire Station with Fire Commissioner Andy Roe to meet local firefighters and view The Windrush 75 Carnival Arts Project exhibition. This exhibition features artwork created by local children to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush and forms part of the Brigade's Notting Hill Carnival celebrations.

# **Growth and Skills**

## **AEB Jobs and Skills for Londoners (JSFL) fund**

Approximately 50 providers awarded grant funding under my JSFL fund began delivering new skills provision to adult Londoner for the 2023/24 academic year. They will be delivering nearly £40m of skills provision, which will support approximately 25,000 learners.

Delivery is targeted at my priority sectors – health and social care, digital, creative, hospitality and the green economy. Providers will be able to draw down job outcome payments for every learner that moves into employment that meets London's definition of 'good work,' further incentivising training that gets people into well paid and secure jobs.

## **Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Programme**

On 11 July, applications closed for the second round of my £700,000 Skills for Londoners Community Outreach Programme, which provides funding to small community organisations to increase participation in adult learning for those most in need of adult education.

The GLA is currently in the process of awarding grants to the successful organisations. Delivery of outreach activities is expected to start from September and run to April 2024.

This is part of my commitment to make adult education more accessible and ensure all Londoners who need it can get into training and develop their skills.

### **No Wrong Door research launch**

On 12 July, a research report exploring the experiences of Londoners furthest from the labour market who are trying to access the support they need to move into good work which I commissioned was launched.

The research shows that joining up London's skills and employment systems is vital to delivering a more streamlined and accessible offer. The research also highlights the challenges many Londoners face in accessing support. Through the No Wrong Door programme, I am working to ensure that London's employment and skills services are integrated to tackle the challenges highlighted in the report. The report sets out seven key recommendation areas for professionals and policymakers.

The report was launched at Toynbee Hall, where my Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills, Jules Pipe CBE, was joined by representatives from London Councils, DWP, Maximus and West London Alliance, to discuss the findings, identify opportunities for collaboration, and partake in a lively audience discussion. You can find the report [here](#)

### **Adult Education Budget Mayoral Board**

My Adult Education Budget (AEB) Mayoral Board met on 11 July 2023. The Board considered amendments to the AEB Assurance Framework, which included a change to the way in which my decisions made at AEB Mayoral Board meetings are formally recorded. These changes were agreed in MD3145 and have immediate effect. They will be incorporated into the GLA Mayoral-Decision Making document at its next revision.

The Board also endorsed amendments to the AEB Funding Rules for the 2023/24 academic year, including an increase to the London Factor from 13.5 per cent to 15 per cent. Members also endorsed proposals to discontinue the current AEB audit approach and replace it with a new approach that would cover audit and compliance checks for all GLA adult skills provision.

Finally, the Board received an update on recent AEB programme activity, including the publication of the London Learner Survey data.

## **Housing**

### **Renting crisis visit**

On 3 August, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development, Tom Copley and I visited Alexandra, a private renter in Kingston-upon-Thames. Alexandra and her partner left their former property after being told by the landlord that they could only stay if they paid a rent hike of £450 a month.

Alexandra's story is becoming increasingly commonplace for Londoners renting privately, and I will continue my longstanding calls on the Government to devolve the power for rent controls, as well as ending section 21 'no fault' evictions, and investing more funding to deliver the quality, affordable housing that Londoners need.

## **London Housing Delivery Taskforce**

On 8 August, I reconvened the London Housing Delivery Taskforce, which was co-chaired by Tom Copley and Cllr Darren Rodwell. The meeting was attended by representatives from across the housing sector.

We drew attention to the worrying signs of a slowdown in the construction market in London, mirroring faltering housebuilding across the country. I called on the Government to inject an emergency £2.2bn in affordable homes funding to kick-start London's housing market. The Taskforce will continue to consider other steps that need to be taken to boost housebuilding in the capital.

## **One in three mortgaged households in London say they'll struggle to meet repayments**

On 18 August, I released fresh analysis revealing that a third of mortgaged homeowners in London think they will struggle to meet their mortgage payments in the next six months (34 per cent), up from 21 per cent at the start of the year.

At the same time, new City Hall analysis showed that an estimated 209,000 London households will be hit by a mortgage 'bomb' over the next year – averaging £520 extra per month for London households. I am calling on the Government to urgently step in to ensure that rising mortgage costs don't result in a wave of repossessions, by pressing Ministers to reinstate mortgage payment holidays, reverse cuts to support for mortgage interest through the social security system, and allow owners in significant difficulty to switch their housing tenure to affordable rented or shared equity to allow them to remain in their homes.

## **Threat to keyworkers from housing unaffordability**

On 23 August, I called fresh attention to the difficulties faced by London's public sector and other keyworkers because of the cost of housing. New City Hall analysis showed that a police constable in London faces much higher housing costs as a proportion of their salary than their out-of-London equivalent, and this could be part of the story explaining why public sector recruitment can be more challenging in the capital than elsewhere.

I repeated my calls for Ministers to treat the housing crisis with the seriousness it deserves, including by investing in genuinely affordable homes, giving renters breathing space from unaffordable rent rises, and offering new protections to home-owners struggling with high mortgage interest rates.

## **Call for licensing of short-term lettings**

On 19 July, I repeated call for tougher action to prevent the loss of homes to short-term lettings and to warn that proposed reforms to the regulation of short-term lettings risk a missed opportunity for London.

In July 2023, over 80,000 homes in London had been listed on Airbnb alone. I have delivered a record number of genuinely affordable, high-quality homes at a time of acute housing shortage. But to ensure that every Londoner has a safe and decent home, we also need action to reverse the rapid growth in the number of homes being let to tourists. I called on the government to work with me and the London boroughs to implement a new licensing scheme for short-term lettings. A licensing scheme will control the number of homes being turned into tourist accommodation and protect against whole blocks or streets being turned over to short-term lets.

## **Building safety**

On 7 August, my Deputy Mayor for Housing & Residential Development Tom Copley wrote to Building Safety Minister Lee Rowley MP raising concerns about the risks posed to building safety from the use of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and asking what steps the Government are taking to investigate the risk to residential homes. This is in light of the recent launch of a Government-wide inquiry into public buildings that are at risk of sudden collapse due to the historic use of RAAC.

# **The Economy, Business and Enterprise**

## **Poverty Prevention Challenge**

On 24 July, my Chief Digital Officer Theo Blackwell MBE and I announced the seven winners of my Poverty Prevention Challenge, that called on entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions to help Londoners who have been impacted by the cost-of-living crisis avoid falling into poverty. Through this year's open innovation challenge, each Challenge LDN winner will receive up to £50,000 to scale up their businesses to find new ways to use technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to support Londoners who are most in need. Winning ideas include an app to help Londoners access opportunities and resources to reach financial independence, digital tools to improve the way the public sector identifies and supports people at risk of falling into financial hardship, and a platform that uses AI to help Londoners on a tight budget create personalised meal plans.

## **International Promotion and Business Engagement**

On 11 July, I attended a BusinessLDN dinner with a group of senior business leaders chaired by John Dickie, CEO of BusinessLDN and hosted at WeWork and discussed key business concerns.

On 13 July, I met with Richard Burge, Chief Executive Officer of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and discussed policy areas affecting the business community such as transport and skills.

On 20 July, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with Uber's Global Chief Legal Officer, Tony West to discuss Uber's plans for London and their investment in EV charging infrastructure.

On 2 August, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, was interviewed by James Latham, Founder and Editor at The Iceberg, about the importance of business tourism to London's economy, and the video recording will be featured on The Iceberg website.

On 16 August, my Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, met with the Hon Andrea Michaels MP, Minister for Arts and Small and Family Business, Government of South Australia, to discuss the approach to developing strategic policy for arts, culture and creative industries in London and the challenges and opportunities for small businesses and relevant business support programmes.

## **Deputy Mayor for Business visit to MeiraGTx**

On 10 August, my Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal visited MeiraGTx, a clinical stage gene therapy company which has offices, research and development labs, and a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at its site in Old Street. He heard about the ground-breaking treatments



under development and the enduring attraction of London for such innovative life sciences companies.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Following an open call for projects for the £30m Supporting Local Business programme earlier this year, 27 grant agreements have been signed. Projects will support businesses to innovate, reduce their carbon footprint, improve their digital competencies and will support diverse businesses to grow and seek investment.

## **Community and Social Policy**

### **Future of Participation events**

From 7 to 13 July, my Community Engagement Team hosted a week long series of discussions, deep dives, and thought provocations to help us explore how we think about and 'do' participation in policymaking, both online and in person across London. The six-day exploration saw over 1200 people including community activists, policy makers and academics register to take part in dialogue between Londoners and the organisations who support them.

Topics under discussion included everything from a deep dive in methodologies that can be used to devolve decision making power to communities to use of participatory research and evaluation in policy making. My team will be sharing, the slides, recordings and summaries from across the 14 sessions on our website soon. They are also developing a learning guide which will collate the insights from the events

### **Food Roots programme grants**

In July, I announced the successful grantees of the next round of the Food Roots programme, due to start in the Autumn. Food Roots helps to strengthen local responses to food insecurity, by supporting partnership approaches and improving networks' resilience and sustainability. This round of the programme will support food partnerships in 22 London Boroughs across 12 months, and includes training, peer learning and mentoring as well as grants.

### **Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre visit**

On 7 August, I visited the Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre which is one of the brilliant community organisations being supported by my Emergency Free Holiday Meals programme to provide nutritious food to hard-pressed families alongside a range of activities. Up to the start of August, the programme has already delivered the equivalent of 3 million meals to families with millions more being provided over the summer and subsequent holidays.

# Children and Young Londoners

## **Response to Government consultation on Early Years Foundation Stage**

In July, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, responded on my behalf to a government consultation on regulatory changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Joanne and I support some of the proposals set out in the consultation but are concerned that others may adversely affect children's wellbeing and development, as well as having the potential to deepen the workforce crisis being faced by the sector. This includes ratio changes, which could have a significant impact on the quality of childcare in group settings, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The government must address the most serious issues facing the early years sector (including the workforce crisis and chronic underfunding), rather than stretching resources even more thinly and putting the quality of young Londoners' early education at risk.

Joanne and I called on the Government to:

- Support the early years sector as a viable and aspirational career path
- Alleviate the financial difficulties currently facing all childcare providers
- Ensure every child receives a high standard of early education and safety in their childcare setting

## **Healthy Early Years London/Healthy School London Borough leads network meeting**

Both my Healthy Early Years and Healthy Schools London award programmes are core to my mission to make London a healthier, fairer city, where no one's health suffers because of who they are or where they live. They are part of the wider work to reduce child health inequalities, working in conjunction with Water Only Schools, Superzones and the Universal Free School Meals scheme.

On 3 July, the second Healthy Early Years and Healthy School London borough leads network meeting took place. The meeting was led by National Children's Bureau, focusing on the proposed refreshed content of both awards. Leads from all boroughs were invited and given an opportunity to discuss the proposed new content and structure of the awards.

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, attended the meeting to take part in discussions and thank leads for their continued commitment and hard work in supporting schools and early years settings.

## **Shining Stars: London's Inaugural Awards for Care-Experienced Young People**

My Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, Joanne McCartney, and I both took the opportunity to celebrate the incredible achievements of care-experienced young people as well as the hard work of London's Virtual Headteachers at the Shining Stars awards ceremony in July.

It was a great moment to reaffirm my commitment to the success of care-experienced young people, through my engagement with both the national Care Leavers Covenant and the pan-London Care Leavers Compact.

We owe it to all care-experienced young people to create a London that serves as an exceptional place to grow up, and that nurtures and empowers our youngest regardless of their unique and daunting challenges.

### **Mayors Advisory Group on Child Healthy weight**

On 19 July, my Advisory Group on Child Healthy Weight met for the second time. Dr Tom Coffey OBE, my Senior Advisor on Health Policy, chaired the meeting with Joanne McCartney attending in her role as Deputy Mayor. The group expanded its membership to include two members of the Biteback 2030 London youth board. Biteback are a youth-led movement working to ensure all young people can be healthy, no matter where they live.

Since the last meeting, the *'Every child a healthy weight'* delivery plan was published by OHID (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities). This document, which was developed from the 2019 action plan published by my Child Obesity taskforce, has been adopted and signed up by partners across the city as a framework for reducing child obesity. I was proud to join leaders from London Councils, ADPH London (Association of Directors of Public Health), the NHS and OHID in signing the document, demonstrating our joint commitment to taking action forward.

Members discussed emerging actions and concerns relating to child health and weight including the announcement of my Universal Free School Meals programme, the refresh of my HSL/HEYL (Healthy Schools London / Healthy Early Years London) programmes and an update on Superzones.

### **BiteBack2030 Youth Board City Hall Visit**

On 14 July, Joanne McCartney, my Deputy Mayor for Children and Families, met with the BiteBack2030 Youth Board to hear from them about the current challenges to accessing healthy food. Bite Back 2030 is a youth-led movement campaigning to transform the food system to put child health first. The discussion focussed on accessing nutritious school food and unhealthy food and drinks advertisements.

## **Culture**

### **Night Time Enterprise Zone - BR1 Lates Sports and Wellbeing Festival**

On 25 July, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, visited Bromley town centre for the BR1 Lates Sports and Wellbeing Festival. The event forms part of Bromley's Night Time Enterprise Zone programme.

A range of family friendly activities and demonstrations from local sporting groups aimed to encourage people to visit their high streets after 6pm. A new installation was also launched to help change perceptions about people living with neurodiversity and celebrate the many strengths that come from thinking differently.

My Night Czar met with representatives from the police, council and local businesses to hear about the positive impact the Night Time Enterprise Zone is having on the area. A further event in Bromley is planned for the autumn, with additional events taking place in the other Night Time Enterprise Zones in Woolwich and Vauxhall.

## **London Borough of Culture – Sounds Like Hammersmith & Fulham**

On 2 August 2023, Sounds Like Hammersmith & Fulham, a London Borough of Culture Cultural Impact Award programme culminated with a final showcase of the work of twelve young artists who participated in a bespoke eight month development programme. The music was released on Soundcloud, giving the emerging artists significant exposure and opportunities to connect with the music industry.

## **Culture and Community Spaces at Risk / Art on the Underground Installation**

On 10 August, Art on the Underground together with my Culture and Community Spaces at Risk Programme launched a new collaboration, 'Route Words: Where are our voices aloud?' This new sound installation by Shenece Oretha, launched at Finsbury Park station, features three important cultural spaces supported by the programme: New Beacon Books, Britain's oldest Black bookshop in Finsbury Park, Rumi's Cave, a community arts space in Brent, and The RecordShop in Wood Green, a social enterprise that aims to bridge the gap between young musicians living in inner-city London and lifestyle brands.

## **Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm - Remembering Partition event**

On 16 August, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard spoke at Everyday Muslim's 'Remembering Partition' event at City Hall. The event launched Everyday Muslim's 'Empire and Partition Heritage Trail – Westminster Edition' - a project funded through Untold Stories, part of the Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm programme.

## **Tottenham Hotspur Football Club sign Women's Night Safety Charter**

On 10 August, my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, visited Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to welcome them as the first football club to sign up to my Women's Night Safety Charter. The club joins over 1,500 businesses, venues and organisations who have already signed up to improve women's safety – from supermarkets to nightclubs, gyms to hospitals and councils to theatres.

My Night Czar met first team player Ben Davies and representatives from the LGBTQ+ and race equality fan associations who shared the work Tottenham Hotspur Football Club is doing to respond to the pledges in the Charter. This includes providing training to all event day stewards, security personnel and club shop staff to help them respond to anyone feeling unsafe. They have also appointed Health and Wellbeing Lead who is championing night safety throughout the organisation.

## **LGBTQI+ Venues Forum emergency meeting**

On 17 August, following the tragic stabbing outside The Two Brewers on Clapham High Street, the Night Czar and her team facilitated an emergency meeting of the London LGBTQI+ Venues Forum where the Met Police provided an update and reassurance to the community and to LGBTQI+ venues across the capital.

I have been clear that London will always be a city that celebrates our diversity, and I will continue to look at ways in which City Hall can provide support to LGBTQI+ venues and work with partners to ensure venues are safe.

# Civil Society and Sport

## **NFL Youth Camp Festival**

On 13 July, my Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Dr Debbie Weekes-Bernard, attended the NFL Youth Camp held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. The event featured Flag Football activities for over 100 young people as part of my part partnership with the NFL Foundation UK, which has been match-funded through my Sport Unites community sport investment programme. The Youth Camp was attended by several media outlets who recorded an interview between my Deputy Mayor and Efe Obada, a professional American football player, which highlighted the importance of sport and physical activity in developing resilience skills and improving mental wellbeing.

## **UK Combined Authorities Civil Society leads**

On 19 July, my Civil Society Team convened the second meeting of a group of Civil Society leads from UK Combined Authorities. Representatives attended from North of Tyne Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The group discussed the role of regional authorities in engaging with and supporting civil society groups and shared innovative practice. The group intend to meet regularly to share good practice, discuss pertinent issues and share information.

## **Future Ready Fund visit to WeMove Dance**

On 27 July, I was joined by Deputy Mayor Debbie Weekes-Bernard and the Director of the VRU Lib Peck on a visit to WeMove Dance as part of the Future Ready Fund. My Sport Team and the VRU have funded 13 organisations with the aim of supporting young Londoners at risk of exclusion or those affected by youth violence through a targeted programme which aims to offer sport and mentoring to facilitate their successful transition from primary to secondary education, using a person-centred intervention approach to support young Londoners in reaching their potential.

The Future Ready Fund organisations will be delivering mentoring along with a range of sport and physical activities throughout the summer, continuing into the start of the new academic year.

## **Major Events & Volunteering Summer Programme**

On 28 – 30 July my major events volunteers were deployed across a 3-day period, supporting the Formula E London EPrix at the Excel London. Volunteers supported the event in a number of different roles such as providing a welcome to the event, supporting spectators to access the Excel freely and efficiently, scanning tickets on arrival and promoting the Gaming arena. Volunteers attended a total of 415 volunteer shifts over the 3 days of the event, with a total of 343 individual volunteers taking part.

Returning for its eleventh year, my Team London Summer Ambassador Programme began on 3 August. This year, the programme will see over 450 volunteers offer their time over 1600 shifts across 6 central London locations including Piccadilly Circus, St James' Park, Exhibition Road, Parliament Square, Trafalgar Square and Greenwich. As always, my Team London Ambassadors continue to do a fantastic job as the 'friendly face of London', welcoming thousands of domestic and international visitors to the city over the busiest six week of the summer.

In addition, eight of my Major Events volunteers support the 2023 UNESCO Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition event at City Hall on Wednesday 23 August. Volunteers

played a key role in this important event, supporting by welcoming guests, ushering, providing information, and artist support.

### **Work Experience at GLA**

From the 7th to the 11th of August, I hosted 5 young people in our offices to explore experiences of work. The young people aged 16 – 17 are part of our HeadStart Action programme and from East London's most deprived areas. They stayed with us for the week working with different departments; they worked with Children & Young Londoners assessing grant applications, VRU developing a training package, Skills & Employment revising their strategy on experiences of work, and with our Civil Society and Sports team on various tasks. Giving young people the opportunity to work alongside us is so important for confidence building and to enhance their CVs.

### **National Lottery iwill International Youth Day Event at City Hall**

On 12 August I hosted the #iwill movement & #iwill Fund's International Youth Day celebrations at City Hall. This important youth lead event was co-created by young people in recognition of their social action work. Over 50 young people and UK wide match funder representatives attended and stood up to shape their collective ambitions for the future.

### **Building Strong Communities Grants Fund**

On 31 August, my Civil Society Team confirmed recipients for the third and final round of the Building Strong Communities Fund. This fund has been vital in helping small groups provide projects to support communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to rebuild strength, have their voices amplified and heard, increase belonging, and build connections. Across the three rounds a total of £927, 863 has been provided to 127 equity-led grassroots groups across all London boroughs. All projects can be viewed here.

## **Health**

### **London Health Board (LHB)**

On 12 July I chaired the London Health Board meeting, where I was joined by elected leaders from London's Local Authorities and key London health leaders to discuss a number of health and care issues.

During this session, the Board received an update on work to improve air quality in London, including the ULEZ expansion. We also discussed further work partners could do to help tackle the cost of living crisis, including paying the London Living Wage. Finally, we explored tobacco issues and ongoing challenges with drug misuse. It was particularly important to hear contributions from a family with experience of drug misuse, and from Dame Carol Black.

The Board agreed on continued support for anti-smoking campaigns and consideration of a Londonwide digital smoking cessation service. They also committed to consider how to improve continuity of care for prisoners accessing drugs services on release, to address drugs workforce challenges and to integrate mental health and drugs services more effectively. Papers and draft minutes can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=438&MId=6940&Ver=4>.

# Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

## Planning

On 20 July, OPDC granted planning permission for new industrial workspace with ancillary office space, landscaping, car parking, servicing and access arrangements at 12 Waxlow Road in Park Royal.

## Old Oak West

On 31 July, the Outline Business Case (OBC) for Old Oak West, prepared by OPDC with Homes England, DLUHC, DfT, Network Rail and HS2 was submitted to both DLUHC and DfT for internal review. The OBC sets out the case for major regeneration in the heart of the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area to create a new urban district of 9,000 new and affordable homes and 22,000 jobs around the High Speed 2 Old Oak Common Interchange Station.

The submission was preceded by the government announcement on 27<sup>th</sup> July to award OPDC with £53m of Brownfield Land funding for Old Oak West to assemble privately owned land for development.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, OPDC published its engagement summary report for the Old Oak West engagement programme. Feedback collected from over 200 local community members as part of the engagement exercise will be incorporated into OPDC's Old Oak West SPD which will be published for consultation in October this year.

# London Legacy Development Corporation

## London Stadium's summer events programme

London Stadium's summer events programme continued into July. The Weeknd performed at London Stadium over two nights on 6 and 7 July. The Canadian broke the record for the highest attendance at London Stadium after more than 150,000 people attended his back-to-back shows. E-Sports tournament Apex Legends returned to the Copper Box Arena for the second time this year over four days from 13 to 16 July.

Monster Jam returned for a second successive year on 15 July. A week later, athletics took centre stage for the first time since 2019. The Diamond League meet on 23 July sold 50,000 tickets, making it the best attended one-day athletics event in the world this year. The event will return to London Stadium on 20 July 2024.

27 July marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the north of the Park, Copper Box Arena, Timber Lodge and Tumbling Bay Playground, a milestone that was covered by a live broadcast by BBC London. Over the weekend of 28 to 30 July, the Park hosted Wingfest, the largest chicken wing festival in the world.

On 18 August, it was announced that Stadium Golf, which will see London Stadium transformed into a 9-hole golf course, would be happening between 12 and 15 of October during the second Premier League international break.

On 19 August, Hopkins Field in the north of the Park hosted UK Black Pride for a second successive year.

There was a special Women's World Cup final screening at Mandeville Place on 20 August. This was followed by West Ham United's first home Premier League game which ended in a 3-1 victory over Chelsea.

### **Creative Enterprise Zone Impact Report**

On 13 July, I announced the expansion of the Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ). The existing CEZ in Hackney Wick and Fish was recognised in the Creative Enterprise Zone Impact Report produced by consultants We Made That. The report found that between 2018 and 2021, nearly all sectors of the creative industries in the Hackney Wick and Fish Island CEZ (supported by LLDC and the boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets), experienced jobs and business growth.

### **Nelson Mandela International Day Tree planting**

Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July was marked on the Park with tree-planting along the River Lee Navigation. In the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Mandela's death, pupils from Bobby Moore Academy were joined by His Excellency Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, South African High Commissioner to the UK, the Deputy Mayor of Newham, James Asser, London Assembly Member Unmesh Desai and horticultural apprentices from *idverde*. The guests planted six trees: two white willows and four native black poplars – trees once common to east London.

### **East Summer School**

More than 300 young people aged between 12–17 from east London took part in a free two-week Summer School held across the Park between 24 July to 4 August.

The 2023 East Summer School for young people from Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest featured free sessions run by world-leading creative, cultural and education organisations. The programme of short courses included fashion textiles, skateboarding, dance, entrepreneurship, photography, journalism, fashion and creating sustainable clothing.

Participants were able to go behind the scenes at a practical two-day lighting and production workshop that took place at ABBA Voyage. The summer school programme was organised by the LLDC and anchor organisations from the planned culture and education district at East Bank – UCL, UAL's London College of Fashion, the BBC, Sadler's Wells and V&A East. Other local organisations taking part included Class of Your Own, Bloom, X7eaven, City Mill Skate, ABBA Voyage, Youth National Dance Company, Culture Mile Learning, Museum of London, the Barbican, IESH and Spaceblack.

### **Future Gardeners**

On 4 August, Future Gardeners, an innovative training and work experience scheme that was run from the Park, saw the first year's cohort graduate. The seven students celebrated the successful completion of their course which has equipped them with core skills in the horticulture industry at an event hosted by LLDC, Bankside Open Spaces Trust, Build East Skills Centre and *idverde* at Timber Lodge Café. All seven have secured jobs in the horticulture industry with four starting at *idverde*.



## Strategic Outline Business Case submission for Stratford Station redevelopment plans

Plans for a major redevelopment of Stratford Station were submitted to government on 1 August. The submission, developed by Newham Council, Network Rail, TfL and the LLDC, sets out the work needed to progress plans for an upgrade to Stratford Station. The work follows increasing concerns about the future capacity of the east London station and overcrowding.

Stratford is one of the UK's busiest stations with more than 128 million passenger movements recorded in 2019, an increase of 90 million in just 13 years. In 2022 the station was the fifth busiest in the whole of the UK and is one of the UK's most important strategic transport interchanges linking London with Essex and the East of England, the Thames Estuary and Kent.

## Planning and Regeneration

### Launch of PlanApps

As part of my commitment to improving transparency in Planning decision making and helping local communities engage with planning decisions that affect them, I launched PlanApps, a website where Londoners can see, access and monitor applications referred to the Mayor for consideration.

### Stage 3

#### *Pope's Road*

On 17 July, the applicant decided to withdraw the planning application for the development of land at 20-24 Pope's Road, Brixton, London SW9 8JB in the London Borough of Lambeth (GLA Ref: 0265/03 and Lambeth Council Ref: 20/01347/FUL).

Therefore, the application did not proceed to a public Representation Hearing as planned for 21 July. No further action will be taken on this planning application by GLA officers.

The withdrawal letter, along with the draft hearing agenda and GLA report, are available on the GLA Planning website: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/public-hearings/popes-road-public-hearing>

### Planning Decisions (Stage 2 referrals)

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.

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0164	47-50 Mark Lane	City of London	31/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/1015	The Hale	Haringey	31/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0115	Harriot, Apsley & Pattison Houses	Tower Hamlets	10/07/2023	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
2023/0085	85 Gracechurch Street	City of London	20/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0658	Crystal Palace FC	Croydon	10/08/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/0708	Land at Rom Valley Way	Havering	13/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/0860	Lambeth Hospital	Lambeth	20/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2022/0257	Plots S1 & S11, International Quarter	London Legacy Development Corporation	13/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2021/1013	Good Hotel Western Gateway	Newham	20/07/2023	Allow LPA to approve	Stage 2
2023/0194	London City Airport	Newham	20/07/2023	Allow LPA to refuse	Stage 2
2022/0395	Rockingham Street	Southwark	13/07/2023	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
2023/0476	Land at Thames Road	Bexley	10/08/2023	Does not comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0325	Highgate Studios	Camden	04/08/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0546	81 Newgate Street	City of London	07/08/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0360	Smiths Farm	Ealing	10/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0386	Blueprint Southall	Ealing	31/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0442	Tir Chonaill Gaels Football Club	Ealing	02/08/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

<b>GLA Reference Number</b>	<b>Development Name</b>	<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Decision date</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Application Type</b>
2023/0336	Northern Warehouse, Morden Wharf Road	Greenwich	10/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0447	Plot MO121 - The Tidemill	Greenwich	20/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0435	Veolia Waste Plant	Havering	13/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0072	Seedbed - School Site	Havering	17/07/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0465	Hillingdon Court	Hillingdon	13/07/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0438	Morrisons, Yiewsley	Hillingdon	01/08/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0421	Euro House	Hounslow	31/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0402	Heythrop College	Kensington and Chelsea	10/07/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0413	Newcombe House	Kensington and Chelsea	20/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0485	Safari Hotel, Chessington	Kingston upon Thames	17/08/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0517	Oval Village (Tesco Kennington)	Lambeth	17/08/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0515	Oval Village (Oval Gas Works)	Lambeth	17/08/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0540	East Pavilion, St Pauls School	Richmond upon Thames	22/08/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0420	Daisy Business Park	Southwark	31/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0488	Devonshire Place	Southwark	17/08/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0477	Blackwall Way Yard Jetty	Tower Hamlets	13/07/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues
2023/0049	Former Wandsworth Gasworks	Wandsworth	13/07/2023	Does not fully comply with the London Plan	Stage 1
2023/0481	Trocadero	Westminster	20/07/2023	No Strategic Issues	No Strategic Issues

### Stopping Up Order

GLA Reference Number	Development Name	Local Planning Authority	Decision date	Decision	Application Type
2023/0183	75 Avenue Road Stopping up order	Camden	03/08/2023	Hold Inquiry	Stopping up order

### Local Plans

On 7 August, GLA officers responded on my behalf to London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's (LBBD) Local Plan Initial Modifications consultation. In that response I raised general conformity concerns regarding LBBD's proposal to introduce Gypsy and Traveller pitches into the Castle Green Strategic Industrial Location.

On 24 July, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the London Borough of Richmond's Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation. Comments were provided on Richmond's affordable housing target and its conformity with the London Plan.

On 16 August, GLA officers responded on my behalf to the London Borough of Ealing's Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation on additional site allocations for Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision. I provided comments on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs and Green Belt implications.

### FUSEBOX, Good Growth Fund Round 3

FUSEBOX - a new space for creative young people officially opened on 7 July. Funding from my Good Growth Fund of £700,000 has unlocked a vacant undercroft space situated underneath the John Lewis department store in Kingston Town Centre. FUSEBOX is a 750m<sup>2</sup> space on the Thames riverside which features areas for performance, exhibitions, creative practice, socialising, co-creation and more. FUSEBOX will be a vibrant new cultural centre for the area and demonstrates how high street spaces can provide a platform for young people and the local community to contribute to London's exciting creative arts sector.

### Harrow Arts Centre (Greenhill Building), Good Growth Fund Round 2

Harrow Art Centre's Greenhill Building received £760,000 from my Good Growth Fund to enable strategy development and phase 1 delivery. Phase 1 opened in 2021 and the final phase on 19 July

this year. The works see 3 derelict buildings with significant cultural heritage being put back into public use alongside the delivery of affordable workspace for artists and SMEs. Public realm improvements complement the scheme and further support Harrow's diverse communities improving access to civic and cultural infrastructure in the borough. The increase in visitor footfall will also safeguard and create new jobs at Harrow Arts Centre, transforming the site into an exciting cultural hub.

### **Livesey Exchange, Good Growth Fund Round 1**

On 28 July, the first phase of Livesey Exchange known as LEX2, a local grassroots project dedicated to unlocking opportunities for local people on the Old Kent Road, was formally opened. This was made possible with funding from my Good Growth Fund with an award of £267,000. Working with a strong local partnership the building is constructed using low-carbon materials and includes a new community space for events and training as well as a pop-up café with a seating area. The next phase will deliver a second building on the site containing four larger maker spaces, plus ancillary facilities.

### **Planning for London Programme**

As part of my commitment to involving more people in planning, four deliberative events were held to talk to a representative group of Londoners to help inform a future review of the London Plan. We have now published what these 120 participants told us and will use this as part of our wider engagement on planning.

## Key Engagements

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

- I laid a wreath to commemorate the victims of the 7/7 bombings on 7 July
- I held my regular planning meeting on 10 July
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 11 July
- I chaired the Adult Education Board on 11 July
- I spoke at the BusinessLDN Summer Dinner on 11 July
- I chaired the London Crime Reduction Board on 12 July
- I met with the London Regional Director of NHS England on 12 July
- I chaired the London Health Board on 12 July
- I met with the GLA branch of Unison on 12 July
- I spoke at the Naz Legacy Foundation 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on 12 July
- I visited Stroud Green Primary School to officially launch City Hall's Free School Meals programme on 13 July
- I met with the London Chamber of Commerce on 13 July
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 13 July
- I announced further information about the Superloop bus network on 14 July
- I spoke at the opening of the first London HQ of Habib Bank on 17 July
- I gave opening remarks at an air quality event with the former Archbishop of Canterbury on 18 July
- I attended Mayor's Question Time on 20 July
- I launched the "Maate" campaign as part of City Hall's work to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls on 21 July
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 24 July
- I chaired the Transport for London Board on 25 July
- I visited one of our Violence Reduction Unit funded projects on 27 July
- I held my regular meeting with the Deputy Met Police Commissioner on 27 July
- I met MPS Assistant Commissioner Jukes on 2 August
- I visited Sutton on 3 August and met with private renters
- I visited Barnet and announced new funding for ULEZ scrappage on 4 August
- I visited a City Hall funded Holiday Hunger project at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre on 7 August
- I joined the Met Police Commissioner and officers on patrol in Ealing to see work being done to tackle mobile phone theft on 8 August
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 8 August
- I visited a domestic violence support hub on 14 August
- I held my regular meeting with Transport for London on 23 August
- I spoke at the GLA UNESCO Day for Remembering the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023 on 23 August
- I held my regular meeting with the Met Police Commissioner on 24 August
- I attended Notting Hill Carnival on 27 August
- I visited Lewisham to launch the extension of the London wide Ultra Low Emission Zone on 29 August
- I met with Sian Berry AM and civil liberties campaigners on 30 August
- I met with young Londoners who will benefit from the Free School Meals initiative on the 31 August